



March 2019  
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Pole Green Elementary School  
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# POLE GREEN PRESS

## President's Message

Hi Gator Families,

Are you as excited for March as I am? Not only will we be welcoming Spring (fingers crossed) but my favorite PTA event happens this month – Family Fitness Night! March 28th Ms. Shewey will lead families in physical fitness activities which in the past have included obstacle courses, jump rope, roller boards and more. I highly encourage parents to join in with their students on this one.

There has been a change to our March calendar. Chick-Fil-A no longer participates in Spirit Night programs therefore the one scheduled for March 6th has been cancelled. We'll bounce back to it with a Chipotle Spirit Night April 9th.

Finally, for our Gator Alumini, the deadline to apply for the PGES PTA scholarship is March 21st. Applications and instructions can be found either with your Hanover High counselor or on our website at [www.PoleGreenPTA.org](http://www.PoleGreenPTA.org). We look forward to several submissions!

As always thank you for your continued support. It's never too late to become a member of the PTA or volunteer and if you have any questions, email me at [President@pgespta.org](mailto:President@pgespta.org).

Be Well,  
Sam Hudgins

## Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

PGES SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – BoosterThon FUN RUN

Booster-Thon Fun Run is returning to PGES! The Fun Run is an active student run in which students get parents, families, and friends from across the nation to support them with online pledges for each lap they complete! The Fun Run theme, MIND SPARK, includes character education lessons to include Citizenship, Integrity, Zest, Growth Mindset and Teamwork. This is our only school sponsored fundraiser, and we depend on these funds to provide students with the best opportunities for engaging learning resources and opportunities. Funds are needed for our Innovation Lab, Trout project, 3D printer supplies, coding bots, Ipads, Smartboards and Brightlinks, additional reading books, resources for Library, Music, Art and P.E.

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For absences please call  
the ATTENDANCE LINE  
365-4714

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

The funds allow us to pay for special student learning websites like Reading Eggs, Reading A-Z and Study Island which are accessible at home too, but up to individual schools to purchase. We added large soccer nets to our recess area for this year, so now it's time to focus on the basketball area for recess. The fundraiser provides the funds necessary for teachers to purchase "extras" for their classes for engaging learning, activities and games. ALL monies raised through the Fun Run are used to support STUDENTS at school. Our Fun Run date is Thursday, March 21! Registration information will be sent home on March 12.

## SOL Testing for Grades 3, 4, and 5

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will take SOL tests during the testing window of May 13 – June 4. Make-up and retakes for SOL testing will continue until June 7. The SOL testing window is longer than in previous years to complete all requirements for the State testing program. We share the testing window with families in advance so you can plan accordingly so your student is present and available for testing during this three week window. Our draft dates for testing are as follows:

SOL TESTING	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Reading	May 14 & 15	May 16 & 17	May 20 & 21
Math	May 22 & 23	May 29 & 30	June 3 & 4
Social Studies - 4th only		May 24	
Science - 5th only			May 28

Thank you in advance for your effort to schedule around the SOL testing window.

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for rising kindergarten students will be held on Thursday, April 11, 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. at PGES. Please share this information with everyone you know who has a rising kindergartener for fall 2019. Our goal is to identify our kindergarten population before June to help determine the number of kindergarten sections and class size for the fall. We are encouraging parents to bring their pre-kindergarten student with them during registration because there is a kindergarten screener assessment to help us know your child and share tips for kindergarten readiness during the summer. Please share this date with your family, friends and neighbors who may need to register pre-kindergarten students. Please bring the following documents for student registration:

- ✓Birth Certificate (student must be 5 years of age by September 30, 2019)
- ✓Proof of Residency – 3 items required (may include income tax return, W-2 forms, deed or lease, property tax, payroll check within three months)
- ✓Physical Form (if you do not have this ready it may be turned in at a later date, but must be on file before your student can begin school)

## COMPUTER CODING IS FUN!

If you think your child would be interested in learning some fun computer coding, check out, <https://code.org>. This website hosts games to teach students computer coding using Minecraft, Angry Birds, Star Wars, and many other games to use computer coding to get the characters to move. This is a great way to help students learn how their math and reasoning skills are relevant to real world learning such as computer coding to build computer programs and of course, games.

Hello March! Crossing our fingers that warmer weather is just around the corner! I would like to thank everyone who made Mrs. Broaddus and I feel extra special during National School Counseling Week in February. We felt so loved and so proud to be your PGES School Counselors! There are only a couple of announcements for March:

I will be starting to introduce some career/post-secondary education activities to students. I am still asking for parent volunteer speakers for a "Career Café" in certain classrooms this month. Students will eat lunch in their classrooms while listening to the 20 minute presentation. Parents are encouraged to bring in materials, models, or displays, to help students visualize what their career entails. If you are interested in this opportunity and want to be on the list of potential speakers, please feel free to let me know. I can be reached at (804)365-4705 or shobbs@hcps.us.

Attention 5th Grade parents! The Course Verification Forms went home on Friday, March 1st with interims. I will need these signed and returned to me by March 7th! Also, be on the lookout for more information regarding middle school tours and shadow days. The OKMS tour, which all 5th graders are to attend, will be on Friday, March 22nd. The OKMS shadow day will be on Wednesday, April 10th. A boy student and girl student from each 5th grade class will be selected by their 5th grade teacher. They will only be selected by their teacher if they are interested in shadowing a OKMS 6th grader for a day, as well as returning to their class and presenting about what he/she learned. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above information.

Happy Spring!

Sydney Ellis Hobbs  
School Counselor

The PTA cannot run without its volunteers! Please consider taking on one of the many open positions we have next year. Worried about going it alone? Then grab a friend to join you as many committee positions can be co-chaired. There are two types of positions – board voting positions, who must be voted in, and committee chairs.

#### Open Board Voting Positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary

#### Open Committee Positions

- Building & Grounds
- Hospitality
- Power Plates
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation

## Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations & Thank You! Join us in a big round of applause for the March Volunteer of the Month, Elizabeth Smith of Ms Healy and Ms Daniel's classes. We thank you for supporting our school through your volunteer work!



# Grade Level News

## Kindergarten

The students are SOARING in their reading, writing, and mathematical skills! It is very important that you are reading with your child each night. It is also important that you are focusing on the word lists in the Goal Folder. Knowing sight words will build your child's confidence when reading and help them become more fluent readers. Reading should be a priority each and every night! Your child's personal Goal Folder also has goals your child should be working towards.

The students are writing each day in class. You can help your child at home by calling out three letter CVC words and have your child tap them out and write them on paper or by using magnetic letters. Also, use the words on the word list in the Goal Folder that your child is focusing on and have him/her write sentences.

In Math, students are composing and decomposing numbers to 10. This can be a very difficult concept for many kindergarteners. Students are engaged in many different games using manipulatives and two color counters to learn different ways to figure out the part-part-whole relationships of numbers. Please reinforce number bonds to 10 at home. It can be as simple as using cereal, cars, beads, etc. to create number bonds. Also, please continue to reinforce the numbers 1-20 with your child. We will continue to review and build on skills previously acquired.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

SPRING almost has SPRUNG! What are we looking forward to when old man winter finally goes back home?

S Sunny, warm days on the playground  
P Planting seeds of knowledge in our classrooms  
R Reading more and more each and every day  
I Inviting our hopes for each other into our hearts  
N New ideas blossoming from our students  
G Growing our minds in all academic areas

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

Wow! It's hard to believe that spring is just around the corner! We are busy little bees here in second grade. During our word study time, we are focusing on r-controlled vowels, learning how to both read and spell words with this skill. We continue to listen to interactive read alouds daily and we love working to determine the theme in each set of books whether it's facing challenges, friendship, or a genre or author study. Our reading skill focus during the month of March will be questioning and cause and effect! Students will learn about the different types of questions that can be asked about a passage or story. We will begin working more on reading passages and answering comprehension questions. During our writing time, we will explore different types of paragraph writing. In February we wrote opinion paragraphs so we will also practice how-to and descriptive paragraphs as well.

Our math focus will be on two- and three-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. This is a crucial skill in second grade and it lays the groundwork for many math skills and concepts in the future. Students will use place value block manipulatives to understand the concept at the concrete level before we begin to explore various strategies such as hundreds chart, breaking apart numbers, and the old fashioned algorithm (the way we learned to add and subtract in school!). This unit will require lots of practice at home and at school!

We will investigate magnets during the month of March as our attention turns back to science. There will be a wide variety of hands-on exploration and experimenting going on in second grade with magnets as students learn about types of magnets, magnetic objects, the poles of magnets, and the strength of magnetic fields. Science is so cool!

# Grade Level News(Continued)

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

Third grade had a great time on our field trip to the University of Richmond's dance performance. We enjoyed seeing different types of dance! This month, we are working on fractions in math. We are continuing to study ancient cultures in social studies and how they have affected our world today. We will be working hard this month to wrap up the nine weeks and we hope that everyone has a wonderful Spring Break!

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

Our 5th graders are wrapping up the third quarter with great gusto. Our social studies lessons are taking us on a tour of the different regions of the United States. We're in the midst of the fascinating "Oceanography" unit in science. Language arts and reading instruction are putting all of our strategies into play and developing our own sense of creativity and "voice" with our written pieces, while using great literature as models. Math classes enjoy a hearty pace of graphing and statistics (Grade 5) and algebra (Grade 6). And finally, our research skills are being honed for upcoming projects.



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

Hello March! The fourth grade is ready to continue their study of Virginia History with another exciting field trip. This month we will be going to the Hanover Tavern. "Students will interact with fascinating living history characters such as Patrick Henry and Patsey Henry as well as visit a Civil War replica encampment to discuss all aspects of the life of a common soldier, North and South, during the war". Our unit of study will be on the Reconstruction Era in which the students will explore the affect the Civil War had on the south and what Virginians did to overcome these obstacles. As always we encourage you to visit so many of the amazing historical sites across our state to help your child better understand our Virginia History.

In Math, the fourth graders will be learning addition and subtraction of fractions. This is another skill that builds on knowing your multiplication facts so keep practicing at home. Also, it is very helpful if parents check their child's homework daily to make sure their child understands the concepts and skills being taught. Please continue to encourage your child to visit Study Island and Dreambox to strengthen their math skills.

For Language Arts, the students will be focusing on synonyms, antonyms, and homophones which can be a lot of fun. Also, they will discuss how prefixes and suffixes change the meanings of words and review how to make good inferences while reading.

Our team is super excited for our annual Fun Run event and hope to see many of you come out and support PGES!

The 4th Grade Team

# What is happening this month?

## March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	1 Interim Reports Go Home	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Now a Full Day	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Boosterthon Reading Olympics 2:30- 5:30pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Spring Pictures Family Fitness Night 6:30pm	29 Now a Full Day	30
31	<b>NOTES</b>					

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
 Maurice Aufderheide— Editor  
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