



October 2019  
Volume 20  
Issue 2

Pole Green Elementary School  
8993 Pole Green Park Lane  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116  
Phone: 804-365-4700  
Fax: 804-365-4717  
Attendance: 804-365-4714

# POLE GREEN PRESS

## President's Message

## Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Dear PGES Families,

Can you feel Fall in the air...we hope soon? I hope everyone has settled into the school year groove by now. Thank you to all those who came out for Back To School Night last month, I can't wait to see everyone again at our Fall movie night October 25th. Keep an eye out in Tuesday Folders for food order forms and the announcement of what movie we'll watch!

October will also bring our first Watch D.O.G.S. pizza night. This event will be held on October 17th at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. This will be a great time to sign up as our chair will be in attendance to answer any questions. Be on the lookout for the RSVP form in Tuesday folders.

As you know our Fall Fundraiser with Charleston Wrap is underway! All order forms are due to the school no later than Thursday October 3rd.

Reflections is underway and the deadline to turn applications in to Mrs. Atkinson is October 18th. This year's theme is "Look Within." Please encourage your children to participate in this wonderful artistic experience.

Thank you for continuing to check out our newsletter on the PTA website and on Facebook. You can find it at [polegreenpta.org](http://polegreenpta.org). Also, don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook for the latest PTA events, news and pictures.

I look forward to working with all of our great volunteers and staff this year!

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Beardslee  
PTA President  
[president@polegreenpta.org](mailto:president@polegreenpta.org)

I would like to say thank you to the students, parents, staff, and community for a GREAT start to the school year. It was great to see you at the Back-to-School night on September 19, and we look forward to seeing you throughout the school year.

Schools participate in a number of safety drills as practice of our crisis management plan. Some of these drills include fire drills, earthquake drills, tornado drills, and intruder drills. Students are made aware that we will practice drills for their safety, and to follow the teacher directions for the different drills. Together, we will keep our Gators safe!

(Continued on Next Page)

For absences please call the  
**ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714**

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

## **PGES FACEBOOK**

PGES has a Facebook page. Please LIKE us on Facebook @polegreenelementaryschool. Our goal is to share highlights of students throughout the school day. Students will only be photographed for Facebook if you granted permission through the forms sent home at Open House. If you would like to change your response at any time, please contact your child's teacher.

## **PGES TEACHERS AND STAFF WILL DELIVER YOUR PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA ON OCTOBER 9!**

PGES teachers and staff will collaborate with Papa John's Pizza for a school "FUN-raiser" on October 9. If you order pizza through the special flyer that came home, a PGES team will deliver to your home. We earn part of the proceeds and 100% of the tips! Tips at the door earn teachers prizes to add to the fun! So, who are some of the teams who might deliver to your house? The two person teams are: Ms. Voorhees & Mrs. Verlander, Mrs. Sanford & Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. Cario & Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. Killmeier & Mrs. Kusnerik, Ms. Williams & Ms. Balducci, Mrs. Hobbs & Mrs. MacInnis, Mrs. Dauksys & Ms. Teegarden, Mrs. Daley & Mrs. Amatruda, Ms. Daniel & Ms. Borkey, Mrs. Bryant & Mrs. McMackin, Mrs. Gilbert & Mr. Livingston, and Mrs. Stone & Ms. Healy! We cannot guarantee a team to deliver to your house, but we will all have school spirit!

## **October – Anti-Bully Prevention Month**

The month of October is the official month for anti-bully prevention. At PGES, we practice anti-bully activities throughout the school year. However, in recognition of Anti-Bully Month, we will have extra activities with our students. October 23 is UNITY DAY and the color Orange represents students commitment to be united, as a GREAT Gator team, to stand against unacceptable behaviors and bully behavior. We welcome our community and parents to join us in wearing orange on October 23.

## **FUN RUN IS MARCH 19, 2020! SAVE THE DATE!**

The Fun Run will be our school-wide fundraiser that supports instructional materials and resources for all students. It was certainly a hit with the students last year, and we were able to purchase 40 more Ipads and we put in a new break-a-way basketball backboard, new swings and fixed the popular Gator slide that was damaged!! The BoosterThon Fun Run theme will focus on character traits that we emphasize each day at PGES. Our goal with the fundraiser is to enhance classroom libraries, Innovation lab materials, and new Ipads for K-2 that are outdated, and more! So, look for more information to come, but save the date – March 19! Parents and families are invited and encouraged to come and cheer on our students!

## **INNOVATION LAB**

PGES has a dedicated classroom for a Innovation Lab. This classroom is open for teachers to use anytime for hands-on learning, real world applications, building projects, and testing ideas! We will be sending home flyers about recyclable resources you can donate to support our Innovation lab.

## **Parent Communication & Who Do I Ask?**

The PGES staff is very busy each day planning, preparing and implementing structured academic opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to volunteer in any manner which time permits. To assist teachers, students and parents, the administrative responsibilities have been divided. Although the below list is not inclusive, this includes an idea to direct parent questions, if needed.

Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

SOL Test Data Analysis

PTA

School Improvement

Personnel

Crisis Safe School Plan

Student Placement

Elizabeth Verlander, Assistant Principal

SOL testing

Field Trips

Textbooks

Student Discipline

Bus and Transportation

Special Education & 504 Plans

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

Keeping students safe is an important responsibility for us each day, and we request your help in keeping our school safe. Please be prepared to show picture identification when you are picking up your child. Also, make sure you have returned the Student Emergency Card and the Student Clinic Card which include valuable information as to who you have given permission to contact in case of an emergency at school in the event the parent cannot be reached.

All visitors will sign in upon arrival to PGES, according to Hanover County Public Schools Policy 2-3.6. We appreciate your support and understanding as we all work together to keep the students and educational environment at Pole Green safe and secure for everyone.

If you are volunteering or visiting, please log into the Raptor system which will print a volunteer/visitor sticker with your name. This also allows your volunteer hours to be accounted for each month. We request you check into the office for any visit which includes walking your student to class.

The Hanover County School Board recognizes the importance of keeping all students safe. Unfortunately, this recognition includes the danger sex offenders pose to student safety. Therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, and attend school or school-related activities, each school in the Hanover County school division shall request automatic electronic notification of the registration or re-registration of any sex offenders in the same or contiguous zip codes as any school within the school division. This information is obtained according to the procedure established by the Virginia Department of State Police. Information on sex offenders and the "Crimes Against Minors Registry" can be located at <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/or/index.htm>.

## **School Activities and Celebrations at PGES**

We value student success, school success, staff success and celebrate by showing our school spirit each week with a school-wide School Spirit Day on Friday's. All students and staff are invited to wear green or a PGES shirt if one is owned by the student. We invite parents and community members to join us in showing school spirit each Friday.

## **Attendance Line**

Student absences need to be documented by the parent by a phone call to the school, a written note to the school or an email to the school. You may let the teacher know in advance of scheduled absences if the student will be out all day. Full day absences that are not documented, which means a parent has not communicated the absence, will require attendance plans beyond three full school days. So, please just let the teacher know, and he/she will let the attendance office know for the documentation. PGES has a voicemail attendance line for you to leave messages when your child is out sick, 365-4714. If we do not receive a message from you regarding a child's absence, you will be contacted as is HCPS policy. If you need to speak with the nurse, you may contact her directly at 365-4704.

## **Visitors at Lunch Policy**

Hanover County Public Schools will now require a parent/guardian to provide written permission for any visitor to have lunch with your child. The permission note must include the parent signature, therefore, electronic copies or calls may not be accepted. This is another level of student security for our students.

All visitors will be required to sit at the Visitor table with only their child. We appreciate your understanding to help us keep 600 students safe at school each day.

# Calling all Volunteers... the PTA needs you!!

We need you!!! Your PGES PTA could not run its many programs and events without our volunteers. The whole school benefits when you give your talents, ideas and time. No matter how much or how little time you have to give we appreciate every minute. Stop by one of our PTA tables to see where you can help or contact Nikole Sparacio at [volunteer@polegreenpta.org](mailto:volunteer@polegreenpta.org).

## PTA Membership

Why join your PGES PTA? Every child benefits from the programs that the PTA supports. Your membership gives you a voice in how the PTA helps to enrich our whole school. There is not better way to get involved in your child's education than to partner with parents, teachers and administrators.

Let's all work together this year to reach our membership goal!!! Last year we reached just under 64% membership for our school. This year we are aiming for 75% or higher!!! As a member there is no time commitment so stop by one of our PTA tables to join or contact Nikole Sparacio at [volunteer@polegeenpta.org](mailto:volunteer@polegeenpta.org).

## Charleston Wrap

We are excited to be partnering with Charleston Wrap for the first time for our annual fundraiser. Charleston Wrap offers quality gift wrap, kitchen and home goods, personalized items, food, and more. This fundraiser is vital to helping us continue our mission of supporting the students and staff at PGES. The sale runs from September 19th to October 4th.

## Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations to Paige Allen for being PTA's Volunteer of the Month for September! Thank you for the time and talent you have given to our school!

## Counselor's Corner

Hello PGES families!

There are many things to look forward to in the month of October! We will be celebrating our first group of HEROs this month. Students are chosen to be HEROs every nine weeks by either their teachers or their peers. Students who demonstrate our 9 weeks character word will be nominated. Our character word this 9 weeks is RESPECT. The names of all HEROs will be announced on the morning announcements and will be invited to a small student-only celebration in the cafeteria. Winners will be announced on October 29th.

Small groups are being offered for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. In 1st grade, Mrs. Broaddus (part-time counselor) will be offering "Social Success" where students will learn acceptable social and friend behaviors. "Behavior Choices" group will be offered for 2nd grade. This group will help students learn helpful strategies for self-control and making good choices. 4th grade will offer a "Girl Power/Self-Esteem" group and "Making Friends" small group will be offered for 3rd graders. Each group will meet once a week for five to six weeks. We will meet for 30 minutes during the school day, at a time that your child's teacher has noted will be least disruptive to instruction. Parent referral forms will be sent home in Tuesday Folders if you are interested.

Small groups are not offered in Kindergarten and 5th grades because of the vast amount of things to discuss among those particular grade levels. We do provide lunch bunches for both of these grades, meaning we eat lunch with every single student in Kindergarten and 5th. During K lunches, the students get to meet their counselor and visit the counseling office. We also discuss table manners and cafeteria rules. During 5th grade lunches, the students discuss various things like social media safety and middle school transition. We also allow 5th grade students extra locker lock practice during this time.

October is also Anti-Bully Awareness Month. Classroom lessons in grades 3-5 will focus on Bullying. K-2 lessons will focus on Kindness and how to treat others. There will be announcements about different types of bullying and how to report it during the entire month. We will also have a Bully-Free Spirit week October 21st-25th.

## Counselor's Corner (continued)

Attention families in need of assistance for the holidays! There will be a form sent home at the end of this month for Thanksgiving meal assistance. Please be on the lookout for this form in your student's Tuesday Folder.

Families who are interested in providing assistance for our families in need during the Holidays, please contact me at shobbs@hcps.us or 365-4705 if you are willing to help. We are always in need of individuals who will buy Holiday items for families in need.

Happy Fall!  
Sydney Hobbs  
PGES School Counselor

## Fall Movie Night

We are excited for our annual Fall Movie Night this year. Join us in the cafeteria at 6:30 on October 25th for a movie on the big screen. Popcorn and water will be provided but don't forget to bring your own blankets and chairs to sit on.

Don't forget to RSVP for a chance to win a copy of the movie we watch and to pre-order dinner. Dinner will be available for pre-order and can be picked up beginning at 6:00. Orders will be due Friday October 18th.

# Community Programs

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! There are several easy ways to raise money for your school. They cost you nothing but a few seconds of your time. Look for Box Tops for Education on the products that you use everyday. Collect them and send them in to school with your student. We will take care of the rest! Please check out the handout that was sent home at the open house for the new app on box tops.

The PTA also accepts Coke Rewards points, soda tabs, little bites wrappers and ink cartridges. Bins to collect these items can be found in the cafeteria.

## Grade Level News

### Kindergarten

We will begin Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening mid-October. Based on research, PALS assesses those skills that seem to be the best predictors of future success in reading. This assessment measures rhyme awareness, beginning sound awareness, alphabet recognition, knowledge of letter sounds, concept of word and spelling of simple three letter words. PALS-K provides a direct means of matching literacy instruction to specific literacy needs and strengths.

You might want to check out the following website:

<http://pals.virginia.edu/Instructional-Resources/ParentCorner.asp>. Sites that do a good job of reinforcing some of these important skills are <http://readingeggs.com> and <http://www.starfall.com>. The most important thing that you can do to help your child is to spend time reading together. You can also help your child to do his best by making sure he comes to school on time, well rested, and having eaten breakfast.

We look forward to our Field Trip to the Hanover Vegetable Farm on October 23rd! Students should wear their class shirt or class color (if possible) and bring a lunch with a drink.

We are always happy to meet with parents. Communication between home and school is one of the best ways to ensure that your child's school experience is a successful one. We appreciate having the opportunity to discuss your child's academic strengths, as well as goals that have been set for your child. We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of our fall Parent/Teacher Conference Day. The kindergarten teachers like to meet with parents of each child on this day. We are also available for conferences after school hours on other days. Check with your child's teacher for a time that is convenient for you both.

Thank you for being our partners in education! We recognize that YOU, as a parent, are the most important role model in your child's life.

# Grade Level News (Continued)

## First Grade

AUTUMN is upon us and our FIRST GRADE GATORS are so excited to see all the seasonal changes outside! The FIRST GRADE TEACHERS are noticing some changes, too, inside the classroom. As we make our way through the second month of school, we see our students growing...and growing...and growing!

A Attitudes are positive  
U Understanding more and more  
T The classroom buckets are filling up  
U Using better manners  
M Making good choices  
N Never give up approach



## Second Grade

Boo! It's hard to believe that we've already fallen into October here in second grade! We're getting used to our new routines and procedures and learning so many new things each and every day. During our language arts block, we enjoy a variety of reading themes with our interactive read aloud stories and shared readings. Our new spelling program is underway as well. Don't forget to practice the three word wall words each week. We will assess word wall words after every four week interval (every twelve words). More specifically during mini-lessons and guided reading groups, we're focusing on making predictions when we read and making connections between previous experiences and what we're reading.

Students have become familiar with our writing workshop routines during our writing time each day. We spent last month focusing on where writers get ideas and making lots of webs and lists for our writer's notebook. This month, students will explore parts of sentences and types of sentences, specifically thinking about capitalization and punctuation while they write. We will also learn to take a watermelon topic and break it down into tiny seeds so that we can then hone in on a small moment narrative story. We are authors in second grade!

Patterns, skip counting, and basic addition and subtraction are our areas of focus during our math time this month. Students have explored repeating and growing patterns as well as number patterns. We are having a blast playing a variety of games to help us to master our basic addition and subtraction facts and to be able to relate the two to one another. Towards the end of the month we will turn our attention to building a solid place value foundation which will prove to be crucial for second grade and future mathematical understanding. Second graders are also learning a lot about how to use a variety of strategies to solve daily word problems and mental math tasks. Our wheels are always turning during math time!

We're so excited about our next science unit of the year, states of matter, specifically observing and identifying the properties of solids and liquids! Our focus in science is a very exploratory, hands-on approach where the children work together to determine how and why things happen the way they do in the scientific world. There is always lots of experimenting going on in our second grade classrooms and the kids love it! We've also begun using our Innovation Lab to experience many STEAM projects as well!

Aside from our core academics, we continue to have weekly class meetings where we focus on growth mindset and the seven habits of happy kids. We are also always thinking about how to fill buckets and spread kindness. Talk to your child about these topics and how they can very easily pay it forward to make our world a brighter place. Happy Fall, Y'all!

# Grade Level News(Continued)

## Third Grade

Third grade is off to a great start! October will be an exciting month as we will go to and to Poor Farm Park for Agriculture Day to learn all about our county's agriculture industry from the kind citizens of Hanover County.

Our writing focus will be using CUPS as an editing strategy to help students edit their own and their classmates' writing. We will also focus on brainstorming ideas for writing as students get used to the routines of writing workshop and independent journal writing. Students will also work on writing teacher-prompted pieces such as autobiographies.

Students will begin working in new reading groups. They will gain reading stamina, as they will be choosing "good fit" books and reading independently for a large chunk of our reading block. We will also start our Phonics and Word Study program to help with our spelling and word knowledge.

In the area of mathematics, third graders will continue to focus on place value to the hundred thousands place, including naming the four forms of a six-digit number (standard, expanded, picture, and word forms). We're also comparing, ordering, and rounding four-digit numerals. Our number sense certainly expands a great deal in math this year. Our next unit of study in math will be addition and subtraction with and without regrouping of numbers up to four digits. Whew! We love working through so many fun centers during math!

In social studies, we've moved from citizenship to the geography of North American to government. Children are branching out from where they live and will eventually begin to study ancient civilizations!

## Fifth Grade

This will be a banner year for our 5th grade class, and we are off to a great start.

The science unit that your child is investigating, will conclude mid-October. At that time, all classes will rotate to a new instructor for a new unit. Mrs. Bowman's homeroom class will move to "Geology" with Mrs. Gordon. Mrs. Gordon's class will move to "Light & Sound" with Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson's class will move to "Living Systems" with Mrs. Carrique. Mrs. Carrique's class will move to "4th Grade Science Review" with Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller's class will move to "Matter" with Mrs. Bowman. Please remember to have your child review their science folder each evening.

A brief snapshot of the rest of our content area looks like this: Social Studies will continue to focus on map skills with an emphasis on "Longitude" and "Latitude". Math 5 will feature computation of whole numbers, and Reading and Language Arts classes are geared toward writing in complete sentences and making strong connections to literature.

And finally, our DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) will begin with Officer Hughes in mid-October. We'll conclude his weekly lessons in the New Year with a program that you will all be invited to attend.

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

The fourth grade team is off to a great start! We spent the month of September establishing good friendships as well as learning the classroom expectations for fourth grade. In Language Arts, we have been modeling narrative writing, text features, homophones and summarizing. One of the challenging tasks for fourth grade is being able to identify the genres of a variety of books. We encourage you to read daily with your child and discuss the genre of the book as well as the narrator.

For this month in Math, we are focusing on basic multiplication and division. If your child does not have their math facts memorized, we encourage you to incorporate this into your weekly homework time. You can practice facts anywhere! Try reciting them in the car on the way to the store or while setting the table for dinner. Also, there are many fun and creative websites that allow the students to practice their facts. Some of our other topics for October will be patterns and graphing.

In our Virginia History, we will begin discussing the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 and the interactions between the settlers and the American Indians. This would be a great time for families to revisit Jamestown as a fun weekend outing.

Thank you,

The Fourth Grade Team



# What is happening this month



## October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2 Custodial Workers Day	3 Fundraiser Orders Forms Due	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 School Closed	15 Chipotle Spirit Night-5-9pm	16	17 School Picture Watch Dogs Pizza Night 6:30pm	18 Food orders for movie night due Reflection Entries Due	19
20 Bus Driver Appreciation Week	21 1/2 day of school	22	23 Jeepers Creepers Teacher/Staff Appreciation Event	24	25 Fall Movie Night 6:30pm	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

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