



January 2018  
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Pole Green Elementary  
School

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# POLE GREEN PRESS

## Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Happy New Year! The school year will be half over by the end of this month, which is hard to believe. We have enjoyed a lot of exciting learning and engaging activities during the first semester, and look forward to a GREAT second semester! I hope your families enjoy the NASA International Space Station calendars as you start planning your family activities for 2018!

Often in January, we reflect on those who were important to us during the past year. The administrative team always thinks of teachers, parents and students during this time. Pole Green teachers are commended for the hours of dedication and commitment to our student's academic experiences and success. The administrative team appreciates your hard work to make learning fun and individualized for your students. I am so proud of everyone's hard work to bring us the NASA Educator's School recognition!! GREAT Gators Accomplish GREAT Things! The students of Pole Green are also acknowledged for your hard work so far this school year. Again, the administrators see your efforts through your completed work, projects, hallway displays, report card reviews, and classroom visits. We enjoy working with you and applaud all that you do each day.

We would like to thank the PTA for their support during the school year. Our PTA is very dedicated to the school and contributes numerous hours to assist in the academic growth in our school. We recognize and appreciate the parent involvement and support that our parents and PTA provide to us on a regular basis. Thank you for all that you do to improve our school, support our staff and work with our students. Together we are Great Gators!

### Inclement Weather

During the winter months, we watch the weather forecast closely. We expect that inclement weather will happen which may impact the school day. To prepare for emergency school closings, it is important that your child's teacher knows where to send your child. If an emergency early release is called and your child is to be sent somewhere DIFFERENT than the normal dismissal procedure, we request that you put this in writing to the teacher today. Due to the number of students at Pole Green we are not able to contact parents individually when an emergency dismissal occurs. In case of inclement weather you can listen to a local radio or television station, or check for updates on Hanover County Schools Channel 99 for information related to school operations. We appreciate your attention and assistance during the winter months.

For absences please call the  
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

## Student Progress

This is also the time during the school year when teachers assess individual student progress. Sometimes student skills may lag behind the grade level expectations. In determining the best academic path for each student, a teacher may send home a retention notice with the March 3 Interim which would indicate a lack of satisfactory progress in essential academic skills. The "possible retention" notice is an alert that a student will not be ready for the next grade at the academic pace he or she is making, and therefore, interventions both at school and home will be necessary. Final decisions for retention recommendations are not made until May. In addition, letters will be sent home to students who may be in danger of violating the county attendance policy. Student attendance is crucial for academic progress and we appreciate your efforts to have your children at school each day and in the classroom on time to limit the interruptions to all students and teachers. Our next parent-teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, February 22. If you have specific concerns about your child's progress, please schedule a conference with the teacher.

## Counselor's Corner

Happy January!

There are a lot of things happening as we come back from a much needed and relaxing Winter Break! First, we will begin registering 5th grade for Middle School on January 8th. Please see the schedule below to know what registration dates are available for your child's class. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact me. Students received a lesson in December taught by the OKMS counselors on OKMS core and elective classes. Each 5th grader was given a Program of Studies book which contains course information. Please let me know if you did receive one of these. Below is the list of times available; please click on the link provided under your child's teacher's name to sign up for a registration appointment. If you have twins, you only need to sign up for one appointment time. Lastly, if there is inclement weather, I will reschedule all appointments missed due to school closings. Please give me a chance to reschedule once we return to school, as I do not have internet access at my home.

### Designated Days for Mrs. Bowman's Class

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 - Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018

Evening times available on Tuesday, Jan. 16th

Extra day: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 between 10:00 am and 11:30 am

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054da8ab2aaafa7-middle4>

### Designated Days for Mrs. Carrique's Class

Monday, Jan. 22, 2018 - Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018

Evening times available on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd

Extra day: Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 between 10:00 am and 11:30 am

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054da8ab2aaafa7-middle6>

## Kindergarten

### Designated Days for Mrs. Gordon's Class

Monday, Jan. 8, 2018 - Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018

Evening times available on Tuesday, Jan. 9th

Extra day: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 between 8:30 am and 10:00 am

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054da8ab2aaafa7-middle3>

### Designated Days for Mrs. Wilson's Class

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018 - Friday, Jan. 19, 2018

Evening times available on Thursday, Jan. 18th

Extra day: Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 between 8:30 am and 10:00 am

Follow this link to sign up for a registration appointment:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054da8ab2aaafa7-middle5>

While it is not mandatory for parents/guardians to attend this session, I would like to offer you the opportunity to come with your child to his/her appointment.

We will be celebrating our second group of HEROs this month. Students are chosen to be HEROs every nine weeks by either their teachers or their peers. Students who demonstrate the 9 weeks' character trait are nominated. The character trait for this 9 weeks is COOPERATION. The names of all HEROs will be announced on the morning announcements and will be invited to a small celebration in the cafeteria. Winners will be announced on January 23rd. A letter and certificate of recognition will be sent home with your child.

Be on the lookout for more information in Tuesday Folders regarding Small Groups being offered in the Spring. Also, a parent workshop will also be available during the Spring.

Sydney Ellis  
PGES School Counselor

Happy New Year! We're excited about what our kindergarten students will be accomplishing in 2018! We will have even stronger readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists in kindergarten! Please practice identifying sight words from your child's Goal Folder each night. You can make it fun by creating flash cards, rainbow writing the words, or by playing sight word Candyland with your child. Watch your child's personal Goal Folder and celebrate the growth you see evident. Listen to your child read each night. Provide opportunities for writing.

In January, students will continue to focus on extending a pattern, creating a pattern, and transferring a pattern. The students will also begin to focus on numbers 11-20. You can begin reviewing these numbers with your child by having him/her count out objects such as cereal, matchbox cars, blocks, etc. We will also be making weather observations and focusing on Winter! Do you think we will get more SNOW? Our students are predicting that we will!

## 1st Grade

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Welcome to 2018! We are very excited to begin this new year teaching and learning with your children. We look forward to exciting days filled with energy and enthusiasm for strengthening our brains!

H How can we make this year successful  
A Another year to grow and learn  
P Problems arise, but we can solve them  
P Prepared to go above and beyond expectations  
Y Young minds exploring our world

N New learning filling our brains  
E Extra smiles every day  
W Winter cold outside; warm heat inside

Y Youthful energy all around  
E Every challenge we can accept  
A Always a fresh start to each day  
R Reading stamina is increasing

# Grade Level News(continued)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Happy New Year to all of our 2nd Grade Families! We are so excited to be back to regular routines in our classrooms, and we have loved hearing about all of the adventures and special presents the children received over the holidays and break. We want to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to all of you for the wonderful Winter Parties that were held before break, and for all of your donations for our December Class Baskets. Your support of our school is SO appreciated!

As we look into January, the second grade team has planned the following units. In Math, the students will learn about Geometry, Symmetry, and Place Value. During our Unit time for Science, we will cover the Water Cycle and a unit on Weather. For Reading, we will continue reading groups as normal, and we may be doing some mid-year testing to make sure that our students are in the appropriate groups. Foundations will also continue as normal as we begin to look at long vowel patterns in words. For writing, the students will learn to develop their ideas and begin paragraph writing.

Thank you for everything you do to support your child, teachers, and school! You are the BEST!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Happy New Year! Now that the children have technically enjoyed TWO winter breaks, it's time to get down to the business of learning! When students returned from the holidays, they wrote New Year's resolutions with plenty of action plans to help them succeed with their new goals. These adorn our hallways to remind us to reach for our goals!

In January, third graders are learning about Earth Cycles, including day and night (rotation), the four seasons (revolution), moon phases, and tides. Students are enjoying creating artistic renditions and modeling these concepts using a variety of materials from flashlights and oranges to oreo cookies!

In the area of math, students are learning all about geometry, including congruency, symmetry, lines, and 3D shapes. We sing songs, create models, and play games in order to master all of these new skills and concepts. We're getting super excited about learning all about multiplication as our next math unit!

Finally, we're gearing up for many assessments here in third grade in January. Students will take the DSA (developmental spelling analysis), complete a writing sample, and participate in the Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments (which assess fluency, accuracy, and comprehension). Teachers will use this assessment information to modify reading and spelling groups in the classroom and to think about planning for the second semester. Third graders will also take a reading benchmark in addition to a math benchmark on the laptops at the end of the first semester. We truly are learning new skills and concepts each and every day!

## Gifted Referrals(K-5)

The Hanover County Gifted Program supports a collaborative effort between the classroom teacher and the gifted resource teacher to provide appropriate services to students identified as academically talented. Through co-planning and co-teaching the program offers challenges and differentiated instruction to those students in need.

Referrals for screening into the Gifted Program are due by January 31, 2018. The next window to screen students will be January 2019. Students in grades K-5 may be referred for screening. Students may only be screened once every two academic years. Parents may refer students for screening, but are encouraged to seek the guidance of their child's teacher first. For more information on characteristics of gifted learners or for referral paperwork, please contact the Gifted Resource teacher, Lori Schoenwiesner, at [lschoenwiesner@hanover.k12.va.us](mailto:lschoenwiesner@hanover.k12.va.us).

# Grade Level News (continued)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 4th graders are excited to welcome the year 2018! We have some wonderful, new, and challenging content to start off the year.

In math, the students will start learning all about fractions. This is one of the more challenging units in 4th grade and may require extra study time. Also, to be successful at this skill, it is essential that your child knows their math facts. Please continue to encourage your child to keep practicing with either flash cards or on the computer!

For reading, one of our skills will be to focus on Author's Purpose. The students will need to be able to read an advertisement, an article, or a story and identify the author's purpose for writing the selection.

The science unit for the second nine weeks is on Ecosystems. We plan to start this unit before the end of the month. We will study the different ecosystems in our world as well as the plants and animals found within each ecosystem.

In Social Studies, we will start discussing the events that led to the Revolutionary War. You can support the study of this content by visiting some of the amazing locations around our beautiful state. We hope 2018 is a year filled with happiness for you all!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Our hard working 5th graders have paused for a moment during this busy season to send you and your family a special wish for the New Year. Here's what a few of them have on their mind:

\*My wish for the New Year for my sister and I to stop fighting. -Audrey

\*My wish for the New Year is to clean my room more. -Jaelynn

\*My wish for the New Year is to become famous on You Tube. - Grayson

\*My wish for the New Year is to have more time with my dad. -Zac.

\*My wish for the New Year is for every family in the state of struggle or pain to turn their life around and be happy. -Daunte

\*My wish for the New Year is to have a good middle school year. -Camden

\*My wish for the New Year is to make new friends and for others to make friends. -Luke.

And finally, Lucy summed it up nicely with her thought, \*My wish for the New Year is to make more memories.