

May, 2025 PACE Statewide Homeschool Newsletter

Dear PACE Families,

This school year has flown by, and we now find ourselves quickly approaching the end. As we celebrate final activities and begin to look toward summer plans, it's also time to ensure all required reporting and reimbursement submissions are completed.

Please take note of the following important dates and reminders:

- **Fourth Quarter Grades & Work Samples Due:** May 16
- **Vendor Forms Due:** May 16
- **Reimbursement Requests Due:** May 16

To help ensure a smooth and timely process, we encourage you to submit any reimbursements as soon as possible. Early submissions will help avoid the bottleneck that typically occurs closer to the deadline and will allow for faster turnaround times.

It has been a pleasure working with you and your students this year. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of the PACE community and to support your families on this educational journey.

Wishing you a restful and joyful summer ahead.

Warm regards,
Heather Mendonsa
Principal, PACE

Dear PACE Parents and Families,

I'm writing to share some important updates regarding staffing and office changes at PACE Statewide Homeschool, along with the reasons behind them. As you may be aware, because of uncertain state funding, CCSD, along with every other district in the state, is facing a significant budget deficit this year. Our primary focus continues to be support for students and staff while attempting to develop a balanced budget.

Last month, I submitted my resignation as PACE Principal and Contact Teacher, effective June 30, 2025. I have accepted a position with another school district and wanted to ensure there was adequate time to transition and find a new principal for PACE. Following my resignation, CCSD identified an opportunity to restructure in a way that aligns more closely with current budget realities.

Starting in July 2025, the PACE Principal position will be combined with the Craig High School Principal role. Josh Andrews, the current Craig High School principal, will assume this new dual role. Mr. Andrews has been with Craig City School District since 1999 and is a lifelong Alaskan with deep roots in the community.

Additionally, Jen Whicker—one of our founding PACE teachers—will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are currently in the process of hiring her replacement. Mrs. Whicker has worked from our Ketchikan office, which will be closing due to high operational costs. Ketchikan families will continue to receive full support from PACE contact teachers.

We recognize that these are significant changes. Please know that each decision was made with thoughtful consideration by the school board and superintendent, with the goal of addressing our financial challenges while continuing to provide strong support to PACE families and staff.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. It has been an honor to work with you this past year.
Sincerely,

Heather Mendonsa (PACE Principal / Contact Teacher)

3 CHEERS FOR JEN!

Jen Whicker has been a dedicated educator in our community for over three decades. She began her teaching career in 1989 with the Craig City School District as a kindergarten teacher. After taking a 12-year break to raise her children, Jen returned to the classroom in 2005, teaching fourth and fifth grades in Craig. In August 2009, she transitioned to Ketchikan, where she became our PACE Contact teacher.

Throughout her career, Jen has had many cherished memories, but the highlight of her work has always been witnessing the joy and satisfaction of students as they thrive and succeed in their homeschool experiences.

Jen will retire at the end of this school year. Looking ahead to retirement, Jen plans to tackle several DIY projects and renovations around her home. She's also excited to travel and spend more time with her family, both near and far.

Jen, we thank you for your years of dedication and all you've done for the PACE family. Your contributions will be greatly missed, and we wish you nothing but the best in this next chapter of your life.





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations PACE Graduates!!

Seniors

Josh

Lillian

Grant

Brayden

Kori

Aryanna

Jordan

Frank

Bailey

Stormy

Class of
2025

Wishing you all the best in your future endeavours. Proud of you all
and grateful to have been a part of your journey.

Thank you,
The PACE Team



Congratulations, Class of 25!

As we bid farewell to our graduating senior class, we reflect on the remarkable journey they've had—one filled with hard work, growth, and unforgettable memories. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and excited for the bright futures that lie ahead. Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Your next chapter is just beginning, and we can't wait to see all the incredible things you will accomplish.

HM

Triple S Ranch in Naukati

FIELD TRIP

PACE STATEWIDE
HOMESCHOOL

MAY 10, 2025

1:30–3:00 PM

Space is limited so families must RSVP. Heather
Mendonsa hmendonsa@craigschools.com

May Teacher Tip

The end of the year is upon us - there are many things we need to remember about the end of the year. Check now to ensure the classes are on track to be completed. Make a calendar with the remaining assignments so they can be finished and submitted on time. If you are taking an online course, look ahead for big assignments and start them now so they don't show up and surprise you on the last day.

1. Work samples are due. Check your student learning plan to see the requirements for each class. Parents, not teachers, are responsible to submit the work samples. Samples should be taken from the approved curriculum on the SLP, graded by the parents, and include the student's name.
2. Quarter 4 Grades are due. These need to be entered on the pace website (paceschool.net) with comments for each class.
3. Finally, reimbursements are due. These also need to be entered with receipts through your account on the PACE Website.

**May 16 is the
day to get
everything
submitted**

If you have any questions, reach out to your contact teacher. They can help make this process quick and easy.