



PINEHURST PIPELINE

Pinehurst School District #94
September 2020

"Most great learning happens in groups. Collaboration is the stuff of growth."

-Sir Ken Robinson Ph.D.

Safe and Healthy Kids

By, Sam Alvord, Facilities and Safety Coordinator

This year is our World War II. We must become our own "Greatest Generation." At Pinehurst that means since the Covid-19 onset in March, the school board, staff, parents, students, Pinehurst School Foundation board and many community volunteers have joined hands and minds to fulfill our district's mission despite the obstacles. We can justly look back and see that cooperation, creative problem solving and hard work has allowed us to open school and welcome our students onto the campus. Thank you everyone for that success.

My job is to keep the physical plant and grounds kept up to standards which are enforced by the Oregon Department of Education, Jackson County Health Department, Governor Brown's Covid-19 requirements and Federal health and safety legislation, as well as insurance company demands.

Here's what we as a staff did to meet the metrics which allow us to carry out in-school instruction in our district buildings:

Pattie Walters, our school custodian, carried out an extensive deep cleaning and disinfecting of the interiors of all three buildings. This included using non-toxic germicides on all objects students and staff might handle such as computers, pencils, toys and instructional apparatus.

I attended a three-day training to keep my certification as an Integrated Pest Management coordinator. This job requires that I insure we control vectors such as mice and insect pests; keep the lawns free of harmful chemicals and yet control thistles and other invasive weeds; ensure that all cleaning supplies and other chemicals are secured from children; maintain a safe water supply and a functioning waste water treatment plan. I also must monitor radon, lead in the water and paint, proper ventilation and protection from wildfire smoke. In the winter I ensure that our drive is plowed and sidewalks are shoveled. Basically, if I see a threat, I am pledged to disarm it.

We built a new protective fence around our propane tank, a cover for the sandbox and Marla and her partner, brought in clean beach sand.

One of the gym door panic bars broke and has been replaced ensuring fast exit in case of fire.

The grounds around the school have been raked of burnable forest material, the shrubs pruned to discourage insect infiltration and the roofs and gutters cleaned of all combustible matter.

Each school day, I arrive before the staff to open the school and carry out an inspection. I have a workshop in the school basement which I use to make immediate repairs and if a problem is beyond my capabilities, I call a service contractor and arrange for satisfactory correction.

Every person deserves this kind of service, and we as a community of educators take the care of your children as our highest priority.

If you have any concerns or spot any problems, please email me at samalvord66@gmail.com. I appreciate your help.