December 2019

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, December 10
General PTA Meeting and Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.
Concert performers include the Recorder Club, Fifth Grade Chorus, Band, and Orchestra

Thursday, December 19 – Interim Reports Sent Home

Friday, December 20 – Winter Holiday Begins at End of School Day

Monday, December 23 – Wednesday, January 1
Winter Holiday, Schools and Offices Closed

Thursday, 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 20. Help fill our tree with warmth!

Winter Concert
You are cordially invited to attend Pine Grove Elementary’s Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the PGE Cafeteria. 5th Grade Chorus, Band, Orchestra, and the 4th and 5th Grade Recorder Club will be performing. Students should wear white shirts and black pants or skirts, dresses, or semi-formal clothing. Performers need to arrive at 6 p.m. The evening will begin with a brief general PTA meeting immediately followed by the concert. All families are invited to join us for this festive evening!

Maryland School Report Card
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. Pine Grove Elementary received 4 stars
for 2018-2019. Detailed report cards for all BCPS schools and for the school system are available on the state’s
Report Card website. Join us January 8 at 6:00 p.m., prior to the PTA meeting at 6:30 p.m., if you would like to learn
more about the Maryland School Report Card.

Nurse’s Notes
As we move into the winter season, the days will be cold and possibly snowy, please remind your children to wear
coats, hats, and mittens. Students will continue to go outside for recess, weather permitting, and they need to be
dressed to stay warm and dry. It’s always a good idea to have your child keep a full change of clothes for the days
they end up wet or muddy. These clothes can be kept in their lockers for such an occasion.

Remember cold and flu season is upon us. We have already experienced a stomach bug as well as upper respiratory
infections this school year. If your child has a fever please keep him/her home for 24 hours after last fever, without
medicine. This will help prevent the spread of germs and is BCPS policy. If your child has asthma, please make sure
they have a doctor’s order, inhaler and spacer at school. Prevention is key during cold and flu season, continue to
encourage good hand washing techniques with your children, get enough rest, eat healthy foods, and get a flu shot.
Have a healthy and restful Holiday Break!

Mrs. Franker, RN

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. It 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.

Tina Kubala, School Counselor, NCC

PGE’s Young Authors Contest Winners
Each year Baltimore County Public Schools participates in the State of MD Literacy Association Young Authors’
Contest. Our Pine Grove writers are always eager to submit their original work. This year we had thirty-six students
in grades 1 – 5 participate in the contest. PGE is very fortunate to have a winner for each category in the contest. Our
selected PGE winners will now represent Pine Grove at the Baltimore County level. Good luck Pine Grove writers!

Congratulations to the PGE Young Author Winners!

1st grade poem – Hannah S.
1st grade short story – Owen N.
2nd grade poem – Rachael C.
2nd grade short story – Eshal M.
3rd grade poem – Riley D.
3rd grade short story – Matthew S.
4th grade poem – Irene C.
4th grade short story – Olivia B.
5th grade poem – Newell G.
5th grade short story – Victor A.