



September 2018
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Pole Green Elementary School

8993 Pole Green Park Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
Phone: 804-365-4700
Fax: 804-365-4717
Attendance: 804-365-4714

POLE GREEN PRESS

Dear PGES Families,

Can you feel Fall in the air? I hope everyone has settled into the school year groove by now. Thank you to all those who came out for Back To School Night last month, I look forward to seeing everyone again at our October 17th Movie Night!

As I am sure you are aware our big fundraiser for the year, the Great Gator Discount Card, is underway. The card features discounts at 13 local businesses for just \$10. Our goal is to sell 1200 cards and the reward for reaching that goal is giving the students the once in a life time opportunity to see their teachers and principal pied in the face, sprayed with silly string or duct taped to a wall. I truly appreciate your help in achieving this goal.

Reflections is underway and the deadline to turn applications in to Mrs. Atkinson is October 24th. This year's theme is "Within Reach." Please encourage your children to participate in this wonderful artistic experience.

Thank you for continuing to check out our newsletter on the PTA website. Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook for the latest PTA events, news and pictures.

I look forward to working with all of our great volunteers and staff this year!

Sincerely,
Sam Hudgins
PTA President
president@pgespta.org

Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

I would like to say thank you to the students, parents, staff, and community for a GREAT start to the school year. It was great to see you at the Back-to-School night on September 19, and we look forward to seeing you throughout the school year.

Schools participate in a number of safety drills as practice of our crisis management plan. Some of these drills include fire drills, earthquake drills, tornado drills, and intruder drills. Students are made aware that we will practice drills for their safety, and to follow the teacher directions for the different drills. Together, we will keep our Gators safe!

Continued on Page 2.

For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

PGES FACEBOOK

PGES has a Facebook page this year. Please LIKE us on Facebook @polegreenelementaryschool. Our goal is to share highlights of students throughout the school day. Students will only be photographed for Facebook if you granted permission through the forms sent home at Open House. If you would like to change your response at any time, please contact your child's teacher.

October – Anti-Bully Prevention Month

The month of October is the official month for anti-bully prevention. At PGES, we practice anti-bully activities throughout the school year. However, in recognition of Anti-Bully Month, we will have extra activities with our students. October 25 is UNITY DAY and the color Orange represents students commitment to be united, as a GREAT Gator team, to stand against unacceptable behaviors and bully behavior. We welcome our community and parents to join us in wearing orange on October 25.

FUN RUN IS MARCH 22, 2018! SAVE THE DATE!

The Fun Run will be our school-wide fundraiser. It was certainly a hit with the students last year!! The BoosterThon Fun Run theme this year is Castle Quest to focus on character traits of being responsible, perseverance and models. Our goal with the fundraiser is to purchase a much needed sound system for the cafeteria, add resources and supplies to our new STEM Lab, and hopefully purchase more iPads for our students to use during the school day to promote real-world learning. So, look for more information to come, but save the date – March 22! Parents and families are invited and encouraged to come and cheer on our students!

STEM LAB

PGES has a dedicated classroom for a STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This classroom is open for teachers to use anytime for hands-on learning, real world applications, building projects, and testing ideas! We will be sending home flyers about recyclable resources you can donate to support our STEM lab.

Parent Communication & Who Do I Ask?

The PGES staff is very busy each day planning, preparing and implementing structured academic opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to volunteer in any manner which time permits. To assist teachers, students and parents, the administrative responsibilities have been divided. Although the below list is not inclusive, this includes an idea to direct parent questions, if needed.

Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

SOL Test Data Analysis

PTA

School Improvement

Personnel

Crisis Safe School Plan

Student Placement

Leslie Luck, Assistant Principal

SOL testing

Field Trips

Textbooks

Student Discipline

Bus and Transportation

Special Education

(Continued on Page 3)

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

Keeping students safe is an important responsibility for us each day, and we request your help in keeping our school safe. Please be prepared to show picture identification when you are picking up your child. Also, make sure you have returned the Student Emergency Card and the Student Clinic Card which include valuable information as to who you have given permission to contact in case of an emergency at school in the event the parent cannot be reached.

All visitors will sign in upon arrival to PGES, according to Hanover County Public Schools Policy 2-3.6. We appreciate your support and understanding as we all work together to keep the students and educational environment at Pole Green safe and secure for everyone.

If you are volunteering, please log into the volunteer machine which will print a volunteer sticker with your name. This also allows your volunteer hours to be accounted for each month. We request you check into the office for any visit which includes walking your student to class.

The Hanover County School Board recognizes the importance of keeping all students safe. Unfortunately, this recognition includes the danger sex offenders pose to student safety. Therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, and attend school or school-related activities, each school in the Hanover County school division shall request automatic electronic notification of the registration or re-registration of any sex offenders in the same or contiguous zip codes as any school within the school division. This information is obtained according to the procedure established by the Virginia Department of State Police. Information on sex offenders and the "Crimes Against Minors Registry" can be located at <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/or/index.htm>.

School Activities and Celebrations at PGES

We value student success, school success, staff success and celebrate by showing our school spirit each week with a school-wide School Spirit Day on Friday's. All students and staff are invited to wear green or a PGES shirt if one is owned by the student. We invite parents and community members to join us in showing school spirit each Friday.

Attendance Line

PGES has a voicemail attendance line for you to leave messages when your child is out sick, 365-4714. If we do not receive a message from you regarding a child's absence, you will be contacted as is HCPS policy. If you need to speak with the nurse, you may contact her directly at 365-4704.

Visitors at Lunch – New Policy

Hanover County Public Schools will now require a parent/guardian to provide written permission for any visitor to have lunch with your child. The permission note must include the parent signature, therefore, electronic copies or calls may not be accepted. This is another level of student security for our students.

All visitors will be required to sit at the Visitor table with only their child. We appreciate your understanding to help us keep 650 students safe at school each day.



PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students of all grades and abilities may participate and explore the arts based on the 2017-2018 theme: Within Reach.

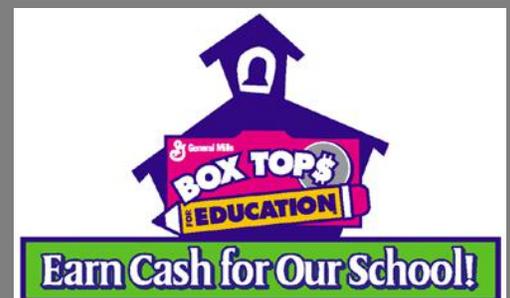
Students may choose one or all of the available arts categories:

- Dance
- Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

Applications have been sent home in Tuesday folders and are due on October 24th. Spare applications will be available outside of the art room

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!



Fall Movie Night

We are excited to host our very first Movie Night of the year in costume. Join us in the cafeteria at 6:30 on October 17th for a performance by the 4th grade to be followed by a costume parade across stage and then the movie!

Popcorn and water will be provided but don't forget to bring your own blankets and chairs to sit on.

Please remember to keep costumes appropriate for school – no masks, weapons or anything scary or gory.



New PTA Board Members

Please welcome the newest members of the PTA board as they take on the leadership of some of our important committees!

Stephanie Beardslee – Vice President
Maurice Aufderheide - Newsletter

Thank you for your help!!! We appreciate all of our volunteers!

Keep an eye out to join the Spaghetti Dinner Committee and the School Dance Committee.

Counselor's Corner

Hello PGES families!

There are many things to look forward to in the month of October! We will be celebrating our first group of HEROs this month. Students are chosen to be HEROs every nine weeks by either their teachers or their peers. Students who demonstrate our 9 weeks character word will be nominated. Our character word this 9 weeks is RESPECT. 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 October 31st.

Small groups are being offered for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. 1st grade will be offering "Social Success" where students will learn acceptable social behaviors. "Banana Splits" divorce/separation group will be offered for 3rd grade. This group will help students going through family changes and provide support of other same-age students who are going through similar experiences. 4th grade will offer "Life Skills (Accountability, Organization, Responsibility, Confidence, Leadership)" group. This group will help students with various life skills and strategies that will benefit them in and outside of the classroom. A small group for 2nd graders will be offered by part-time counselor, Miss Leonarkis, and will be announced via her blog. Each group will meet once a week for five weeks. We will meet for 30 minutes during the school day, at a time that your child's teacher has noted will be least disruptive to instruction. Parent referral forms will be sent home in Tuesday Folders if you are interested.

Small groups are not offered in Kindergarten and 5th grades because of the vast amount of things to discuss among those particular grade levels. I do provide lunch bunches for both of these grades, meaning I eat lunch with every single student in Kindergarten and 5th. During K lunches, the students get to meet their counselor and visit the counseling office. We also discuss table manners and cafeteria rules. During 5th grade lunches, the students discuss various things like social media safety and middle school transition. I also will eat lunch with 5th grade students a second time (closer to the end of the year) where they will get independent practice with locker locks.

October is also Bully Awareness Month. Classroom guidance lessons in grades 3-5 will focus on Bullying. K-2 lessons will focus on kindness and how to treat others. There will be announcements about different types of bullying and how to report it during the entire month. We will also have a Bully-Free Spirit week October 23-27.

Attention families in need of assistance for the holidays! There will be a form sent home at the beginning of this month for Thanksgiving meal assistance. Please be on the lookout for this form in your student's Tuesday Folder.

Families who are interested in providing assistance for our families in need during the Holidays, please contact me at sellis@hcps.us or 365-4705 if you are willing to help. We are always in need of individuals who will buy Holiday items for families in need.

Happy Fall!

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

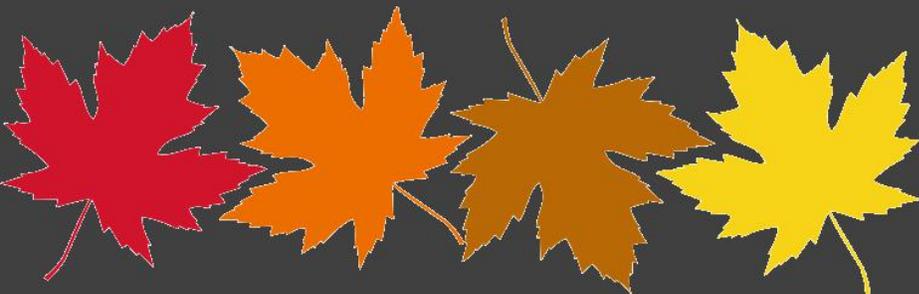
We will begin Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening mid-October. Based on research, PALS assesses those skills that seem to be the best predictors of future success in reading. This assessment measures rhyme awareness, beginning sound awareness, alphabet recognition, knowledge of letter sounds, concept of word and spelling of simple three letter words. PALS-K 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 look forward to our Field Trip to Ashland Berry Farm on October 13th! Students should wear their class shirt or class color (if possible) and bring a lunch with a drink.

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 Parent/Teacher Conference Day. 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. The kindergarten teachers like to meet with parents of each child on this day.

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.



1st Grade

AUTUMN is upon us and our FIRST GRADE GATORS are so excited to see all the seasonal changes outside! The FIRST GRADE TEACHERS are noticing some changes, too, inside the classroom. As we make our way through the second month of school, we see our students growing...and growing...and growing!

A Attitudes are positive
U Understanding more and more
T The classroom buckets are filling up
U Using better manners
M Making good choices

2nd Grade

Happy Fall, from the 2nd Grade Team! We have already fallen in love with our classes this year, and are having so much fun working with your sweet children!

October will be a busy month for our students. In Math, we will be spending a lot of time working on strategies for Addition and Subtraction facts (with numbers up to 20). We will have many games, flashcards, and computer activities to practice and reinforce the strategies we teach, and then we will work on building basic fact recall. Please encourage your child at home by practicing these basic facts together. Even calling out facts as you are driving to practices, or waiting for dinner at a restaurant, will help strengthen the skills taught at school.

In Social Studies, the students will learn about Christopher Columbus as we celebrate Columbus Day. We will also learn about Communities, both past and present. In Science, the students will learn about Magnets.

Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning at home! We appreciate all of you support!

3rd Grade

Happy Fall, ya'll! We're getting into the groove of learning in third grade for sure! October stands out as a super exciting month as third graders will head to the Virginia Repertory Theatre to watch Akeelah and the Bee (to learn even more about perseverance and determination!) and to Meadow Event Park for Agriculture Day to learn all about our county's agriculture industry from the kind citizens of Hanover County. We're so lucky to venture out into the world to take our learning to new heights!

Our writing focus will be IDEAS as students get used to the routines of writing workshop and independent journal writing. We will use a variety of mentor texts written by amazing authors to jump start lessons about where authors get their ideas and how to write a seed story rather than a watermelon story (narrow that idea to a small event and then elaborate!). Students will also work on writing teacher-prompted pieces such as autobiographies. In third grade, we write across the curriculum all day long and we love it!

During the month of October, students will begin working in new reading and word study groups. Word study is a brand new spelling program for third graders as they are so used to Foundations from grades K – 2. Teachers have spent a great deal of time modeling and practicing new word study routines before the children are expected to work with their words independently. Students will only take a word study quiz every OTHER week as we will focus on new skills for two weeks at a time. Please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about our word study program!

In the area of mathematics, third graders will continue to focus on place value to the hundred thousands place, including naming the four forms of a six-digit number (standard, expanded, picture, and word forms). We're also comparing, ordering, and rounding four-digit numerals. Our number sense certainly expands a great deal in math this year! Our next unit of study in math will be addition and subtraction with and without regrouping of numbers up to four digits. Whew! We love working through so many fun centers during math, including many games and especially Dreambox on the computer! Remember that you can access Dreambox from home as well!

In social studies, we've moved from citizenship to the geography of North American to government. Children are branching out from where they live and will eventually begin to study ancient civilizations. During our government unit, the children are focusing on the purpose of laws and our government. As a very special treat, Terry McCauliffe, the governor of Virginia, will be coming to read to all third graders at PGES! How cool is that?! Third grade rocks!

The fourth grade team is off to a great start! We spent the month of September establishing good friendships as well as learning the classroom expectations for fourth grade.

In Reading, we have been modeling and practicing reading strategies with the students. They have learned how to visualize, question, and make connections while reading. Our goal is for the students to be strong, independent readers.

In Math, we are focusing on basic multiplication and division. If your child does not have their math facts memorized, we encourage you to incorporate this into your weekly homework time. You can practice facts anywhere! Try reciting them in the car on the way to the store or while setting the table for dinner. Also, there are many fun and creative websites that allow the students to practice their facts. Some of our other topics for October will be patterns and graphing.

We will be wrapping up our study of the five regions of Virginia in Social Studies. Once completed, we will begin discussing the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 and the interactions between the settlers and the American Indians. This would be a great time for families to revisit Jamestown as a fun weekend outing.

5th Grade

This will be a banner year for our 5th grade class, and we are off to a great start.

The science unit that your child is investigating, will conclude mid-October. At that time, all classes will rotate to a new instructor for a new unit. Mrs. Bowman's homeroom class will move to "Geology" with Mrs. Gordon. Mrs. Gordon's class will move to "Light & Sound" with Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson's class will move to "Living Systems" with Mrs. Carrique. Mrs. Carrique's class will move to "Matter" with Mrs. Bowman. Please remember to have your child review their science folder each evening.

A brief snapshot of the rest of our content area looks like this: Social Studies will continue to focus on map skills with an emphasis on "Longitude" and "Latitude". Math 5 will feature computation of whole numbers, and Reading and Language Arts classes are geared toward writing in complete sentences and making strong connections to literature.

What is happening this month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Fundraisor Forms Due | 11 | 12 Picture Day | 13 Pink Spirit Day | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 4th grade chorus & Movie Night | 18 | 19 | 20 Pink Spirit Day Snow White Performance by Theatre IV | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Bully free Spirt week | 24 Giambanco's Spirit Day | 25 Unity Day (wear orange to unite against bullying) | 26 | 27 Pink Spirit Day | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | <h2>October 2017</h2> | | | |

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