

If you read the [POWDERPIG BROCHURE](#) very carefully, you will have most of the information we presented (with pictures to illustrate my very favorite points : 0) in the parent meeting.

One of the important things we mentioned was letting us know about any **absences**, **just as soon as you know** you are going to be absent. Absences are the basis for our make up program so they are like a treasure (not that we encourage absences) and knowing a child will be absent helps us get the classes out on time - and last of all, some kids really need to know when a classmate is not going to be with them that day and that they are safe at home getting better so they can come up the next week (long story - after 39 years of doing this - we have quite a few stories that have given us great insight into what is going on in our students heads - we call them learning stories and our master teachers are our students). And we talked about how and *why* to do make ups. (In the brochure as well).

Saturdays and Sundays it is important to be in the parking lot **no later than 10 AM** (maybe 9:45 on Saturdays) in order to secure a parking spot in that lot. Otherwise you may find yourself having to park over in one of the other parking lots and having to hike from there to the Pigpen. Not a happy thought. If you can come earlier the Pigpen, our ski school lodge, will be open and you will be very welcome. We will probably even have the coffee on. Bring a snack for your children, as lessons begin just before many children have lunch on school days. That way their tummies don't announce HUNGRY! just after lessons begin.



Many of our kids love to go out to play in the snow when they come up early - so we recommend for our early birds, an extra-extra pair of mittens. Can you see why?

Staying properly hydrated is extra important in winter conditions in the mountains. Be sure your children have plenty of liquids to drink before lessons (on the way up) and during



lunch.

Teach them to use a "sip-sip" mode, rather than the more popular "chug-a-lug" mode (which usually results from waiting too long to replace fluids) - that way they will stay properly hydrated but not have to make a lot of extra visits to the rest rooms. If your children stay well hydrated, they will actually be more likely to be hungry at lunch time. Little Josh B. taught us that important lesson many years ago and I'll bet some of you parents will know exactly what I'm talking about. Josh is well over 6 feet now - all grown up! He did a very good job of teaching us.

Please be on time, or if you simply can't - then be late in style and just let us know that you are going to be late by leaving a message on the 425 392 7277 message line. A hurried, late child is not in good space for enjoying learning or the mountain! And besides, isn't there already enough stress in our lives to go around? So, enjoy the trip to the mountain, look at the beautiful scenery and find things to giggle about and we will do our best to get your child connected with their instructor and class as quickly as possible - when

we know you are going to be late. If we don't know in advance, our ability to help you get connected the class is greatly reduced unless your child is a very beginner and still working near the Pigpen or is skiing on the Pig Chair.

If you email us and don't hear back from us in a reasonably timely fashion (Your definition of timely will do just fine) just hit the resend button. Not often, but once in awhile, messages don't get through - incoming and outgoing. That is one of the things we talked about in the parent meeting. If you don't hear back from us - just hit resend! I would rather hear from you 10 times than miss one of your messages.

The Powderpig message phone is another thing we talk about. It is primarily for outgoing messages about ski school operations - like late starts because of slowdowns on I -90 from traffic jams or for stoppages due to Avalanche control, we also announce cancellations - especially last minute cancellations because of power outages, road closures or sudden deterioration of conditions on the mountain - i.e. boiler plate surfaces from freezing rain, monsoons etc. The only messages we would like to have via the phone are last minute absences and "We are going to be late" messages". Otherwise, email is the best and fastest way to contact us. A few years ago we realized that we could no longer keep up with the rather dramatically increased telephone messages during polite telephone hours. So we decided to go over to the "dark" side of communications - email - where there are no polite telephone hours. This way we can just keep answering until everyone has been taken care of - often into the wee small hours. . .

At least 2 pairs of mittens for lessons (at least) was emphasized throughout the meeting (with PowerPoint pictures to illustrate just why)



because when mittens get damp, fingers immediately get cold, colder and then begin to hurt. And thus skiing becomes painful and not joyful - or even doable.

The other thing we talked about was that we are ALL there for the children - Powderpigs is a gentle and friendly conspiracy to provide a really good learning experience for each of our Powderpigs - no matter how physically gifted (or not) they are. Skiing is for everyone! Some of the most beautiful skiers I have known throughout the years, can't walk and chew gum at the same time when they don't have their skis on their feet. Skiing can be enjoyed at every level, as long as the person doing the skiing is allowed to learn at their own pace - and not just pushed to yet a more advanced level. Our instructors train all fall long (and still are because of the late snow) and all of us (including our Powderpig parents - beginning with all three pages of the application :) work hard to put things together so that each of our students can enjoy the *process* of learning to ski or snowboard as well as the end "product".

Your parental input, as the real experts on your own child, is very important - so if you even begin to think that something is not working for your child - *before* you are even sure it isn't working - email me (best) or grab me on the mountain and we will look at it together and fix it as necessary, as quickly as possible. That way, no child will get stuck in some kind of an oops! for any longer than it takes to fix it. Like the old saying goes about - "2 heads being better than one . . ." and I have found that to be more than usually true up on our mountain. If you see someone else's child who doesn't seem to be thriving - let me know.

I'm the one to tell, by the way.

The meeting was primarily about practical things - but we did visit Powderpig history and how and why we created it - a good story for another time.

If you have any questions - don't hesitate to send them right to Nancy at <thinksnow@powderpigs.com>.