



November 2020
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Pole Green Elementary School
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POLE GREEN PRESS

President's Message

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 Tuesday, November 24 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

Happy November parents, students and staff!

Thank you to all who participated in our October event-Our First Drive in Bingo Night! We had an amazing time. An extra thank you to the volunteers who continue to make these events possible.

If you haven't already please join the PTA. You can send in a check or pay through the school online fee system. Fees are \$6.00 per student. Joining the PTA allows us access to a number of programs such as Reflections and Power Plates as well as a number of very important resources. Please consider joining the PTA today.

A special thank you goes out to all the students who entered into the Reflections contest. We are excited to have such a creative bunch of students this year!

Parents, we need your help. We are interested in hosting a drive in movie night. If you have the equipment needed for outdoor movies please consider letting the PTA borrow it for the night. We will take extra care of it and it will be returned the same night. Please reach out to me if you would be able to help us out with the needed gear to host this event.

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

Sincerely,
Stephanie Beardslee
president@polegreenpta.org

Counselor's Corner

Community Programs

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. K, 1, and 2, learned all about kindness, filling buckets, and appropriate problem solving. 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 we 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!

Holiday Assistance Information:

If you are in need of holiday help or if you are wanting to assist families in need during the holiday season, please contact Sydney Hobbs as soon as possible. We could always use more families to help in supplying our families in need with holiday assistance. Whether that be in toys, clothing, or gift card form, we would appreciate anything you are willing to give! Please call 804-365-4705 or email shobbs@hcps.us.

The Community Programs committee: ways to help raise money for our school without spending any extra money or participating in fund raisers. We collect Box Tops, Coke codes, Little Entenmann's muffin wrappers, used printer ink cartridges, and the metal pop tops rings off of food containers, wet pet food cans, and beverage cans. We also participate in the Amazon Smile.

A reminder to our OWL Families and Home School Families... you too can participate in our Community Programs projects. Just drive by the school and place your collected items in the labeled tub near the front door. We will take care of the rest!

This month's highlight is the Coke Codes program. Coke Codes are found on the underside of the bottle caps of coke products and on the inside of the cardboard boxes on ends which are marked "pull here" to create a dispenser for the cans. You can go to the Coke website and enter the codes yourself to earn points which you can then donate to the PGES PTA, or you can just send the codes in to us and we will take care of all of the data entry for you. The PTA gets a check each year based on the number of points which have been donated to the Pole Green PTA. Each Coke product that you drink can help our school and your student if you just send the codes in to us.

Charleston Wrap

Greetings Great Gator families!

We have wonderful news to share...our Charleston Wrap Fundraiser has been extended until NOVEMBER 23RD!!!! That is 6 more weeks to earn money for our school's PTA. We realize that this year has been crazy and 2 weeks goes by in a flash. Keep sending those emails and sharing those catalogs with your family and friends. All prizes for email incentives as well as prizes for money spent are still occurring. Remember, all orders are completed online and will be shipped directly to the seller. Most people are receiving their orders in 3 days, so you can order closer to the holidays if you choose. Let's show our Gator pride for our PTA and raise money for our school activities and events. Please let me know if you have any questions

www.charlestonwrap.com

Nia Gibson
Fundraiser Chair

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

We began Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening in October. Based on research, PALS assesses those skills that seem to be the best predictors for future success in reading. This assessment measures rhyme awareness, beginning sound awareness, alphabet recognition, knowledge of letter sounds, and spelling of simple three letter words. PALS provides 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>.

We also began the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program. This assessment aims to build a more comprehensive understanding of school readiness. The VKRP assesses mathematic skills, self-regulation and social skills. You can learn more about the VKRP at the following website: <https://vkrponline.org>.

The most important thing that you can do to help your child is to spend time reading together. Also, please review the Alphabet Linking Chart with your child each night. You can have your child practice stating the letter, keyword, and sound. You can also have your child point and state the letter for a sound you produce. 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 would like to thank all the parents who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 2, 2020. 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.

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.

First 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 2020 with your children and eagerly anticipate the dawn of new adventures in 2021!

~ the First Grade Team

Grade Level News(Continued)

2nd Grade

The fun and excitement in 2nd grade will continue throughout November! In math, we will begin two new units: Geometry and Symmetry. We will also be working on Addition Facts to 20. In science, we will begin a new unit: Habitats. We are looking forward to lots of learning throughout November! As we enter into the time of year in which we give praise to all of the things for which we are thankful, we'd like to share some of our 2nd graders thoughts:

Greyson: I am thankful for my family.

Declan: I am thankful for having the best teacher!

Emma: I am thankful for my teacher.

Aiden: I am thankful for my teacher, my friends and my family.

Briggs: I am thankful for my friends.

Avery: I am thankful for my dog.

Bridget: I am thankful for my mom and my dog.

Anabelle: I am thankful for my family, friends and all of the teachers I've had.

Jackson: I am thankful for BMX and Pa-Pa.

3rd Grade

It's hard to believe that November has arrived! This has certainly been an unprecedented school year but third graders prove to be as resilient as ever. We are so proud of their dedication to safety at school as we continue to learn during this pandemic. As we look forward to Thanksgiving, we the third grade teachers want you to know that we are thankful for the opportunity to help your children grow, learn and succeed each and every day.

Our reading focus this month will turn to non-fiction texts. We will explore the various characteristics and conventions of non-fiction stories and even do some non-fiction research writing of our own. We will incorporate this learning to our Interactive Read Aloud stories as well. Reading groups and stations are going strong as students spend time silent reading, listening to reading on the computer, writing, and working with words.

You will find us learning all about geometry during our math time this month. We will focus lines, angles, and polygons. This is a very interactive, hands-on unit where we use a variety of materials to create various lines, angles, and polygons and search for them in the world around us. Towards the end of the month, we will head back to computation as we add, subtract, and estimate numbers up to 9,999.

We will turn our attention to geography during social studies. Specifically, we investigate each continent in detail, focusing on rivers, mountains, and lakes that make up each large land mass. This unit of study lays the foundation for our future studies of specific ancient civilizations. This is also a very hands-on unit in which allows students to become more creative and artistic as well as curious and knowledgeable.

Grade Level News(Continued)

Fourth Grade

The students have lots to learn during the busy month of November. In math, we will continue with our unit on multiplication and division. There are many fun websites such as multiplication.com that help the students practice their facts. They will need to be comfortable with their facts in order to be successful throughout the majority of 4th grade math. Please take the time to study with your child. The month will end with a look at patterns with numbers and pictures. This unit can be a lot of fun for the students!

Our Science unit for November will be all about Ecosystems. There are some great books and activities the students will get to explore as we learn about the plants and animals in a variety of ecosystems.

During Language Arts, the students will learn about Fact vs Opinion, the theme of a story and learn how to write a descriptive paragraph.

November is a time to show thanks to the people who are special to us. Mrs. Burnley and Ms Miller are very thankful for our students and all their families as they continue to support us during the F2F learning experience.

Thank you,
The 4th Grade Team



Fifth Grade

DARE classes are one of the highlights for our fifth graders. Officer Hughes began his instruction with each of our 5th grade classes, this month. He does a wonderful job of relaying important information to our students.

In other news, we're working on our computation skills in math class, along with rounding decimal numbers. The science course pertains to "Matter", and our ELA focus has been on reviewing parts of speech, along with picking out word meanings for multiple-meaning words. Stay tuned for your child's essay on their favorite restaurant.





Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER 2020



11/1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

11/2 STUDENT HOLIDAY

11/3 STUDENT HOLIDAY

11/5 SPIRIT NIGHT: PANERA

11/10 SPIRIT DAY: GIAMBANCO'S

11/13 STUDENT HALF DAY!

11/13 DRIVE IN BINGO 5-7:30PM

11/16 SPIRIT NIGHT: SPORTS PAGE 5PM-CLOSE

11/23 SPIRIT NIGHT: MCDONALD'S 5-8PM

11/25-27 NO SCHOOL! HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20th of each month.

Maurice Aufderheide— Editor
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