

Pine Grove Elementary School Newsletter

Diane Richmond, Principal, drichmond@bcps.org
Melissa Markle, Assistant Principal, mmarkle@bcps.org
Follow us on Twitter  @PineGrove_BCPS
2701 Summit Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234
(410) 887-5267

December 2018

Dates to Remember

Friday, December 7

Grade 3 Museum of Industry Field Trip, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11

Chick-fil-A PGE Family Night, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PTA General Meeting & Winter Concert Featuring the Recorder Club & Fifth Grade Chorus, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 13

Mrs. Gribben's and Ms. Madden's Classes Walter's Art Museum Trip with Mrs. Lurz, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

Kindergarten Family Night, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20 – Interim Reports Sent Home

Friday, December 21 – Winter Holiday Begins at End of School Day

Monday, December 24 – Tuesday, January 1

Winter Holiday, Schools and Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 2 – Schools Reopen



Mitten, Gloves, and Scarves Collection

PGE is collecting new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for children. Donations may be placed on the holiday tree in the lobby. The collection will continue through December 21. Help fill our tree with warmth!

Winter Concert

Join us Tuesday, December 11 for the winter concert featuring the fourth and fifth grade recorder club and the fifth grade chorus. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with opening remarks from our PTA president, Mrs. Gibbons, and a very brief general PTA meeting. The concert will immediately follow. Chick-fil-A Night is also December 11 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Stop by for some good food and company to support the PTA!

Maryland School Report Card

Pine Grove Elementary received a 5 Star Rating!

The state's new accountability system, designed in response to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), uses many factors – such as students' academic achievement, progress, and graduation rates – to assess school performance. Each school is awarded points in several categories. Those awarded points are measured against possible points, and the resulting percentage is used to compare the school against other Maryland schools and to determine star ratings, from 5, highest performing, to 1, lowest performing. Detailed report cards for all BCPS schools and for the school system are available on the [state's Report Card website](#).

Child Care Selection

Currently, Open Door is the child care provider at Pine Grove Elementary. Every five years, all BCPS schools contracting with before and after school child care providers must follow the approved BCPS process to select a child care vendor from a pre-qualified list (Open Door is one of the vendors on the pre-qualified list). Once child care providers submit proposals, a school level selection committee must review the proposals using selection criteria provided by the BCPS Office of Purchasing. The school level selection committee is to have five members including two school administrators and three parents. The committee will meet in January to review proposals. The school level selection will be completed by the end of March to allow time for registration for the following fall. We are seeking three parents who utilize or may utilize before and after school care at Pine Grove Elementary to serve on the committee. Please email Mrs. Richmond by December 14 at drichmond@bcps.org if you would like to serve on the committee. If more than three parents are interested, committee members will be selected by random drawing and notified by December 21.

Grade Level Family Nights

We are happy to introduce grade level family nights at Pine Grove Elementary. Family nights are planned as fun social events for students and their families to interact with other families in the same grade level. Our hope is that families will enjoy getting to know each other during these casual evenings. Our first family night is for kindergarten families on December 18 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The kindergarten team has planned a *Teddy Bear Picnic* night – how cute! Look for information about other grade level family nights coming soon. We hope you will join us for your student's special night!

Nurse's Notes

December is upon us and with it comes colder weather. This is a reminder that kids should have warm coats, hats, and gloves everyday as outdoor recess will continue all winter long and it may be chilly some days. It is also important that all students have a change of clothes in their lockers for days students need to change due to getting wet outside, spills in the cafeteria, or bathroom accidents. The nurse does not have change of clothes for students.

Baltimore County Health Department will be here next week for hearing and vision screening of all Pre-K, 1st and 4th grade students, as well as students new to Baltimore County Public Schools. Letters will go home after the rescreen process in January. Please read the letter carefully and follow up with your health care provider as necessary.

Cold and flu season is in full swing. Prevention is always the best way to stay healthy. Discuss with your student the importance of handwashing to prevent the spread of germs, get enough rest, eat healthy foods, and get a flu shot. If

your child has a temperature above 100°F, or has been vomiting, BCPS policy is to stay home for 24 hours after last symptoms to prevent spreading illness to others.

Counselor's Corner

As part of our School Counseling Program, each class will be participating in a counseling core curriculum lesson during the month of December on personal safety and decision-making. The lessons are based on Baltimore County Public Schools' Personal Safety Program K-5: Making Healthy Decisions curriculum. This program includes age appropriate information on body safety and neglect and abuse prevention strategies and highlights the importance of telling a trusted adult about uncomfortable situations. Our goal is to help children be better able to handle the issues of personal safety should they arise.

Keeping your child safe is a priority to all of us at Pine Grove Elementary. It is our hope that these lessons will help to reinforce the information and strategies that you have already given your children, and that your family can discuss together the important information presented in these lessons. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the program. I can be reached via phone at 410-887-5267 or via email at kkubala@bcps.org.

The Stacey Crawl PGE Green School Club

The holiday season is among us, which often means craft projects, gift giving, and even some new presents. Our Green School Club has many recycling programs to help you declutter as you prepare for the holidays and clean-up afterwards. We are collecting your old items for various purposes:

- ♣ **Makerspace Items:** We bet you have many of these left-overs around your home. Clear out and send them our way for future maker lessons!
 - Paper plates, cups, and bowls: Think about left-over supplies from a recent party! Unused items only, please.
 - Pipe cleaners and craft sticks: Did you just complete a craft project and now have a few extras?
 - Tape: We'll take any kind ~ scotch, masking, duct, washi, electrical, etc.
 - Yarn/string: Save and send in from any recent projects and even presents.
 - Empty toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, and tissue boxes: We all have these. Bag them up and send them our way!
 - Bubble wrap/packing peanuts
 - Empty egg cartons
- ♣ **Old Spirit Wear:** Donate your old PGE, Orioles, and Ravens spirit wear to the PTA for a student in need.
- ♣ **Tennis Shoes and Other Shoes:** Send in your old shoes! Keep shoes out of the landfills while also helping to put shoes on the feet of less fortunate people across the world. Money earned from this fundraiser supports The Stacey Crawl PGE Green School Club.
- ♣ **Used Ink Cartridges:** Rather than tossing your printer cartridges, send them into school to be recycled! Money earned from this fundraiser supports The Stacey Crawl PGE Green School Club.



Drop off items in our lobby to the appropriate bin. If you have any questions, please email [Mrs. Spencer](mailto:Mrs.Spencer).