



January 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

Happy New Year Gator families and staff,

I hope everyone enjoyed the long Winter Break. We're jumping right back into things with a number of exciting events in January.

We will be hosting our 3rd Annual Winter Wonderland Dance on Friday January, 10th from 6-8pm. We welcome all of our students and their adult guest (s).

We have a few exciting spirit nights this month. We have Marty's on January 6th, January 13th Sports Page and our first spirit night at Ashland Skate on January 22nd. We hope to see you there.

It is not too late to sign up for the second half of the year as a Watch DOG, you can find the daily schedule and sign up with our SignUp genius page <http://bit.ly/PGESWatchDog19>

Please consider joining the PTA if you haven't done so yet. We are a little over halfway to our goal of 100% membership. Thank you all for your support through the first half of this school year and we are excited for all the events in the second half of the year.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Beardslee
PGES PTA President
president@polegreenpta.org

Happy New Year! The school year will be half over by the end of this month, which is hard to believe. We have enjoyed a lot of exciting learning and engaging activities during the first semester, and look forward to a GREAT second semester! As a NASA recognized school in November 2017, we received calendars to share with our families again for 2020. I hope your families enjoy the NASA International Space Station calendars as you start planning your family activities for 2020!

Often in January, we reflect on those who were important to us during the past year. The administrative team always thinks of teachers, parents and students during this time. Pole Green teachers are commended for the hours of dedication and commitment to our student's academic experiences and success. The administrative team appreciates your hard work to make learning fun and individualized for your students. GREAT Gators Accomplish GREAT Things!

For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

Administrator's Corner

The students of Pole Green are also acknowledged for your hard work so far this school year. Again, the administrators see your efforts through your completed work, projects, hallway displays, report card reviews, and classroom visits. We enjoy working with you and applaud all that you do each day.

We would like to thank the PTA for their support during the school year. Our PTA is very dedicated to the school and contributes numerous hours to assist in the academic growth in our school. We recognize and appreciate the parent involvement and support that our parents and PTA provide to us on a regular basis. Thank you for all that you do to improve our school, support our staff and work with our students. Together we are Great Gators!

PGES Great Gator FUN RUN – SAVE THE DATE!

We hope you can support and join our students at the GREAT Gator FUN RUN scheduled for Thursday, March 19. This is the school fundraiser that incorporates character education, movement, and teamwork. As the only fundraiser that supports instructional technology, additional books, our playground and other needed items, we need your support. Our current iPads are old, and will no longer update with new educational apps, so we must replace them all. To provide 5 iPads for each classroom K-5, that means 150 iPads total. It is a big goal that we will tackle over the next few years. We are GREAT Gators, TOGETHER!

During the 2019 Fun Run, here are some of the items we bought for all of our students:

- ✓40 iPads – used for check-out purposes for large class activities
- ✓Consumable resources needed for our Innovation Lab (3-D printer materials and other items that are not household items)
- ✓New Break-A-Way Basketball backboard for recess
- ✓Robotics for the Innovation Lab
- ✓Books for the classrooms (\$5,000 in books!)
- ✓RAZ Kids and Reading A-Z

Inclement Weather

During the winter months, we watch the weather forecast closely. We expect that inclement weather will happen which may impact the school day. To prepare for emergency school closings, it is important that your child's teacher knows where to send your child. If an emergency early release is called and your child is to be sent somewhere DIFFERENT than the normal dismissal procedure, we request that you put this in writing to the teacher today. Due to the number of students at Pole Green we are not able to contact parents individually when an emergency dismissal occurs. In case of inclement weather you can check the Hanover County Public Schools Facebook page, Twitter or Instagram account, the Hanover County Public Schools website, or listen to a local radio or television station. We appreciate your attention and assistance during the winter months.

Student Progress

This is also the time during the school year when teachers assess individual student progress. Sometimes student skills may lag behind the grade level expectations. In determining the best academic path for each student, a teacher may send home a retention notice with the February 28 Interim which would indicate a lack of satisfactory progress in essential academic skills. The "possible retention" notice is an alert that a student will not be ready for the next grade at the academic pace he or she is making, and therefore, interventions both at school and home will be necessary. Final decisions for retention recommendations are not made until May. In addition, letters will be sent home to students who may be in danger of violating the county attendance policy. Student attendance is crucial for academic progress and we appreciate your efforts to have your children at school each day and in the classroom on time to limit the interruptions to all students and teachers. Our next parent-teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, February 26. If you have specific concerns about your child's progress, please schedule a conference with the teacher.

Counselor's Corner

Happy January!

There are a lot of things happening as we come back from a much needed and relaxing Winter Break! First, we will begin registering 5th grade for Middle School on January 13th. Please see the schedule below to know what registration dates are available for your child's class. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact me. Students received a lesson in December taught by the OKMS counselors on OKMS core and elective classes. Each 5th grader was given a Program of Studies book which contains course information. Please let me know if you did receive one of these. Below is the list of times available; please click on the link provided under your child's teacher's name to sign up for a registration appointment. If you have twins, you only need to sign up for one appointment time. Lastly, if there is inclement weather, I will reschedule all appointments missed due to school closings. Please give me a chance to reschedule once we return to school, as I do not have internet access at my home.

Designated Days for Mrs. Bowman's Class

Monday, Jan. 13, 2020 - Wednesday (morning), Jan. 15, 2020

Evening times available on Tuesday, Jan. 14th

Extra day: Friday, January 31st

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<https://tinyurl.com/BowmanMiddle>

Designated Days for Mrs. Carrique's Class

Tuesday (afternoon), Jan. 28, 2020 - Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020

Evening times available on Thursday, Jan. 30th

Extra day: Friday, January 31st

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<https://tinyurl.com/CarriqueMiddle>

Designated Days for Mrs. Gordon's Class

Wednesday (afternoon), Jan. 15, 2020 - Friday, Jan. 17, 2020

Evening times available on Thursday, Jan. 16th

Extra day: Friday, January 31st

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<https://tinyurl.com/GordonMiddle>

Designated Days for Mrs. Wilson's Class

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 - Tuesday (morning), Jan. 28, 2020

Evening times available on Monday, Jan. 27th

Extra day: Friday, January 31st

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<https://tinyurl.com/WilsonMiddle5>

Designated Days for Ms. Miller's Class

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020 - Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020

Evening times available on Tuesday, Jan. 21st

Extra day: Friday, January 31st

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<https://tinyurl.com/MillerMiddle5>

While it is not mandatory for parents/guardians to attend this session, I would like to offer you the opportunity to come with your child to his/her appointment.

We will be celebrating our second group of HEROs this month. Students are chosen to be HEROs every nine weeks by either their teachers or their peers. Students who demonstrate the 9 weeks' character trait are nominated. The character trait for this 9 weeks is COOPERATION. The names of all HEROs will be announced on the morning announcements and will be invited to a small celebration in the cafeteria. Winners will be announced on January 28th. A letter and certificate of recognition will be sent home with your child.

Be on the lookout for more information in Tuesday Folders regarding Small Groups being offered in the Spring. Also, a parent workshop on Managing Emotions will be offered in March.

Lastly, I am still looking for parents who are interested in speaking to their child's class about their career. The presentation is informal and is only about 25 minutes. Let me know if you are interested or would like more information.

Sydney Hobbs
PGES School Counselor

Gifted Referrals

The Hanover County Gifted Program supports a collaborative effort between the classroom teacher and the gifted resource teacher to provide appropriate services to students identified as academically talented. Through co-planning and co-teaching the program offers challenges and differentiated instruction to those students in need.

Referrals for screening into the Gifted Program are due by January 31, 2020. The next window to screen students will be January 2021. Students in grades K-5 may be referred by their teachers, parents, any staff member, or even themselves. Keep in mind that students may only be screened once every two academic years. For more information on characteristics of gifted learners visit hcps.us and look under the tab for special services. Referral forms are not available online. You may obtain a referral form by contacting the Gifted Resource teacher, Lori Schoenwiesner, at lschoenwiesner@hanover.k12.va.us.

Membership

We are currently at 400 members! Great job Gators!! That is 68% of our school. There is still time to help us reach our 100% membership goal for this year. Membership cards will be printed and sent home with your student before Christmas Break along with a Texas Roadhouse coupon.

Mrs. Krevonick's third grade class has achieved 100% membership in their class!! They earned a PJ day, McDonald's coupon for free ice cream and a book for their class. Mrs. Krevonick also will be awarded money for supplies for her class! We have several classes so close to our next prize. Who will be next?

Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations Amy Matherly for being PTA's Volunteer of the Month for November! Her children are in Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Daniels class. Thank you for the time and talent you have given to our school!

Winter Dance

Winter Dance We are getting excited to host our 3rd annual winter dance! The dance will be held in the PGES gym on Friday January 10th from 6pm-8pm with a backup date of Jan. 17th. All students Pre-K - 5th are welcome to boogie down with us. DJ Matt Goulding will be in the house to play all your favorite hits. Dress in your holiday best and grab your favorite adult for a night of dancing, games, craft & refreshments.

Tickets are \$10 per couple and each additional student/adult is \$5 with a \$20 maximum for immediate family members. Tickets will also be available at the door for 6.00 per person. Tickets include: light refreshments & a complimentary photo of the evening! Pizza will also be available for purchase.

A sign-up genius has been created for volunteers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4AADA629A4FA7-pges>

Please contact Dance Chair, Breann Getridge with any questions: breann.getridge@gmail.com
We can't wait to hit the dance floor with you!!

Bingo

Do you have a few friends who are looking for something fun and easy to do? Would you like to help raise money for the PTA while having a good time? Then Bingo is for you. Get ready for Bingo night at the Mechanicsville Little League! We need just 6 volunteers for each monthly Bingo night to help earn money for the PTA. Sign up below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AEAC2EA7F49-bingo>

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

Happy New Year! We're excited about what our kindergarten students will be accomplishing in 2020! We will have even stronger readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists in kindergarten! Please practice identifying sight words from your child's Goal Folder each night. You can make it fun by creating flash cards, rainbow writing the words, or by playing sight word Candyland with your child. Watch your child's personal Goal Folder and celebrate the growth you see evident. Listen to your child read each night. Provide opportunities for writing.

In January, students will continue to focus on extending a pattern, creating a pattern, and transferring a pattern. The students will also begin to focus on numbers 11-20. You can begin reviewing these numbers with your child by having him/her count out objects such as cereal, matchbox cars, blocks, etc. We will also be making weather observations and focusing on Winter! Do you think we will get more SNOW? Our students are predicting that we will!

1st Grade

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Welcome to 2020! We are very excited to begin this new year teaching and learning with your children. We look forward to exciting days filled with energy and enthusiasm for strengthening our brains!

H How can we make this year successful?
A Another year to grow and learn
P Problems arise, but we can solve them
P Prepared to go above and beyond expectations
Y Young minds exploring our world

N New learning filling our brains
E Extra smiles every day
W Winter cold outside; warm hearts inside

Y Youthful energy all around
E Every challenge we can accept
A Always a fresh start to each day
R Reading stamina is increasing

Second Grade

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are already nearing the middle of the school year as the end of the second nine weeks approaches. Here in second grade, we continue to learn and grow every day! During our language arts time, we are focusing heavily on making connections with fiction stories and comprehending non-fiction text features and conventions. As we read fiction, we are connecting our lives, other texts, and the world to what we are reading. Students will be reading non-fiction books and magazines during their small group reading time, using specific skills to help them understand factual information more carefully. We are reading a wide variety of non-fiction books during our interactive read aloud and shared reading times as well. Students are enjoying putting together their own booklet highlighting the most important features of non-fiction texts.

Second grade authors are feeling proud as they are working to publish their first narrative fiction pieces! From prewriting to drafting to revising and editing, students have learned a great deal about the writing process. We will soon be learning about letter-writing including both friendly and thank-you letters. This is always an exciting unit in second grade as children love to both write and receive letters! We'll be writing to classmates, teachers, and even community members outside of our school building. We will also launch our famous Flat Stanley project soon!

Our mathematics focus is a crucial one, place value. Place value is the basis for so much future learning in math. Students are investigating all four forms (standard, written, expanded, picture) of two- and three-digit numerals. It's important for the children to truly understand the value of each digit in a larger number. We will move onto ordering, comparing, and rounding numbers as well.

During our science time, students are enjoying hands-on exploration with our weather unit focusing specifically on the water cycle, temperature, wind, precipitation, and storms. Using certain weather tools, we track and record the weather each day as mini meteorologists. Of course, we are all hoping to predict a big winter snowfall soon! But for now as you can see, second grade is a very busy place to be in 2020!

Grade Level News(Continued)

3rd Grade

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful and wonderful break. Third grade is happy to start the new year with a fresh start and to keep on moving with our instruction! We will continue learning our multiplication strategies and facts. Your third grader will memorize 0s, 2s, 5s, and 10s. We will continue to work on our comprehension strategies in reading and focus on main idea and details. In social studies we are learning about Ancient China!

5th Grade

Our hard working 5th graders have paused for a moment during this busy season to send you and your family a special wish for the New Year. Here's what a few of them have on their mind: *My wish for the New Year is for good grades. -Brendan *My wish for the New Year is for my family to win \$1,000,000. -Brody *My wish for the New Year is to make the middle school teams for baseball and football. - Colby *My wish for the New Year is for the world to stop littering, so it can't hurt plants or animals. -Riley. *My wish for the New Year is for homeless people to get homes. -Madelyn *My wish for the New Year is to be a more organized person. -Kylee *My wish for the New Year is to have an amazing last year of elementary school at Pole Green. -Talon. And finally, Gabby summed it up nicely with her thought, *My wish for the New Year is for everyone in the whole world to be happy and peaceful as long as they wish.

4th Grade

The 4th graders are excited to welcome the year 2020! We have some wonderful, new, and challenging content to start off the year.

In math, the students will be finishing up their long multiplication and division unit and moving on to Fractions. This is one of the more challenging units in 4th grade and may require extra study time. Also, to be successful at these skills, it is essential that your child knows their math facts. Please continue to encourage your child to keep practicing with either flash cards or on the computer!

The science we will be finishing our Magnets and Electricity unit. Students will understand what is needed to build a circuit, how electricity flows, how magnets work, and what electromagnets are. They will even be building circuits of their own. In Social Studies, we begin learning about the Civil War and then on to Reconstruction. You can support the study of this content by visiting some of the amazing locations around our beautiful state.

We hope 2020 is a year filled with happiness for you all!



What is happening this month



January 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|---------|---|----------|--|----------------------------|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Marty's Spirit Day | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Winter Dance 6-8pm | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Sports Page Spirit Night 5-until close | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Winter Dance Back Up date 6-8pm | 18 Bingo 5:30-9:30pm |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Ashland Skate Spirit Night 6-8pm | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 TSAC Chili Cook Off <i>Deadline for submission of Gifted Referrals Grades K-5</i> | 1 |

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