



Panda Press

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Caliday Extended Care: (410) 329 – 8378

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

Happy October, Pine Grove Pandas!

The 2023-2024 school year is underway. Our community excitement was evident at *Sneak-A-Peek at Your Seat* and *Back to School Night*. Thanks to our students, staff, parents, and community members that contributed to a great opening.

During *Back to School Night*, I communicated our new School Progress Plan. The key actions are as follows:

MATHEMATICS

1. Teachers will implement system programs and resources with fidelity while being responsive to learner variability within the parameters of the programs and resources.
2. Through an inquiry model, teachers will adjust instruction to provide equitable access and opportunity for all students to achieve high academic outcomes.

LITERACY

1. Teachers will explicitly teach content aligned to the rigor of the standards including modeling through sharing their thought process aloud as they approach and complete tasks.

2. Through an inquiry model, educators will adjust instruction to provide equitable access and opportunity for all students to achieve high academic outcomes.

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE

1. Teachers will create and sustain a safe, welcoming and supportive classroom environment which values inclusivity and diversity.
2. Through an inquiry model, educators will adjust instruction to provide equitable access and opportunity for all students to achieve high academic outcomes.

Also, during *Back to School Night*, Ms. Edwards discussed our safety and emergency response procedures. Teachers reviewed and practiced these procedures with students during the first weeks of school. We have already had a few evacuation drills and will continue to do so each month, along with ALICE, lockdown, and emergency weather drills.

Last week, we celebrated our first Panda PRIDE behavior incentive with a hallway dance party. Students and staff had a blast! Each month, the goal is to reward students for good behavior with a special incentive.

Today, we announced our attendance winners for the month of September. The following classes won the opportunity to display the Excellent Attendance Banner in their classrooms for the month of October.

- KG- Ms. Burgess' class
- 1st grade- Ms. Rankin's class
- 2nd grade- Ms. Andrzejewski's class
- 3rd grade- Ms. Lauter's class
- 4th grade- Ms. Fenton's class
- 5th grade- Ms. Risinger's class

Please encourage good nightly routines so students are able to get to school each day and on time.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

If you have changed your phone number, email, 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...

Tuesday 10/3 – PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the Library

You can also join through Google Meet. [Joining info: https://meet.google.com/vjs-pzmb-hkn](https://meet.google.com/vjs-pzmb-hkn)

Thursday 10/5 – Wear College Gear

Tuesday 10/10 – Family Game Night – 2nd & P-ISDM @5:30 p.m. /4th Grade @6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 10/17 – Family Game Night – 1st & KG-ISDM @5:30 p.m. / 5th Grade @6:30 p.m.

Friday 10/20 – School Closed

Tuesday 10/24 – Family Game Night – PK & KG @5:30 p.m. /3rd Grade & I-ISDM @6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 10/31 – Book Character Day

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

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊				
Circle Prompt What kind of animal do you relate to the most?	Sit next to a person that is alone.	Circle Prompt What is your favorite part of the school day?	Circle Prompt Would you rather play at the beach or play in the snow?	Find a new friend, introduce yourself, and play with them at recess.
I am Proud Draw or write about something that made you feel proud. Place that proud moment in the Celebration Station.	Gratitude Ping Pong Pass a ball back and forth for 2-minutes sharing things for which you are grateful.	Be kind with your words. You never know what someone else is struggling with. What kind words can you offer today?	Wish Well Is there someone in your class or at home that needs positive thoughts? Take a deep breath in and wish that person well. It might even be you!	Circle Prompt What is something you want to be better at?
Shake It Out Stand like a statue and breathe in, hold, and breathe out. Breathe in again, hold, then as you breathe out, shake your arms high and low. Breathe in again, hold, and as you breathe out, shake your legs to the right and to the left.	Six-Sided Breathing 	Pumpkin Breathing 	Click the Frog for a Brain Balance Sequence 	Breathe Bubble Click on the bubble below to check out a breathing strategy from the BCPS Virtual Calming Room!

COUNSELORS' CORNER

October is Bullying Prevention Month. Ms. Okeson and Ms. Kubala will be conducting classroom lessons in each grade to enable students to recognize bullying behaviors, teach students ways to promote positive peer relations, as well as teaching students how to put an end to bullying, including asking for help.

For PK and Fifth Grade Only: Magnet Programs

Magnet applications are currently available online. 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.

2023-2024 Magnet information can be accessed with the following link:

https://dci.bcps.org/departments/educational_options/educational_opportunities/magnet_programs

The application deadline is 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2023.

NURSE'S NEWS

Hello Pine Grove Families,

As we begin the new school year, the health and well-being of our students remain our top priority. I want to remind everyone about the importance of keeping our school community healthy and safe. If your child is not feeling well, please remember to keep them home from school if they have a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, are experiencing vomiting, diarrhea, or have symptoms of pink eye. This helps prevent the spread of illness to other students and ensures that your child has the time they need to recover. If your child has been sick, please wait until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before sending them back to school. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated, and it goes a long way in maintaining a healthy learning environment for all. Additionally, we kindly request that every student has a change of clothes stored in their backpack or locker at school. Accidents can happen, and having spare clothing on hand can make a difference in keeping your child comfortable and ready to continue their day. Thank you for your attention to these important health reminders, and together, we can ensure a successful and healthy school year for all our students.

Warm Regards,

Kelly Franker RN, BSN

Pine Grove Elementary School Nurse

READING SPECIALIST

“Everything Reading”

Mrs. Cockey, Reading Specialist

This year we have an exciting new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum, *Into Reading*. One of the resources is the **Family Room** which will help you gain an understanding of ELA instruction your student is receiving.

Family Room is divided into three sections:

- **Getting Started** includes general tips on how to navigate Ed.
- **Program Support** includes resources and strategies for what your student will be learning in class and suggests how you can support your student at home.
- **Sharables** provides quick tips about the challenges that many parents experience, like getting their children to talk about their learning.



Scan this QR code to learn more about **Family Room**.

Families who have students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grade might be hearing about AMIRA. You may think that is a new student in the classroom but low and behold, it is the first intelligent computerized reading tutor.

- AMIRA listens to student read aloud and assesses their reading level mastery.
- AMIRA identifies each student's specific areas of need or additional support.
- AMIRA coaches students by launching reading interventions when they misread a word or phrase during practice.

AMIRA has a proven track record of accelerating growth. According to research by Carnegie Mellon University, students who read with AMIRA for at least 30 minutes weekly show two–three times fluency growth compared to the national norm. Your student will be working with AMIRA in class during the school day.

Scan this QR code to watch a one-minute overview of AMIRA in action!



ESOL

This fall, we are happy to welcome new multi-lingual learners to the Pine Grove ESOL program, which now includes students who speak Albanian, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Nepali, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Parents were sent permission slips for the ESOL classes-- thank you for signing them and returning them. In Kindergarten ESOL, we start the fall by building our English vocabulary, including names of colors, shapes, emotions, parts of the body, and school-related words. Our students in grades 1-5 have started a semester-long unit about places and people across the world. This month we will learn how to navigate a map and learn about different types of landforms. We use these topics to practice listening, speaking, writing and reading in English. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our ESOL classes. My email is athesen@bcps.org. I am excited for a great semester of learning and improving our English skills!

Ms. Thesen

GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

PRE-K

Our prekindergarten friends are off to a great start! As we learn class routines, we practice being Safekeepers at school, STAR listeners during instruction, and cooperative learners with peers. We have introduced our *Conscious Discipline* and *Welcome to School* units which include many great concepts like problem-solving with others and ways to self-regulate. Other important skills include learning about the parts of a book, using picture clues to make meaning from text, shapes, and counting strategies.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is off to a terrific start! We are learning our classroom routines and navigating successfully throughout the building. In Language Arts, we are mastering letter identification and are now linking letters to sounds. We are having fun rhyming words, counting syllables, and identifying sounds in different positions in words. We are also learning to write our name with proper letter formation. In Math, we are identifying numerals, counting, making combinations of five and ten, and learning how to complete Math Workplaces. Please help us be Prepared Pandas by returning our library books on the correct day and wearing sneakers for Phys. Ed. and recess.

1st

Phonics: We are working on consonants and short vowels.

Math: We are working on basic addition and subtraction.

Reading/Writing: We are reading fiction and non-fiction books about how families and communities are special.

Social Studies: We are learning about Geography.

10/17 – 1st Grade Game Night

10/25 – Zoo Field Trip (permission slips and info out soon!)

10/31 – Storybook Character Day (more info to come!)

2nd

Students in grade 2 have been working hard during the first month of school. During the month of October students will be answering the question "How does exploring help us to understand the world around us?" during Reading. In Math, the students will have a chance to demonstrate their knowledge of place value and measurement. In Social Studies, students will answer the question, "How does geography impact life in different parts of The United States?" We are excited to see all second graders and their families at Family Game Night on October 10th.

3rd

Third graders are working hard in their Math Unit 1 module. This module is about identifying and applying addition and subtraction strategies fluently. In Health, we just wrapped up our *Conscious Discipline* Unit in order to strengthen our classroom families. We will be moving into our *Financial Literacy* Unit very soon! In Phonics, we continue to focus on spelling and applying long vowels into our reading and writing. Third Graders just finished exploring Module 1 in Reading and we have read about many interesting characters! Next up, we explore how characters communicate in our Use Our Words Module. We are busy, busy, busy.

4th

4th grade is off to a great start this school year!

In ELA this past month, we worked on multiple comprehension skills with fiction text and focused on expanding our vocabulary, while our grammar lessons focused on sentence structure. In Health, we focused on self-awareness and social awareness, while studying how the brain responds to different emotional stimuli. In Math, all students worked on multiplication in a variety of ways. Please continue to work with your student on multiplication facts! Be sure to check Schoology regularly with your student to identify assignments that are missing or can be redone for a higher score. The first marking period ends on November 3rd!

Please also be on the lookout for the flyer about 4th Grade's Family Game Night on October 10th! We look forward to seeing you there!

If you are able and willing, the 4th grade needs tissues and dry erase markers. We appreciate your help!

5th

Looking ahead to October, 5th grade is continuing their science exploration with their first unit "Blast Off!" During this unit, students are exploring different chemical reactions which will eventually lead to students planning and building their own rockets and measuring whose rocket flies the highest. This is one of the most exciting experiments of 5th grade!

In Reading, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with different ways to tell a story. They will focus on different genres and how those genres affect characters, settings, and plot. Students will be answering the question of: How does genre affect the way a story is told? Students just began reading "Airborn," a fantasy of sky exploration and are excited to discuss the story in more detail.

Our 5th grade students will begin Math Unit 2, *Adding and Subtracting Fractions* at the start of October. We are excited to teach the students the importance and relevance of fractions by using clocks and money as manipulatives and real-world connections.

Later this month, we will be starting our first unit of social studies and will be learning about colonial regions.

Ms. Ryan's ISDM Primary Class

In September, we worked on learning classroom routines, meeting new classmates and developing our communication with peers. We focused on developing independence and strengthening our functional skills. In ELA, we learned about school days. In Phonics, we worked on letter recognition and letter sounds. In Math, we worked on number sense. For SEL, we talked about *Zones of Regulation*.

In October, we will look at personal identity with the theme, "Only One Me!" in ELA. We will continue letter recognition and letter sounds in Phonics. We are going to continue working on number sense in Math before moving on to addition and subtraction. We will continue working on *Zones of Regulation* and social skills in SEL.

SPECIAL AREA NEWS

ART

Hello from the Art Studio!

I am happy to see everyone making so much art and learning procedures in the art studio. Please think about sending your student in with an art smock or old shirt to keep in their lockers for art class...nothing fancy, but something to cover their school clothes when we work with paint or other supplies.

Please also consider donating any of the following items:

- Boxes of Tissues
- Containers of Clorox Wipes
- Large zip loc baggies

There is an art club this year on Wednesdays at 8:00 AM. Currently, the art club is for 4th and 5th grade artists. There will be four sessions to give more students the opportunity to participate and keep artists interested in fun art making. Students need a permission slip to attend. It will be a small group of serious art makers. Permission slips should be picked up in the art studio. The first session started Wednesday, September 27.

Have a great season and enjoy the changing colors of fall.

LIBRARY

We are off to a great start in the Library. All students have learned the library and book care rules and started to check out books. Please review the book care rules with your child(ren): **Keep books clean and dry. Keep away from pets and small children. Read books with clean hands. Never eat or drink around your books. Never color or draw in the book. Remember to enjoy reading.** All books are due on Library day. Students will only be allowed to check out a new book when they return their old book. Students will start their Online Digital Citizen lessons over the next month. Be sure to ask your child what they learned in library class!
-Mrs. Benz

MAKERSPACE

Kindergarten and First Grade

In September, we began celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by reading *Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos* by Monica Brown. Students are creating their own paint brushes using Makerspace materials (pom poms, string, straws, clothespins, etc.) We will use our paint brushes to help us create Frida Kahlo inspired self-portraits.

Looking forward, we will complete autumn inspired Makerspace projects.

Second and Third Grade

We will begin October by continuing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. We will read *Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates* by Jonah Winter and complete a baseball inspired coding activity.

Looking forward, we will complete autumn inspired Makerspace projects.

ISDM

In order to celebrate all things autumn, we will read fall inspired stories, sing songs and create pumpkins.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As September comes to a close, students worked on Class Rules/Playground Safety/ Routines/ Spatial Awareness Movements and Body Awareness (Fundamental Movements) in the gym. During the month of October, students will begin working on Foot Skills including dribbling & kicking/Soccer lead up drills (Manipulative Skills), Soccer Skills and lead up games, and 4th and 5th grades will be practicing Fitnessgram incorporated into warm-ups.

VOCAL MUSIC

In Mr. Pugh's Music class, the students are distinguishing the difference between “beat” and “rhythm.” See if your child can give you an example of each, or if they can give you an example of a song that has a distinct rhythm! Also, ask your child what performer they believe has the best rhythmic moves to a beat!

SPANISH

Fourth Grade

We have been having a wonderful time introducing 4th grade friends to Spanish class! In Unit 1, we will learn greetings, feelings, our age and birthday and other ways to talk about ourselves. We will also take time to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!

Fifth Grade

In Unit 1, we will learn all about how to talk about ourselves and our family and friends. We will be able to describe physical traits and personality traits. We will also take time to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!

MIND OVER MATTERS

September through November is “Kindness Matters.” The goal is to engage students and staff by exploring the importance of being kind to themselves and others.

Wear a Color for Character is the week of October 17 – 21. This activity, for students and adults, involves wearing a color to represent positive character traits. Share photos on social media using #BCPSCares.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Color	BCPS Blue	Green	Orange	Red	Purple
Word	Civility	Equity	Unity	Respect	Positivity

BUS WHERE APP

The Office of Transportation announces the county-wide implementation of BusWhere, a location tracking software that allows subscribers to see bus locations in real time on a mobile phone or computer. Via the BusWhere app, subscribers may opt to receive notification as the bus is approaching a designated bus stop or if there is a significant issue causing a delay.

On or about October 2, 2023, you should receive an email invitation directly from BusWhere to create an account.

Please visit the main BCPS webpage for additional information.

CELL PHONE POLICY


This is an important reminder about student cell phone use and expectations. While students may bring personal phones to school, the phones should not be used during class time or used inappropriately at any time during the school day. Failure to follow these rules will result in disciplinary actions against your child. We understand there are a number of reasons why parents/guardians have their children bring phones to school, however, **they are a distraction and cause significant disruption to the learning environment.** Please let your child know that cell phones and school time don't mix and students who violate the cell phone policy **will receive consequences.**

As a reminder, students may have their cell phones on school property and during school-sponsored activities; however, students may not use their cell phones until the end of the instructional day with the following exceptions:

1. When instructional staff, in Grade 3 and above, has permitted such use for instructional purposes during instructional time.
2. High school students may use their cell phones during student lunch periods.
3. Middle school students may use their cell phones during student lunch periods, as determined by the school administrator of each individual middle school.


Team BCPS families, we need your help to ensure our schools are safe, welcoming, and distraction-free. Effective teaching and learning can't happen when students are breaking the rules and distracted by their devices. Thank you for your support in reinforcing our cell phone policy at home.

Baltimore County Public Schools




Cell Phone Policy

Engage, Empower, Excel.




Learning is Our Top Priority



Yes, you can use your cell phone:

1. Before and after school
2. When permitted by instructor for instructional purposes during instructional time (Grade 3 and above)
3. During lunch as determined by school administration (Middle School)
4. During lunch (High School)



Please do not use your cell phone:

1. During instructional time. Cell phones should be turned off or set on silent mode and out of sight. The use of ear buds/headphones is prohibited during all such times.
2. In a manner that is inappropriate or out of alignment with Board Policy and Superintendent's Rule 6202, Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students.

Failure to comply with these expectations and/or violations of the board policies may result in a variety of interventions including: reminder(s) to put device away, verbal warning, parent contact, referral to administration, parent conference, temporarily suspending the use of a cell phone on school property and disciplinary action in accordance with Board Policy and Superintendent's Rule 6202, Student Behavior Code.