



PANDA PRESS

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School Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Morning Drop-off Times: 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Afternoon Pick-up Time: 4:00 p.m.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Greetings Pine Grove Pandas,

I would like to begin with a special shout out to our amazing PTA for organizing and hosting the primary dance in January. Our littlest Pandas had a *glow up* good time. THANK YOU!

This month we are celebrating Black History in many ways throughout the building. Students will engage in read alouds and research famous and influential African Americans to include musicians. Some classes will participate in door decorating to display facts about African American contributions.

Third quarter is underway, and I want to thank you for your continued support of our scholars, teachers, and school community as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day. We value the important contributions families make towards their scholar's success in school. There's no question the values of education begin at home and influence students greatly.

Please:

- Remind your scholar(s) that school is important.
- Pack backpack, make lunch, lay out clothes for the next day, and establish a regular bedtime.
- Make sure students arrive to school daily and are in class no later than 9:15 a.m.
- Replenish school supplies periodically.
- Send in absence notes to the homeroom teacher.

- Remind children to check the lost and found for lost items.

Drum roll for our January attendance winners. The following classes have earned the opportunity to display the *Excellent Attendance Banner* in their classrooms for the month of February. Keep in mind that classes must meet the attendance goal with at least 94%.

- KG- Ms. Webb's class at 95.31%
- 2nd grade- Ms. Andrzejewski's class at 95.53%

Congratulations!

Ms. Lewis, Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

If you have changed your phone number, email, address, and other contact information please notify the main office so this can be updated in Focus. We need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency.

DATES TO REMEMBER – A LOOK AHEAD...

Monday 2/5 – 2nd Quarter Report Card Distribution (Printed Report Cards Upon Request)

Thursday 2/8 – 3rd Grade Field Trip

Friday 2/9 – School Closed for Systemwide Professional Development Day

Tuesday 2/13 – Literacy Night

Monday 2/19 – School Closed for President's Day

Tuesday 2/20 – PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Virtual Link: <https://meet.google.com/miu-gfsu-bpo>)

CARPOOL

Parents, please take note of the **Right Turn Only** sign at the carpool exit. There are no left turns out of the carpool lane from 8:00-9:30 a.m. and 3:00-4:30 p.m. When cars attempt to make left turns during these times, it backs up the carpool line. We also ask that you do not cut in line in front of those who have been patiently waiting their turn. We appreciate your assistance with helping our carpool to run smoothly.



AVID NEWS

Pine Grove Elementary continues to be an AVID school. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Its purpose is to shift schools to a more equitable, student-centered approach and close the opportunity gap, so that all students are prepared for college, careers, and life. Our AVID schoolwide initiatives include color coding, desk organization, Costa's Level of Questioning, and focused notetaking.

SOCIAL - EMOTIONAL WELLNESS



Elementary Social and Emotional Learning Daily Activities February 2024



Mind Over Matters Suggested Activities <i>Mind Over Matters 2023-2024 Campaign</i>			
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Self-Management: Calming Use these easy deep breathing exercises to relax and calm your students and prepare them to learn. Deep Breathing	Mindfulness with Music & Movement Check out this link for how to turn a freeze dance party into a fun way to engage and teach your students about mindfulness. The link includes sample prompts and a debrief for the end.	Practice Mindfulness Utilize these Journal Prompts to either have your student write about their thoughts and feelings or use as discussion/circle prompts.	Positive Self-Talk: Love Yourself! Positive affirmations foster optimism and confidence as well as decreasing stress and strengthening resilience. Click here for "125 Positive Affirmation For Kids To Help Them Grow Up Happy and Confident" .

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊				
Welcoming Ritual: Draw yourself as a superhero! What are your superpowers?	Activity to Connect: "Greetings" on Brain Boogie Boosters from Conscious Discipline.	Community Circle: What makes you feel pressured? How do you deal with it?	Optimistic Closure: Appreciation or Aha: Have your students get in a circle at the end of a lesson and share an appreciation or aha with the group.	Welcoming Ritual: Challenge your students to complete acts of kindness. Have them name one thing they have done or are willing to do this month.
Community Circle: Talk about a time that you had fun at school.	Connecting Activity: Pencil Stretches (Students face one another. Each will put a pencil between their pointer finger and their partner's pointer finger. Stretch in different ways with one arm up and one arm down, bending and stretching. Have Fun!)	Community Circle: What have you never tried that might surprise others?	Connecting Activity: Mix and Mingle (Give each student a card with a vocabulary word or a question on it. Give other students cards with the answer on them. Students stand up and find the correct partner. Once they find their partner, they greet each other in some way.)	Activity to Commit: Individual Commitments (Have students write a commitment beginning with the words, "I'm going to ____." At the end of the day, invite students to evaluate their commitments.)

Office of School Climate and Culture: MTSS

February 2024



Elementary Social and Emotional Learning Daily Activities February 2024



Heart Breathing: <p>Breathe in for 3 counts as you trace up one side of the heart and breathe out as you trace down the other side.</p>	Movement/Breathe: <p>Let's go snow bowling! Breathe in and move your arm back & breathe out and pull your arm forward.</p>	Activity to Commit: Safekeeper Ritual (Include your Safekeeper ritual as part of your activity to commit. You commit to keeping the students safe, and the students are committing to help keep it safe.)	Movement/Breathe: <p>Move your body like you are a snowflake swirling in a snow globe. Relax your body as the snow settles.</p>	Well Wishes Breathing: <p>Make a heart with your hands. As you inhale, bring your hands close to your heart and as you exhale send out well wishes to others.</p>
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COUNSELORS' CORNER

As part of our School Counseling Program, your child's class will have the opportunity to engage in a counseling core curriculum lesson during the month of February. The theme for this month is Celebrating Differences. Students in primary grades will have lessons that focus on understanding what makes people the same and different, both in ways that can be seen and unseen, as well as learning to appreciate and accept the differences in others. Primary students will be prompted to reflect on what makes them different/unique. The intermediate grades will focus on how differences make communities stronger and will reflect on how they can personally draw on their differences to better their communities. Topics of equity and equality will also be explored. (Topics vary depending upon specific grade levels).

It is our hope that the core curriculum counseling lessons will help to promote the social emotional, academic, and career development of our students. We hope that you can help your child reflect on these lessons by discussing their content together. Please feel free to contact Tina Kubala or Carly Okeson with any questions about the program.

Additional resources to aid in the discussion of this counseling lesson at home include:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

<https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/how-to-be-a-parent/communication/talk-to-kids-media-violence/#gs.cpwwtv>

-Tina Kubala (Grades PK, 1,3,5) kkubala@bcps.org & Carly Okeson (Grades K,2,4) cokeson@bcps.org

NURSE FRANKER

Did you know that February is American Heart Month? Encouraging physical activity is key to maintaining a healthy heart, and there are numerous enjoyable activities students can engage in at home. From simple exercises like jumping jacks and dancing, to outdoor activities like bike riding or playing tag, these activities not only contribute to physical well-being but also make staying active a fun experience for our young learners. Additionally, fostering healthy eating habits plays a crucial role in heart health. Parents/guardians can involve children in preparing nutritious snacks, such as fruit salads or yogurt with berries, creating an opportunity for both bonding and instilling the importance of a balanced diet. By incorporating these habits into their daily routines, our students can develop lifelong practices that promote a strong and healthy heart.

Enjoy the Month!
Kelly Franker RN

READING SPECIALIST

“Reading is the breathing in, and writing is like breathing out.” -- Pam Allyn

Students’ writing development goes hand and hand with their reading development. There are two basic forms of writing in school – on-demand writing and the writing process. On-demand writing is when students are asked to write in response to reading. This writing is completed in the moment and usually in a given amount of time. Students are required to put thoughts together to develop an organized piece of writing responding to a question or prompt. Teachers spend time modeling this type of writing and exemplars are shared with students.

On-demand writing is very different than the writing process. The writing process allows students to work through the stages of writing -- brainstorming, graphic organizers, development of the writing piece, rough draft, revising and editing, and then completing a final draft. This is a longer process that can take up to a week or so for students to complete because the learning is chunked into parts.

Good writers need a broad set of skills to be successful. Writing knowledge includes the types of writing genres ... to persuade, to inform, or to entertain others. For example, understanding that narrative writing or descriptive writing is organized differently than informational or persuasive writing is important. Students must have the basic skills/writing mechanics when developing a writing piece. It is important to check spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure. Planning, revising, and editing are a huge part of making student’s writing clear and concise.

If you are interested in learning more about how to help your student(s) foster a love for writing start here ... <https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/writing/articles/mary-amatos-tips-parents-how-encourage-creative-writing>

ESOL

Hello ESOL families from Ms. Thesen!

As you may know, we are in the middle of our ESOL WIDA ACCESS testing period. This means that students have been taking English proficiency tests where they demonstrate their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The students have been very patient, but I know we are all looking forward to starting our regular classes again. We will not get the test results until May. After the testing period, grades 1-5 will start learning about wants vs. needs and inventions. In Kindergarten, we will begin a unit on food and farms as we continue developing our language skills. Keep up the great work, ESOL students!

GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

PRE-K

Prekindergarten students are enjoying our “How Structure Are Built” unit as we learn about planning, designing, and constructing different projects! Students are building many important pre-reading skills like rhyming, clapping out syllables in a word, and listening for beginning sounds in words! In Math, we continue to build number sense by counting and comparing groups

of objects. We are looking forward to celebrating Black History Month with read-alouds and activities.

KINDERGARTEN

Well, February is here, so hopefully Spring is right around the corner! We will still be braving the weather and going outside so send coats, hats, and mittens with the kids. It might be cold outside, but our Kindergarten classrooms are filled with warm celebrations of new learning. We are working hard to master additional sight words, new letter sounds, and reading and writing words and sentences using our phonics knowledge. In Math we are using addition and subtraction to solve story problems and representing quantities in a variety of ways. All of this learning makes us hungry so please don't forget a small healthy snack and drink to enjoy each afternoon. We are always in need of facial tissues, black dry erase markers, and glue sticks. We would gladly accept donations. Does your child need school supplies refreshed? This is a perfect time to replace crayons, pencils, black dry erase markers, watercolor paints, and headphones with microphones!

1st

February is a busy month! We have been working so hard and are ready to celebrate the 100th Day and Valentine's Day!

2/7 – 100th Day of School

2/14 – Valentine's Day

Look for more information from your child's teacher soon!

Phonics: We are working on long vowels and additional spellings.

Reading/Writing: We are reading fiction and non-fiction texts about USA symbols and holidays and will write a personal narrative.

Math: We are identifying and comparing shapes in geometry.

Science: We are learning about patterns of the sun, moon, and stars.

2nd

For the month of February, grade 2 is looking forward to discussing and learning about famous African Americans using digital resources and read alouds in honor of Black History Month. In Reading, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that will help them answer the essential question, "How does weather affects us?" A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will provide students with opportunities to identify text features, text organization, point of view, and elements of poetry to better understand unfamiliar texts. For Math this month, students will continue to develop their understanding of place value to 1,000, focus explicitly on money contexts which will provide opportunities for students to count by 5 and 10 and consider 25 cents or a quarter as a unit and continue to develop basic addition and subtraction facts. In Social Studies, students will gain an understanding of the diversity of geography in the continent North America and how it impacts how people live with a focus on the countries Canada, United States and Mexico.

3rd

The month of February will be very busy for third graders. They will be wrapping up unit 4 about Measurement and Fractions and moving into the Multiplication, Division, and Area unit. Third graders just wrapped up their reading module about "Teamwork" and will begin to explore and identify special animal behaviors in the next module! Third graders have put on their

Science hats and are learning all about forces and are very eager to start building their egg cars! On February 8th, the third graders get to embark on their field trip to the science center! Please keep your child home if they are ill, until they are fever free for a full 24 hours. Teachers are asking for any donations of tissues and/or disinfectant wipes! Thank you for everything!

4th

Fourth grade will celebrate Valentine's Day with a card exchange. Please be on the lookout for a class list if your child wishes to participate!

In ELA, we will focus on nonfiction texts about the earth's natural wonders and letter writing.

In Math, grade level students are getting ready to start geometry. Students in advance Math will multiply larger numbers using the standard algorithm and dividing decimals using ratio tables. Please continue to study multiplication facts each night!

In Science, we will study slow and fast changes to the earth's surface by reading and conducting investigations.

As always, we appreciate any class donations of pencils, disinfectant wipes, dry erase markers, and tissues. Thank you for considering!

5th

Happy February! This month we are beginning unit 6 in ELA which focuses on "Art for Everyone." We will continue working on our writing skills as well as understanding the author's craft and how it impacts the tone and mood of a story, author's purpose for writing a story, visualizing and figurative language point of view. In Math, we are finishing up unit 4, "Multiplying & Dividing Whole Numbers and Decimals" and then moving on to unit 5, "Multiplying and Dividing Fractions." Students in advanced math is continuing to master "Multiplying and Dividing Fractions and Decimals." Along with our students, we are excited to start a mini research project for Black History Month.

As always, donations of tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and pencils are always appreciated!

Ms. Koumides' KG ISDM Class

February is here! Our theme this month is "I Can Do It!" In ELA, we will dive into stories about doing our best, facing our fears, and celebrating being unique! We will practice parts of a story and vocabulary from the text. In Math centers, we will continue identifying less/more and same/different. We will also continue practicing our letters and working on beginning letter sounds in Phonics centers! We will also work on the Zones of Regulation, to identify our emotions! We will celebrate Black History Month by reading stories and creating projects to follow the stories themes!

Ms. Magruder's ISDM Intermediate Class

We will learn about Black History and all the contributions made. We will continue working on consonant blends in phonics.

SPECIAL AREA NEWS

ART

Hello from the art studio.

This February, many African-American artists will be represented in our lessons to celebrate Black History Month. Many of these artists are contemporary and still living today.

Primary will refresh their knowledge of symmetry and make some heart art, while concentrating on the art elements. Third grade will explore some contemporary art. Fourth grade will explore birds and fifth grade will explore a variety of artists that make a difference in society.

Please consider donating a box of tissues to the art room. Also, please remind your Panda Artists to dress in layers. It can be warm and messy in the art room, so dress appropriately.

LIBRARY

Welcome February! This month, Library classes will celebrate Black History Month with a daily read aloud. Along with this celebration, students will continue to learn about the following:

K Students: Students will identify the purpose and characteristics of nonfiction print and digital materials.

1st Graders: Students will focus on understanding the reading strategies of making text-to-text, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections.

2nd Graders: Students will investigate the question "How do landforms affect the structure of a bridge?" Students will research information about different types of bridges and landforms to solve a design challenge.

3rd Graders: Students will analyze poetry in order to identify common conventions (and how those conventions help readers better comprehend given poems).

4th Graders: Students will analyze elements of a great book by looking closely at characters and settings in award-winning books.

5th Graders: Students will use information gathered from reading historical novels and informational text in order to create a graphic novel about their historical character.

ISDM Students: Students will identify elements of a great book by looking closely at characters, setting, problem and solution of award-winning books.

MAKERSPACE

In Makerspace, we will celebrate Black History Month by completing projects based on books about African Americans. We will also build projects based on President's Day and the NFL Super Bowl.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

February will be the month of flexibility. Pine Grove is very fortunate to have the Star Lab coming. The Star Lab will be occupying the gym during most of February. What does this mean for PE? We will be doing classroom PE during this time incorporating a cup stacking unit which will focus on eye-hand coordination and speed.

VOCAL MUSIC

February is Black History Month! Students will be learning about influential African American musicians throughout history ranging from Sister Rosetta Tharpe in the 1940s all the way to the

history of Hip-Hop in the 1970s and beyond. Students will learn how influential African American musicians have been to nearly every aspect of modern music. We will be singing songs as well as rapping, and witnessing Mr. Pugh's own “breakdance” moves!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

As we move to the month of February, 4th grade students will continue learning about the brass family and have the opportunity to play the trumpet.

5th grade band and orchestra continue learning new skills and songs that they will play in the Spring Concert on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

SPANISH

4th Grade- We will continue our second unit talking about how to describe ourselves and our families. For our end of unit project, we will create infographics that help us describe our family members.

5th Grade- We will continue our food unit discussing our favorite snacks and different extensions for our vocabulary. We will be working on our unit 2 project in which students will create videos talking about what they would serve in their own food trucks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PGE LITERACY NIGHT

Pine Grove Elementary Presents



A Night Under the Stars

Join us for a night full of literacy and fun! This evening will provide you with great ideas, tools, and ways to promote reading at home for your student.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

WHERE: Pine Grove Elementary

TIME: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (Bookfair open until 7:30 pm)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- The PTA will be hosting the Scholastic Bookfair from 5:00pm – 7:30pm
 - Come purchase "your Valentine" a good book or two ♥
- The BCPS Star Lab is a portable planetarium system that families will be able to experience.
 - As you arrive to the PGE Literacy Event, wristbands will be provided for planetarium visits. Twenty-five people are allowed to visit the planetarium at once. No personal items are allowed in the planetarium. Planetarium entrance times will be 5:15 pm, 5:45 pm, 6:15 pm and 6:45 pm. Each visit will be 15 mins and wristbands will be available on a first come, first serve basis.
- PGE educators have Literacy activities planned for "at home" reading practice.
- If you are not able to fit dinner in, no worries, there will be a food truck, Don's Dogs, and cafeteria tables set up inside for dining.



Please help us plan for you! Scan the QR Code and sign up for this amazing literacy event!