



November 2017
Volume 18
Issue 3

**Pole Green Elementary
School**

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POLE GREEN PRESS

Happy November parents, students and staff!

Thank you so much for all who came out to our Movie Night, we had a blast and cannot wait to have another one in May!

I'd also like to extend a big thank you to everyone who bought and sold our Great Gator Discount Card. We were able to sell about 500 and had 1 class reach their goal. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to watch Mrs. Eaves and the teacher who teamed up with her, Ms. Schoenweisner, get duct taped to the wall as a reward. For anyone who would still like a card we will be selling them at PTA events as long as supplies last or you can send me a request via email at president@pgespta.org.

My final thank yous go out to all the students who entered into the Reflections contest. We are excited to have such a creative bunch of students this year! To keep the focus on these students' artistic accomplishments we have decided to make our Reflections Awards Night solely a banquet and not include a shared crafting portion.

We are currently in the process of planning out Annual Holiday Open House to be held Tuesday December 12th. We will have spaghetti, vendors, raffles and performances. Of course we will have our great basket auction. I can't wait to see what our classes put together for this year's event. Keep an eye out for more information to come including a shopping day at A.C. Moore on November 30th.

We are also beginning to plan our Role Model Rumba to be held January 16th. If you'd like to join the committee please join us for a planning on November 13th in the library.

Don't forget you can take a break from cooking November 8th and eat at Marty's for our Spirit Day.

Thank you all for your support to the PTA. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Sam Hudgins
president@pgespta.org

Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

November begins the time of year when we show our "thanks" for those who are appreciated at PGES. A GREAT Gator thank you to every parent who has assisted the school, teacher, class, PTA, participated in the fundraiser, sent in donation items, or attended a school spirit night for dinner. Everything you do benefits ALL students at PGES, so thank you! Our students certainly gain from your volunteer work and dedication to improving our school. Of course, a GREAT Gator thank you also goes out to the students for their hard work so far. Our first reports cards will come home on Friday, November 11 and they show your hard work. GREAT job! Last, but definitely not least, is a thank you to the teachers and staff at PGES who spend countless hours planning, preparing and implementing lessons for our students. You are a GREAT Team! Together, we are all GREAT Gators! Thank you!

For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

PGES SOL Scores for Spring 2017

I am also very proud to share with you the SOL results for PGES Spring 2017. These scores represent the average for each grade and subject area.

Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Reading Total School 87%

Math Total School 91%

Science Total School 91%

Social Studies School Total 97%

Watch Dogs

The purpose for the Watch D.O.G.S program is to provide positive male role models for all students, by demonstrating their presence that education is important. As a Watch D.O.G., they will be mentors, enhance school security, and reduce bullying by being an extra set of eyes and ears around the school.

The program has is going to be a little different this year. We have created a schedule for Watch DOGS to follow in order to make sure that they have the chance to interact with students of a variety of grade levels. This will ensure that all students can benefit from the positive influence of our Watch DOGS. We know that as fathers, grandfathers, and other father figures that you would like to spend some time with your child. We have posted the schedule on the PTA page so that you can download it and make sure that you sign up for a day where you can spend some time in your child's classroom.

If you are interested in being a Watch DOG, you can sign up with our SignUp genius page <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48a4a62ea0f49-watch1>. Remember that you will also have to have a current volunteer form on file in the front office to participate. If you need the volunteer form, stop by the front office to get one.

If you have any questions you may contact our Watch DOGS coordinator, Stacy Reaves at WatchDOGS@pgespta.org

Counselor's Corner

Happy November! We have done A LOT of things in the past two months of school. Students learned a lot of important information about bullying during the month of October. There were morning announcements made every week, as well as classroom guidance lessons in grades 3, 4, and 5, regarding the topic of bullying. The Great Gators enjoyed a spirit-filled spirit week to remind them of how we can come together as a school and put an end to bullying behaviors.

We have been meeting with as many students as I can, but there is only one counselor at PGES every day! In order to promote self-advocacy and responsibility, we have "counseling slips" accessible in all classrooms, 1st-5th. We have been talking with students a lot about leadership and self-advocacy. We have talked about how it is absolutely okay when you do not understand something, or when you make a mistake. It is then your responsibility to ask your teacher for help or reach out to another adult when you are having a hard time. It has been amazing to see how many counseling slips have been filled out in such a short period of time! Below is a graph of how many students have filled out slips to come and chat thus far from September to November. There is a list of reasons which students may check regarding the purpose of his or her visit. Some reasons included are: school work, family, friends, myself, my class, or something private. There is also space for students to write details and/or reasons that may not be listed. We love how the data shows so many students taking advantage of this resource!

Winter Baskets

This month all of our classes will be creating themed baskets for the Winter Spaghetti dinner.

Each class will be collecting items toward a special theme. Look for information from your child's classroom's room parent about what theme your children's classes are doing.

After the baskets are put together, they will be judged and the winning classes will get a special prize.

We want to send out a special thank you to our room parents and parent volunteers who are taking on the collection of items and putting the baskets together.

A.C. Moore Fundraiser

Come join us for an all day fundraiser at A.C. Moore on November 30th.

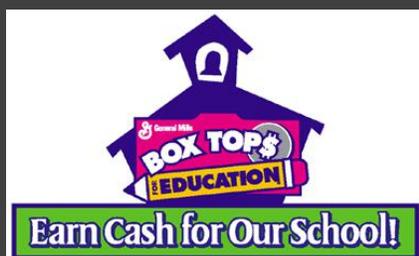
Look for the flyer to come home in your Tuesday folder soon.

Dance Committee

Have a great idea for our Role Model Rumba this January? Can't wait to decorate the cafeteria? Then join us for our first Dance Committee meeting Monday November 13th in the school Library. Our Dance Committee Chair Kim Hodges will lead the meeting as we make decisions on theme, decorations, food and more. We'd love to have your input!

Community Programs

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! There are several easy ways to raise money for your school. They cost you nothing but a few seconds of your time. Look for Box Tops for Education on the products that you use everyday. Collect them and send them in to school with your student. We will take care of the rest!



Grade Level News

Kindergarten

We began Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening on October 16th. Based on research, PALS assesses those skills that seem to be the best predictors of future success in reading. This assessment measures rhyme awareness, beginning sound awareness, alphabet recognition, knowledge of letter sounds, concept of word and spelling of simple three letter words. PALS provides a direct means of matching literacy instruction to specific literacy needs and strengths. You might want to check out the following website:

<http://pals.virginia.edu/Instructional-Resources/ParentCorner.asp>.

Sites that do a good job of reinforcing some of these important skills are <http://readingeggs.com> and <http://www.starfall.com>. The most important thing that you can do to help your child is to spend time reading together. You can also help your child to do his best by making sure he comes to school on time, well rested, and having eaten breakfast.

We had a great time on our Field Trip to Ashland Berry Farm on October 13th!

We are always happy to meet with parents. Communication between home and school is one of the best ways to ensure that your child's school experience is a successful one. We appreciate having the opportunity to discuss your child's academic strengths, as well as goals that have been set for your child. We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of our fall conference day, November 7th. We are also available for conferences after school hours on other days. Check with your child's teacher for a time that is convenient for you both.

Thank you for being our partners in education! We recognize that YOU, as a parent, are the most important role model in your child's life.

Grade Level News(continued)

1st Grade

With the upcoming celebration of our Thanksgiving holiday, the Pole Green First Grade teachers would like to express their thanks for the privilege to teach and learn with your children every day of the school year.

T is for the talented young boys and girls in our classrooms

H is for the happy faces we see each day

A is for the awesome accomplishments of your children

N is for the nice things your children say to us

K is for the kind hearts that your children share

S is for the special qualities of each child

G is for the gift of love your children share with us

I is for the individual uniqueness of every child

V is for the VERY exciting days in first grade

I is for the involvement of you in your children's education

N is for the natural abilities each of your children possess

G is for the GREATEST kids of all: FIRST GRADERS!

We certainly hope you have a most blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We look forward to sharing the final weeks of 2017 with your children and eagerly anticipate the dawn of new adventures in 2016!

~ the First Grade Team

2nd Grade

November brings about a lot of excitement for our second graders! We enjoyed a fun-filled day on our recent field trip to Tuckahoe Plantation, which will serve as an excellent bridge between our units on Communities of Long Ago and our Social Studies unit on American Indians!

Throughout November, we will study the lives and cultures of people belonging to the Powhatan, Lakota, and Pueblo tribes. We will learn about their jobs, homes, foods, and other interesting facts about their lifestyles. This is a perfect unit to also review the Thanksgiving story at the end of the month.

In Math, we will wrap up our basic addition/subtraction fact unit and explore the meaning of the equal symbol. We will learn how to balance simple equations and then move on to a new unit with Graphing.

In Reading, we continue to work and plan reading groups that are individualized to our classroom needs. The same is true for Writing, where we are learning to write on a given topic.

Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning at home! As we think about all we are thankful for this season, we are certainly thankful for these children and their fantastic parents!

Grade Level News (continued)

3rd Grade

It's hard to believe that we're entering the beginning of the holiday season with Thanksgiving just around the corner! We're so thankful here in third grade for the opportunity to work with such wonderful students and parents each and every day. Students will really enjoy a fun-filled holiday activity involving the care of a pinecone turkey baby very soon!

During the month of November, our math focus will turn from computation and estimation of four-digit numbers to graphing. Students will read and create bar graphs, picture graphs, and for the first time, line plot graphs. This unit is always a favorite as the children love to collect, organize, and display their data.

We will be busy during science and social studies with a focus on the water cycle and simple machines. There will definitely be some STEM projects going on to apply what we've learned in both of these units of study. Also, be on the lookout for an at-home simple machines project as well.

In the areas of reading and writing, we continue to hone our skills, focusing on specific strategies in each area (characterization, setting, problem/solution, predictions, plot, genre, etc.). Students are constantly reading and writing throughout the day, but especially during our Daily 5 rotations. Be sure that your child is reading and writing a lot at home as well!

5th Grade

November will be action-packed for our 5th graders. Noteworthy events include our DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education with Officer Bohannon) lessons, STEM activities, and our Thanksgiving holiday.

In other news, our second rotation of science instruction is in full swing, so each class is being instructed in a different unit with a different instructor. Stay tuned to your child's homework agenda for test dates and project due dates. In 5th grade math classes, we're focusing on computation skills using decimal numbers.

5th Grade

The 4th grade team is excited to announce our annual trip to Colonial Williamsburg on Wednesday, November 15th. This visit allows the students to experience life in Colonial Virginia. The students will have an opportunity to see how the government was run in the 1700's, explore the role tobacco played in the colonies and maybe even meet an important person from this time period.

In math, students will focus on multiplication and division of larger numbers. This is a great time to allow your child to play math games on the computer. The key to success in fourth grade is having a strong foundation in your basic math facts. In science, our students will learn about plants in our next unit. They will look at plant needs, as well as the parts of the plant and flower.

As we welcome the month of November and a holiday filled with family, food and fun we asked several 4th graders what they are THANKFUL for and here are some of the wonderful responses. I am thankful for:

- my yummy Thanksgiving dinner and when my family comes. –Ava G.
- living, having a home, and getting what I need every day. – Triston
- my mom and dad because my mom and dad works so hard and the only day they get off is Thanksgiving and they are so nice to me.. – Elaine Li
- all the service men/women in the military. – Noah
- the police next door for helping our country. – Dane
- that we have freedom. – Jonah
- how nice my class is. – Dylan
- having a good mother and father. – Liam M.

The 4th Grade Team

What is happening this month

November 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3 Early Closing	4
5	6	7 No School- Parent-Teacher Conference	8 Marty's Spirit Day All Day- Gators in Space Day	9	10	11
12	13 Dance Committee Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 No School Happy Thanksgiving	23 No School Happy Thanksgiving	24 No School Happy Thanksgiving	25
26	27	28	29	30 A.C. Moore Fundraiser All Day	1	2

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20th of each month.
 Maurice Aufderheide — Editor
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