



December 2018  
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Issue 4

**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

Happy Holidays PGES families and staff,

Can you believe that we are only weeks away from Winter Break?  
Time sure does fly!

I hope you have bought your tickets for the Holiday Open House scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th. It looks to be a big success this year with kids games, baskets for auction, performances, vendors, spaghetti and more. Thank you for your support of this event.

Don't forget to catch a performance from our chorus at Sweet Frog Spirit Night on Thursday, December 7th. Sweet Frog Mechanicsville will donate a percent of collected receipts to the PTA from 5pm-8pm and chorus students will sing carols at 6pm and at 7pm.

Keep an eye on Tuesday Folders for more information and a ticket order form for our upcoming Role Model Rumba in January!

Please consider joining the PTA if you haven't done so yet. We are only a few memberships away from achieving our goal of 100%.

Thank you all for your support through the first half of this school year. On behalf of the PTA board we wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Sam Hudgins  
PTA PGES President  
president@pgespta.org

## Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Happy Holidays! The Pole Green staff would like to say thank you to our parents and community for your support to benefit the students and school so far this school year. We appreciate the PTA sponsored activities, the community involvement and encourage parents to continue to get involved in the school.

The month of December is very busy at Pole Green Elementary School. Our PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12. Our annual Bedford Falls Book Fair will be held the week of December 11-15. Our school winter parties are on December 19, for all grades K- 5, 1:00-2:15pm. If you are interested in participating or assisting in student activities for your child's class, please contact the classroom teacher. We look forward to seeing you at Pole Green.

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For absences please call  
the ATTENDANCE LINE  
365-4714

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

We have enjoyed our first quarter of the school year and are well into the second nine weeks. Our students are thriving each day and we appreciate parental support to assist students at school and at home. Student attendance is crucial to academic progress so as our school year progresses, some students will receive attendance and/or tardy letters home to the parent. Hanover County attendance policy specifies that a student cannot be absent over 20 days in elementary school without a special waiver and progress to the next grade. This includes family trips and vacations. While we appreciate you notifying us of your child's absence, a family trip is not considered excused days from school. As a result, attendance letters will be sent home, per county policy, after a number of absences to alert parents to the policy. The letters are required, per county policy, to go out at 10 days of absence and more, regardless of absence. If the attendance concerns appear to be chronic, you will be contacted for an attendance conference. If your child violates the attendance policy, you will be required to write an attendance waiver or your child may be retained for violating the county attendance policy. In addition, our instructional day begins at 8:00 and excessive tardies may result in a loss of instruction for your child. Please be diligent to have your students to school prior to the tardy bell to maximize their educational time and minimize the disruption to the other students when students arrive late. We appreciate your assistance in this area.

The weather is another factor to consider this time of year when we think of student attendance. Due to the unpredictability of the weather, please be aware of possible altered school days either by a decision to close schools or to release students early from school. School closing information is shared with local media by the Superintendent of Schools by 6:00a.m. If schools were to close early, your child's teacher will follow the directions you specified at the beginning of the school year. You may update or change your child's dismissal plan for emergency early closing days by contacting the classroom teacher.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I wish warm, safe and peaceful wishes to each of your families during this busy time of year. Family and friends are the best gifts we can enjoy, and may your hearts be overfilled! I want you each to know how your children enrich my days, and are a part of my own gifts! I am thankful to know and love each Great Gator! Thank you, as always, for sharing them with me! I look forward to our New Year 2018! -Rhonda Voorhees, Principal



## WATCH D.O.G.S

We are still looking for some great Dads and other male role models to volunteer for our WATCH D.O.G.S program.

The program is up and running and we hope to have t-shirts for all our awesome Watch DOG volunteers in the New Year! In order to get shirts in a timely fashion and in the correct sizes please sign up by December 31st. Please note you do not have to volunteer by this date for a shirt, you just need to have signed up for the 2017/2018 school year through our SignUp Genius link:

## Role Model Rumba

We are excited to announce the theme for our parent-student dance, to be held Tuesday January 16th, will be Winter Wonderland! Ticket order forms and more information will be sent home in the December 5th Tuesday Folder.

We will be asking for help with snack and decoration donations so please be ready for a Sign Up Genius to come out later in the month.

Again thank you for all your support.

If you have an questions or would like to assist with anything please contact our Dance Chair, Kim Hodges at [kschodges76@gmail.com](mailto:kschodges76@gmail.com)

# Counselor's Corner

Happy December! We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and got to spend time with those who you are most thankful for! Thanks to Gethsemane Church of Christ, we were able to donate many Thanksgiving meals to our families in need. Thanks to another generous church, Atlee Community Church, we will be able to provide those same families with gifts for the upcoming Holiday. We are also working with community business partners who will be able to give some "wish list" items to our families as well. We are beyond blessed to live and work in such a generous and caring community!

Many Village Projects are working on things for their projects for the upcoming Holidays too! Ms. Miller's and Miss Williams' 2nd and 4th grade classes are working with the Salvation Army this year. They have provided a Salvation Army sock for each classroom at PGES in order to fill it with lots of items for those in need. If you did not see the letter that went home about their project, contact your child's teacher to find out what you can do to donate.

Since the beginning of the school year, your students have been receiving classroom guidance lessons once every two to three weeks. Kindergarten has learned about following rules, velvet vs. sandpaper words, whole body listening, and self-esteem. 1st has learned about optimism, being a good friend, tattling, and ninja focus. 2nd has learned about empathy, bullying, kindness, and being thankful. 3rd has learned about kindness, listening, bullying, respecting differences/empathy. 4th has learned about study skills, brain parts/mindfulness, respecting differences, and rumors/bullying. Lastly, 5th has learned about leadership, respect, bullying, and organization. Students learn about life skills and important characteristics to develop in order to become a lifelong learner and good citizen in society. Classroom Guidance Memos will be sent home in January explaining upcoming lessons and topics for Spring.

Lastly, attention 5th grade parents! You will receive information about Middle School Registration meetings very soon! A letter will be sent home with more information including dates of meetings and how to sign up for meetings (meetings begin in January). I will also have more information included in the January Newsletter. It's hard to believe that you will soon be registering your student for 6th grade courses! Be on the lookout for more information soon.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Sincerely,  
Sydney Ellis  
PGES School Counselor

# Grade Level News

## 1st Grade

## 3rd Grade

WINTER is quickly approaching 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 fourth month of school, we see our students reading...Reading...and READING!!!

Our students are:

W Wondering why things happen  
I Interested in learning a lot  
N Noticing their successes  
T Trying to solve challenging math problems  
E Excited to dive into good books  
R Reaching out to help others in need

## 2nd Grade

December is such a magical time of year, especially through the eyes of children. We are so happy to get to share in that excitement with your family! December brings about fun things at school such as the PTA Spaghetti Dinner with class-themed baskets, fun crafts and gifts to make, and Winter Parties! Thank you for all that you do for us to make this year a great time for our students!

We will help countdown the days to Christmas with some fun holiday-related activities, but we have other unit activities planned, too. In Math, we will study Geometry of plane and solid shapes. This will include an understanding of symmetry, as well. After finishing a long Social Studies unit on American Indians, we will devote a lot of our unit time to Science. We will explore units on Matter and the Water Cycle this month. Our Famous American Spotlight will be on Benjamin Franklin. Of course, we will use the holiday excitement to help us in Language Arts, as we read books and create writing topics around the time of year.

All of us on the second-grade team wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2018!

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!

## PTA Membership

We are still working on reaching our goal of having 100% membership! This is a big goal but we are hoping with your help we can reach it!

One of the areas we'd like to improve is our male membership. If you are a father, stepfather, or grandfather, we would love to have you join us!



## 4th Grade

The month of December is a busy and exciting month for the 4th graders. In Social Studies, they will finish learning about life in Jamestown and start our unit on Colonial Virginia. This would be a great time to take a weekend trip to Yorktown or Mt. Vernon. In Math, the students will be finishing up their unit on division with larger numbers and begin looking at Geometry. Please continue to encourage your child to practice their multiplication facts daily. There are some wonderful online games for this skill. In Science we will be continuing our unit on Plants. The students will need to know the parts of a flower and the process of photosynthesis.

The holidays bring many entertaining events to our school and our 4th graders. The students will hear the chorus perform and experience an assembly provided by OKMS. We encourage everyone to come out for our Holiday Open House and Spaghetti Dinner on December 12th and have a chance to bid on the amazing baskets. To end the season, the classes will be holding their winter parties on Friday, December 19th from 1:00-2:00. We hope to see many of our parents join us for this wonderful event.

December will be exciting as we head to the Hanover High School for a concert one morning, Hanover Trade Center for a tour one afternoon, as well as a trip to the MSIC. Our DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education with Officer Bohannon) lessons continue, and we'll celebrate our winter holiday with a winter party on the afternoon of Dec. 19.

In other news, our third 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 fraction & decimal equivalencies.



# What is happening this month



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1 Make up Picture Day	2
3	4	5	6	7 Sweet Frog Spirit Night 5-8	8	9
10	11 Book Fair	12 Holiday Open House 5-8 Book Fair	13 Book Fair	14 Book Fair	15 Book Fair	16
17	18	19 Class parties	20 Winter Break Begins (ends 1/3)	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Last Day to get a t-shirt when you sign up for WATCH DOGS	<b>January 31st: Deadline for submission of Gifted Referells K-5</b>					

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
 Maurice Aufderheide — Editor  
[mauriceaufderheide@icloud.com](mailto:mauriceaufderheide@icloud.com)