October 2019

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, October 9 – Professional Development Day – Yom Kippur – Schools Closed for Students

Thursday, October 10 – Grade 4 Family Night, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 14 – Grade 4 Camp Puh’tok Trip, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Grade 5 Family Night, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 17 – Grade 2 Family Night, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 18 – MSEA Convention and Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students

Thursday, October 24 – Grade 3 Family Night, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 25 – Grade 5 Ballroom Dancing Showcase, 2:50 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 31 – Book Character Day and Parade, 2:45 p.m. – Front Bus Loop

Grade Level Family Nights

We are happy to continue 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. We hope you will join us for your student’s special night! (Kindergarten Family Night, November 4; Grade 1 Family Night, November 7)
Counselor’s Corner

October is Bullying Prevention Month. In addition to some school-wide activities, I will also be conducting classroom lessons in each grade to enable students to recognize bullying behaviors, teach students ways to promote positive peer relations, and teach students how to put an end to bullying, including asking for help.

Each day at Pine Grove Elementary, our morning announcement crew will address Bullying Prevention. Teachers will engage students in thoughtful conversations about values and bullying prevention during their daily community circles. Students are encouraged to show unity by wearing the suggested color of the day.

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<td>Value</td>
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<td>Unity</td>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>Positivity</td>
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For Fifth Grade Only: Magnet Programs

All fifth graders received a Magnet Program Brochure in September. The purpose of Magnet programs is to enhance students’ educational experiences and academic performance by providing unique learning environments, innovative instructional programs, and specialized programs of study and/or experiences that extend and enrich the existing BCPS curricula, promote student diversity, and align with evolving community and industry/business needs.

Applications for the 2020-2021 school year will be available at https://dci.bcps.org/department/innovative_learning/educational_options/magnet_programs

Applications must be submitted directly to the Magnet Office online by Friday, November 15, 2019 at 1 p.m. or postmarked by November 15, 2019.

Tina Kubala, School Counselor, NCC

Book Character Day and Parade

Students and faculty members are invited to dress in costume on October 31. We ask students to consider a book character theme to celebrate literacy and creativity! Costumes may represent characters from classics, fairy tales, modern tales, or comic books. Students should think about how any costume can connect to a book character. Costumes may not include weapons, face paint, or masks. Mrs. Richmond and Mrs. Markle will share a brief storytelling skit with students. Classes will have small celebrations in the afternoon as scheduled by teachers. Students will participate in a parade around the bus loop at 2:45 p.m. Families are invited to watch the parade but are asked not to enter the building. Students should be allowed to complete the entire school day and go home by their normal dismissal procedures. We are looking forward to another great Book Character Day at PGE!
Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, from September 15 to October 15, our nation pays tribute to Hispanic Americans who have had a positive influence and enriched our nation and society. Our nation celebrates contributions from the Hispanic community during this month and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans.” (National Diversity Council, 2017)

We would also like to invite our Hispanic family members to read their favorite book to a class during the week of October 7 through 18. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mrs. Ebersole at lebersole@bcps.org.

The Stacey Crowl PGE Green School Club

The Stacey Crowl PGE Green School Club is seeking new members for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Students in grades 2 – 5 interested in applying for the Club may complete an online application via https://tinyurl.com/PGEGreen19-20. Or, students may obtain a paper application on the table, outside of the front office. Applications are due to Mrs. Spencer by Wednesday, October 16.

Mrs. Berkey and Mrs. Spencer are seeking club members who are interested in environmental literacy, sustainability, and empowering change. They will accept up to 18 students. Applicants are encouraged to take time answering question #3 on the application.

American Education Week

The students, teachers, and staff of Pine Grove Elementary School invite you to visit during American Education Week. The times below are designated for each grade with lessons that will highlight your child’s instructional program. If these times are inconvenient, you may join us at any time during the week. Due to limited space in the cafeteria, we ask that parents/guardians do not join their students for lunch. Please note, we are not scheduling a separate Grandparents Day this year. Grandparents may join families for Grade Level Family Nights.

Come see why PGE is a great place to learn!

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<th>Monday, November 18</th>
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<td>9:30 – 1:00</td>
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<td>10:30 – 12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Grades 1 and 5</td>
<td>Ms. O’Keefe Grade 3</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
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<td>Morning PreK, Grade 2</td>
<td>Afternoon PreK</td>
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<td>1:30 – 3:00</td>
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Elementary Conference Day
Schools Closed for Elementary Students
Nurse’s Notes

Some reminders from the health suite:

1. Please send in a change of clothes, appropriate for the weather for your student to keep in their locker. The rain has caused some muddy conditions and we have had quite a few students get wet and muddy. The nurse does not have extra clothes to hand out.

2. Please make sure that you have an up to date phone number with the office.

3. Allergy and asthma season is predicted to hit us hard this year. Monitor your student closely and follow your health care provider’s advice. Medical care plans, rescue inhalers, and epi-pens are a necessity for those that need them. If your child is prescribed one, please send in a BCPS medication form signed by your student’s healthcare professional and bring to the nurse with the medication in a pharmacy labeled container.

4. Say Boo to the Flu! The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get a flu shot in October or November.

Happy Autumn!

Kelly Franker, RN, PGE school Nurse

Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to school each day. Water coolers are available throughout the school, so students may refill their bottles. Water has many health benefits and staying hydrated is good for the brain and learning. Cone cups are available at the water coolers, but students lose instructional time when they leave the classroom for drinks. Our school is a Green School and using refillable water bottles produces less waste than using paper cups.

Birthday Celebrations

We are happy to honor students on their birthdays! A themed birthday bulletin board in the front hallway displays the names of students celebrating birthdays each month. Each student is wished a happy birthday on the morning announcements and invited to the office to receive a birthday pencil. If families would like to send in treats to help a child celebrate his/her birthday, the treats must be non-food items such as pencils, stickers, or erasers. Students may not share food with others and may not bring cupcakes or other food items to share with classmates. This is important due to food allergies and other dietary restrictions. Please be mindful of the learning environment and do not send balloons to school because they tend to be very distracting to other students. Thank you for helping us keep our school safe for all!

Early Dismissals

PGE school hours are 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Any parent/guardian who needs to sign-out a student early should send a note to school in the morning. Parents should avoid coming into the school between 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. to request early dismissals. Students are in a transition mode and busy preparing for a safe dismissal between 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Last minute changes to dismissal plans do not support a safe and orderly dismissal. Unless a note was received in the morning or there is an emergency, parents/guardians will be asked to wait for their student(s) until the regular dismissal time of 3:45 p.m.
AVID

PGE is honored to be selected as an AVID school for the 2019 – 2020 school year. According to Dr. Heather Wooldridge, BCPS coordinator of College and Career Readiness, the school system is expanding AVID at the elementary level to provide more students with a stronger foundation for later grades. “Through AVID,” Dr. Wooldridge said, “BCPS elementary students will learn age-appropriate organization, study, and communication skills. They will learn to take structured notes and to ask and answer analytical questions. Elementary schools participating in AVID also will immerse students in opportunities to explore college and career plans.”

In Baltimore County schools, at the secondary level, data indicates that AVID improves attendance, increases student participation in highly rigorous courses (such as gifted and talented, honors, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced Placement), increases PSAT participation, and increases High School Assessment pass rates – in algebra, biology, government, and English.

As an AVID elementary school, our teachers are learning and implementing high impact strategies for engaging instruction, promoting the growth mindset to prepare students for College and Careers, and supporting AVID’s mission:

*Close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.*

**Parent Workshops by the Office of Special Education**

**Is your child a picky eater? Learn what is typical and when you should seek help.**

Presented by Sean Logie, Ph.D., and Emily Hecht, MS, OTR/L, from Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. Attendees will learn about typical development of feeding skills in infants and children, get tips and strategies to improve each child’s nutrition, and get answers to pressing questions regarding picky eaters. This workshop will be offered on Thursday, October 24, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at White Oak School Main Training Lab. Interested participants must register by calling the Special Education Resource Center at 410-887-5443 or sending an e-mail to Special Education Resource Center.

**Overcoming Depression: Functional Coping Skills for Teens and Tweens**

Presented by Dr. Tana Hope from The Child and Family Therapy Clinic of the Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Presenters will share causes of depression, how to identify signs of depression versus naturally occurring teen moodiness, prevention strategies, and tips on how to assist children through depression.

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 16, 2019</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Pikesville Library Meeting Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 23, 2019</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>White Marsh Library Meeting Room</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 6, 2019</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Arbutus Library Meeting Room</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 20, 2019</td>
<td>5:30 – 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>North Point Library Meeting Room</td>
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Interested participants must register by calling the Special Education Resource Center at 410-887-5443 or sending an e-mail to Special Education Resource Center.
Roots and Wings: Preparing Your Child for Life After High School
Presented by Robyn McCray, LCSW-C, Associate Director Disability Services at Towson University. The presenter will share tips and insights for parents who are considering college for their child with a disability. Academic, social/emotional and self-advocacy strategies that parents may use for supporting the successful transition of students with disabilities from high school to college, will be discussed. This workshop will be offered on Thursday, October 24, 2019, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the BCPS Greenwood Campus, Building E, Room 114. Interested participants must register by calling the Special Education Resource Center 410-887-5443 or sending an e-mail to Special Education Resource Center.

PGE’s 50th Anniversary Gratitude!
Our 50th Anniversary Celebration was a huge success! Thank you to our PTA volunteers who planned and created a great week to remember! Students enjoyed the spirit week, aerial photograph, and Open House. Thank you for your dedication and service to our PGE family and community!

Support the PTA
The PTA 2019 Panda Pride “Fun”d Drive is happening now: October 1 – 27. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year and allows the PTA to provide enrichment activities for our students. Please use the “Fun”d Drive 2019 Donation Form sent home by the PTA to collect donations. In addition, students can donate each week to participate in fun spirit events as follows:

Panda Pride “FUN”d Drive
October 7 – 11, “Good as Gold” Spare Change Coin Challenge
Students bring in spare coins for your homeroom bucket!

October 14 – 18, Green is Groovy
Everyone will write with a groovy green pen Friday provided by the PTA!

October 21 – 25, Rockin the Groovy
Students bring in $1 to cast a vote for which teacher will wear a special groovy outfit. ($1 per vote. Vote as many times as you like!)