



May-June 2018
Volume 18
Issue 8

**Pole Green Elementary
School**

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POLE GREEN PRESS

Hello PGES Families, Students and Staff,

I can't believe we are coming up on our last event of the year – Movie Night! Bring your chairs and blankets Friday May 18th and join us for free popcorn and a movie in the gym. No time for dinner? No problem, you can place your order for a Chick-Fil-A sandwich or nuggets until May 11th. We'll serve pre-ordered food beginning at 6:30 and the movie will start at 7. Don't forget to stay after the movie for a raffle of the DVD watched.

The PTA's final Spirit Days are fast approaching as well. We are excited to announce Sugar Shack Donuts is not only hosting Pole Green for back to back Spirit Days May 21st & 20th, they will also be creating a special strawberry cream donut just for us! We'll finish up our school spirit with a night at the diamond. Don't forget to pre-order your June 9th Flying Squirrels tickets for just \$9.

Finally, please keep an eye out for a survey with hope to put out soon. The PTA would love to know what worked for families and staff this year and what can be improved upon.

Thank you to all those who have joined us as volunteers, members and attendees these past months. I look forward to another year as president and hope to see many new and returning faces.

Sincerely,
Sam Hudgins
PGES PTA President
president@pgespta.org

Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Congratulations and thank you to our students, teachers and parents for a GREAT school year. We've enjoyed many events throughout the school year and I appreciate your support and participation in each one to benefit our students and school. Our May and June events will include our last PTA night, Fifth Grade Promotion, and SOL Testing from May 14-June 8. The teacher and parent collaboration in our school provides an excellent educational environment for our students, so thank you for your hard work, time and dedication, and support.

Since this is our last newsletter of the school year, let me wish each of you a fun summer! We'll be busy preparing for the 2018-2019 school year.

For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

Student Scheduling for 2018-2019

As principal of PGES, I schedule all students into classes each year. I value the input of the previous classroom teacher as to instructional level of the student in my decision making. I do not honor parent requests for a specific teacher for his or her student. However, you may share information about your students learning style and areas of strength and growth for consideration in student placement. Request for friends to be in the same class will not be honored, and parent suggestion for their child to be separated from another child cannot be guaranteed. If a parent has a concern with student placement, please contact Ms. Voorhees by emailing me at rvoorhees@hcps.us or written request to my attention at PGES. Please share your input by June 30, 2018 for consideration in the scheduling process. Information past June 30 regarding student scheduling may or may not be supported once classroom levels and groupings are determined. The classroom teachers at PGES are GREAT educators, and I am confident your student will meet with success.

Students in third and fourth grade will be given a HCPS math open-ended inventory to help determine math curriculum during fourth and fifth grade. The assessment instrument used is consistent across the county, and provides for current teacher input and student math SOL performance in determining on grade level math or above grade level math. Parents will be notified in the fall if their student is recommended for math acceleration. Grade level math with higher differentiation will still be provided to all students who are strong math students, but do not meet the accelerated curriculum performance criteria. Please contact Ms. Voorhees if you have any questions.

Important dates for 2018-2019

Thursday, August 30

Kindergarten ONLY Orientation 1:30-2:30p.m.

Teacher names and classrooms provided

Thursday, August 30

ALL Student Open House 2:30-5:00p.m.

Teacher names and classrooms provided

****If you cannot attend the Orientation time or Open House time, you may call the school on Friday, August 31 to find out your student's teacher and classroom. This information will not be provided prior to the designated times on August 31. Teachers will not be available to meet parents or students on any other day than Thursday, August 30 due to required meetings.**

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 - First Day of School

Tuesday, September 18, 2018 PTA Back-to-School Night for K – 5th

Counselor's Corner

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

I have had an awesome time getting to know all of your students as they have grown during the 2017-2018 school year. It has been a fabulous second year for me at PGES!

We are finishing up our last classroom guidance lessons in K-5. I hope your students were able to gain a lot of knowledge from the counseling program this year. Small groups are coming to an end as well. Please let me know if there are topics that were not covered in small groups or classroom guidance this year that you would hope to see more of. Some topics this year inside and outside of the classroom included:

K: Kind words, tattling, bullying, interrupting, good choices, friendship, career

1: Rule following, bullying, friendship, feelings, tattling, self-esteem, interrupting, career

2: Honesty, good choices, friendship, goal setting, feelings, diversity, bullying, career

3: Listening, bullying, perseverance, test anxiety, self-coping strategies, cooperation, empathy, career

4: Goal setting, bullying, rumors, learning styles, study skills, diversity, self-coping strategies, career

5: Organization, peer pressure, bullying, leadership, respect, middle school transition, career

SOLs

Now that SOLs are near, we are asking for parent volunteers to help with monitoring the hallways and bathrooms during testing. If you are available, please click on the link below in order to sign up for a monitoring time slot. Make sure to bring something to read! Please be sure to sign up by May 11th.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054DA8AB2AAAF7-ppes1>

5th Grade Promotion

Attention 5th Grade Parents! 5th Grade Promotion will begin at 6 PM on June 12th. Please make sure you are here to support your 5th grader officially complete elementary school! More information and details will be sent through the 5th grade teachers.

Watch the classroom weekly newsletters to see when the Spring PALS assessment will be given. This is the same assessment tool that was used in the fall, so it will show the gains your child has made during the academic school year. Please make sure your child comes to school well rested.

The students will end the school year learning about fractions as they explore fractions and $\frac{1}{2}$. They will also learn about height, length, weight, volume, temperature and time.

The last few months are filled with fun science activities.

- Students learn the importance of reusing and recycling materials, as well as conserving natural resources.
- Students have fun planting their own seeds and learning what plants need in order to grow.
 - Kindergarteners stand amazed as they study the life cycle of a butterfly and a frog.
- Students learn about land and ocean habitats.

This summer, please keep your child **READING** in order to maintain or build on current reading levels! A recommended summer reading list will be sent home. Your child will continue to have home access to the computer program Reading Eggs, as well. This program focuses on phonics and sight words. When your child completes Reading Eggs, he/she can use Reading Express.

Keeping a special **SUMMER JOURNAL** highlighting summer adventures will encourage your child to maintain writing skills.

Point out how you use reading, writing, and math skills every day!

The kindergarten team would like to express our thanks to all of the parents and community volunteers for the support you have given this group of kindergarten children throughout the school year!

Grade Level News (Continued)

1st Grade

We are winding down our year as Pole Green First Gators! We have spent many days...weeks...months together laughing (maybe a little crying) and learning our way through first grade. We enjoyed an amazingly successful FUN RUN thanks to you and your children! Mrs. Eaves, Ms. Healy, Mr. Livingston & Mrs. Stone hope that you enjoy a wonderful summer vacation and gear up for an action-packed, second grade adventure in the fall!

S Soak up that beautiful sunshine
U Understand the importance of the little things
M Make the most of every learning opportunity
M Move your body around every day
E Enjoy special time with your family and friends
R READ, READ, READ...and READ some more



2nd Grade

It is so hard to believe we have entered into the final 9-weeks of school and summer is just around the corner. We love our second-grade students, and we are so proud of all of the things they have learned! This year has been full of many fun activities, including field trips, Field Day, our Fun Run, etc.; and we want to thank you for all of your support!

We are not finished yet, however! Second grade is looking forward to our final field trip of the year coming up in early May. We will finish up a unit on Plant and Animals with a trip to the New Kent Forestry Center, and we are excited to have hands-on experience with the new concepts we have learned.

Also to finish the year, we will learn about Economics in Social Studies. We also plan to review all of the Famous Americans we learned with some in-class mini projects, and do some independent research on animals. In Math, we will cover units on telling time, measurement, and probability.

We have a lot of learning left, but by the time June rolls around, your child will be very prepared for third grade! Thank you again for everything you have done to make this year AWESOME!

Grade Level News (continued)

3rd Grade

It's so hard to believe that summer is just around the corner and your third graders will soon be fourth graders! This is an incredibly busy time in third grade. Students will take the Reading and Math SOL Tests for the very first time. We have been busy learning new skills and concepts in these subjects as well as practicing old skills and test-taking on the laptop computers. We've also spent some lessons learning all about the helpful tools available on the computer. The Reading SOL Test will take place on May 14th and 15th and the Math SOL Test will take place on May 24th and 25th. More information regarding preparation for these tests will certainly be coming home soon!

In the area of reading, students have been investigating prefixes, suffixes, and root words in order to expand our vocabularies. We have also spent a great deal of time exploring dictionary skills to hone our reference skills. We've been spotlighting main idea and details, cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, and inferencing during our reading comprehension time.

Our math focus for the few weeks preceding the SOL tests will center around money, time, and measurement. Students will focus on counting and comparing money as well as making change. We will make sure that we know how to tell time to the minute as well as solve some real life word problems involving elapsed time. Finally, our measurement unit explores length, capacity, and weight, as well as perimeter and area. Please be sure that your child is completing the assigned Math SOL Review homework in those special folders. We go over this each Friday and this is a crucial part of our math review.

During our unit study time during the last month of school, students will learn about the ancient civilizations of Rome and Mali and explore some of the physical geographic features of South America. We will also investigate energy, including renewable and nonrenewable sources. Finally, we will celebrate diversity as we close out our school year.

In order to help your child to have a super duper successful fourth grade year, take advantage of the wonderful historical opportunities that our state of Virginia has to offer. Your child will be heavily studying the history of The Old Dominion next year. Don't forget to read, read, read and practice those multiplication and division facts as well! And of course, have a fun-filled, safe, and relaxing summer! Don't forget to come back and visit us when you move on to fourth grade! We'll miss you!!!

4th Grade

The 4th grade is thrilled to welcome spring and the warm weather it brings! Along with the warm weather come the well-known SOL tests. As you can imagine the students have been working hard to prepare for their tests in Reading, Math and Social Studies. Parents can do their part by taking time daily to help his or her child review the content inside his or her child's SOL binder.

Towards the end of May we will be wrapping up our school year with our final Science Units. The students will be learning about Magnets & Electricity, Force, Motion & Energy, and our Solar System. The teachers would like to thank all the students and parents for their hard work and dedication. Continue to focus on reviewing the Reading, Math, and Social Studies content in preparation for the SOL tests.

5th Grade

What an exciting time of year for our soon-to-be middle schoolers. As we look back across the span of our time together, we realize how much we've accomplished. Our year has been packed with adventures as we've delved into topics from geometry to fractions & measurement, from the tiniest microorganism to the massive oceans and what lies within, from reading great literature to creating strong essays, from searching all over the globe to finding our way back home, and criss-crossing our continent while stopping to learn each state name.

The balance of our school year will be spent taking a look at measurement, while preparing for our on-line, math SOL. Our science program will trace our curriculum all the way back to our 4th grade objectives. We'll polish up our reading strategies and writing skills. Please note that during the month of May, SOL study logs will be continued for homework. Please encourage your child to review daily by using their science folders and math and reading journals, as well as the websites that we have recommended for them to use throughout the year.

And as a final note, thank you to those of you who, so generously donated to our Fun Run. It is most appreciated.

May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Send in Flowers	8 Send in School Supplies	9 Pamper your Teach	10 Send in Snacks Teacher pizza Delivery Night	11 Send in a Card/Note	12
13	14 SQL's	15 SQL's	16 SQL's	17 SQL's	18 SQL's Movie Night	19
20	21 SQL's Sugar Shack Spirit Day	22 SQL's Sugar Shack Spirit Day	23 SQL's	24 SQL's	25 SQL's	26
27	28 Memorial Day (No School)	29 SQL's	30 SQL's	31 SQL's	1	2

June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 SQL's	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Flying Squirrels Spirit Night
10	11	12 5th Grade Promotion	13 Early Dismissal	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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