

Pace Homeschool

October 2020 Newsletter

Dates to Remember

Oct 5th-11th MAP & DIBEL Testing
Oct 30th Quarterly Grades Due

Learning Centers Open

- Appointments are recommended.
- Please follow local mandates for face masks.
- Please ask for assistance to view curriculum.

We are working diligently to get everyone's curriculum ordered. There is a nationwide delay on some curriculum.

We appreciate your patience.

**PACE will has a new School Counselor!!
Look for more information on page 3.**

Please help us out by giving us a review using one of the following links:

Anchorage: <https://g.page/PaceStatewideHomeschool/review?rc>

Ketchikan: <https://g.page/pace-ketchikan-learning-center/review?rc>

Craig: <https://g.page/PaceStatewideHomeschool/review?ma>

Teacher Tip of the Month

by: Howie Daggs, Craig Contact Teacher

This month I thought I'd share Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development, and how we can use it to help us homeschool this year.

Lev Vygotsky was a Russian Psychologist known best for his sociocultural theory on children's cognitive development. He believed that there was a sweet spot that maximized the rate at which we learn and develop. He defines it as a zone in-between what we are already comfortable in being able to do and a frustration zone that we are not comfortable in doing even with someone's help. He defined this sweet spot as the zone of topics we are able to complete with the aid of a more knowledgeable tutor on the topic without a lot of frustration.

We can apply this idea just by making sure the material we are students is not something they already know and are comfortable but not so difficult students become frustrated even with our help. It's a balancing act that I'm sure we all already do without thinking about it, but giving it a name it could help us remember to try and keep in this zone and maximize student learning this year.

Many materials use this theory with scaffolding, that is when you start with topics in the comfort zone for students progress to a new topic students do not know yet. Much like scaffolding at a construction site, they try to add the next level from the top of the previous. This is a good way to keep yourself in the zone of proximal development as you're working on things that the student doesn't know yet, but it helps to keep you from going to a topic the student may not be ready for. Learning new topics and information drives students development and growth.

Some really key points from this theory and the research associated with are:

- Students left to their own devices often like to stay in their comfort zone
- Scaffolding is a great way to stay in the zone of proximal development
- Topics that are overly frustrating will slow students learning and development
- If a topic is too difficult it may be good to make steps from something they already know that leads to the topic.

I hope this tip has been helpful for parents to look at adjusting to where the student is in their learning so students are bored with curriculum, doing topics they already know and not overly frustrated trying to do a topic they are not ready for yet.

Please welcome our new School Counselor, Maria Riedel

PACE would like to welcome Maria Riedel as our new School Counselor. She can be reached at mriedel@craigschools.com.

Below are some of the services she will provide our families:

- Post graduation planning
- Speak with 8th graders about transitioning to high school
- ASVAB scheduling
- Provide information on and help with scheduling ACT and SAT testing
- Meet with families when requested
- SEL Workshops
- Monthly contact with high school students



Happy Birthday to....

Joseph

Tully

Anna

Aurora

Tabitha

Brooke

Logan

Kara

Sydney

Lorna

Arthur

Kathryn

Kaydee

William

Maximus

Maryanne

Silas

Kordell

Nyron

Amelia

Skyla

Junesi

Ryker

Alayna

Erik

Hannah

Aurie

Jessup

Douglas Jr.

