



October 2020
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Issue 2

Pole Green Elementary School
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POLE GREEN PRESS

President's Message

Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Dear PGES Families,

Can you feel Fall in the air...apple picking, opening our windows at night...all the joys of fall? I hope everyone has settled into the school year groove by now whether you are virtual or face to face. Thank you to all those who joined our zoom General Membership Meeting last month.

As you know our Fall Fundraiser with Charleston Wrap is underway! Please make sure you check this out. This is our major fundraiser of the year and allows us to hold our events, sponsor teacher appreciation events, and we are so close to our goal for the school electronic board. We need your support!

Please remember to join the PTA. You can join by sending in a check or through the online fees site.

Thank you for continuing to check out our newsletter on the PTA website and on Facebook. You can find it at 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 families and staff this year!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Beardslee
PTA President
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 Virtual Back-to-School night on October 1.

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. This year, our safety drills will be a little different to ensure social distancing, but still important to model good safety procedures in case we need to use them. Together, we will keep our Gators safe!

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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.

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 21 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 21.

FUN RUN IS MARCH 18, 2021! SAVE THE DATE!

The Fun Run will be our school-wide fundraiser that supports instructional materials and resources for all students. The school fundraiser focus is on instructional technology and instructional materials for students. We need to replace over 100 iPads that will no longer update due to age. This will take us a few years, but we are committed to provide our students tools and resources so they can learn using today's technology! The BoosterThon Fun Run theme will focus on character traits that we emphasize each day at PGES. So, look for more information to come, but save the date – March 18! More details to follow in 2021!

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	Elizabeth Verlander, Assistant Principal
Test Data Analysis	SOL testing
School Improvement	Textbooks
Personnel	Student Discipline
Crisis Safe School Plan	Bus and Transportation
Student Placement	Special Education & 504 Plans

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. 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.

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>.

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

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.

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 for this 9 weeks is KINDNESS. 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 November 12th.

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 shared via teacher communication. Kindergarten and 5th grade small groups will be planned once school data is assessed and topics can be determined.

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 26th-30th.

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 take-home materials.

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

Community Programs

PGES Gators Read

The Community Programs committee covers all of the assorted ways that families can support Pole Green and help raise money for our school and our students without spending any extra money or participating in fund raisers. These programs work with the items you already purchase and the rewards programs for stores at which you already shop. We collect Box Tops, Coke codes, Little Entenmann's muffin wrappers, used printer ink cartridges, and the metal pop tops off of food containers, wet pet food cans, and beverage cans. We also participate in the Amazon Smile program and you can select Pole Green Elementary PTA as your charity of choice when you shop through that program.

This month's highlight is the Box Tops program. Most Box Tops are not the cut out and send in format anymore. Most Box Tops credits are now received easily through the scanning of your store receipt into a Box Tops for Education app which is free to download onto your phone. When you are done shopping, just scan your receipt into the app using the camera on your phone and submit your receipt. The app will locate all of the products you purchased which participate in the Box Tops program and automatically add up the amount of money you have earned. You set up the app to donate to Pole Green Elementary and your earnings are sent to us. It is a super easy process which can be done in less than 2 minutes whenever you go to the store. **It is important to remember that you must scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase, so you can not save them all until you pay the bills to scan them as it may be too late!

On Line Learner Families and Home School Families... you can still participate in collecting items for our Community Programs projects! A tub has been placed outside the front door of the school. It is clearly labeled as PGES PTA Community Programs and contains pictures of our various programs. Just drive by the school and place your collected items in the tub. We will take care of the rest! Thank you so much for your continued participation with our programs, and your support of Pole Green Elementary! We are looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Summer Reading Success!

Thank you to all the families who were able to participate in our Summer Reading programs virtually! We had great attendance at our Book Share events, our student writing retreat, and our Book Club reading of Finding Gobi. Students also had the challenge to read 1,000 minutes over the summer. If you completed the gameboard all the way to 1,000 minutes of reading, please take a picture of the gameboard and email the picture to Mrs. Dauksys, our literacy specialist, at jdauksys@hcps.us. Thank you and keep on reading!

Charleston Wrap

Greeting Great Gator families!

We are happy to announce that we will be using Charleston wrap again this year for our big fundraiser, although it will look a little different. This years fundraiser will be HYBRID. What does this mean?

For our face to face families, your child will come home with a flyer and brochure. The flyer will have the website to place all orders. The brochure is to show to close family or whomever lives with you. **NO ORDER FORMS WILL BE SENT TO SCHOOL!** All orders will ship directly to your home or you can have family and friends order directly through the website and it will be shipped to them. Students will still receive prizes that will be sent to them in their order box.

For virtual and homeschool families, you can still participate. The website link will be posted on the Facebook page as well as the PTA website and sent in an eConnect. You can have family and friends order items to be shipped directly to them. Students will still earn prizes that will be sent in their order boxes.

Everyone can participate, we can all raise money to support Pole Green and **NO ONE HAS TO PICK ANYTHING UP AT SCHOOL!!!!** Let's do our part to support our Great Gator School!

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, 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:
<https://pals.virginia.edu>. Sites that do a good job of reinforcing some of these important skills are <https://www.abcya.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.

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.

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

October will be an exciting month in 2nd grade! We will continue to practice and review our classroom routines and procedures. In math we will introduce and begin work in a couple of new units: Addition Facts to 10 as well as Doubles Facts and 2 Digit Place Value. In science, we will complete our unit on Magnets. In social studies will begin a new unit on Maps. Please remember that October 12th is an early release day.



Grade Level News(Continued)

Third Grade

Wow! It's already October and we are certainly getting into the groove of learning in third grade! Our writing focus will be IDEAS as students get used to the routines of writing workshop and independent journal writing. We will use a variety of mentor texts written by amazing authors to jumpstart lessons about where authors get their ideas and how to write a seed story rather than a watermelon story (narrow that idea to a small event and then elaborate!). Students will also work on writing teacher-prompted pieces such as autobiographies. In third grade, we write across the curriculum all day long and we love it!

Third grade is certainly that bridge between learning to read and reading to learn. We continue to learn so much about literature through our daily chapter book and interactive read aloud times. We use these stories as springboards for our comprehension skill focus each day. We will focus heavily on comprehension skills in third grade beginning with characterization, making predictions, author's purpose, and problem/solution. Students will still work in guided reading groups this year. We will just make sure there are less children in a group and that we are spaced out during our group time.

In the area of mathematics, third graders will begin to work on computation. After a very quick review of basic addition and subtraction, we will investigate missing addends and balanced equations. From there, we will practice estimating, adding, and subtracting numbers within 999. Third graders work on problem solving each morning with our Daily Word Problems!

We have completed our study of economics in social studies and are now moving onto learning all about matter and measurement during science. As we use our Foss kits, students will be involved in many hands-on experiments during this unit. The focus is on water and how various solids and liquids interact with water, including a focus on dissolving. Science rules!



Grade Level News(Continued)

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade team is off to a great start! We spent the month of September establishing good friendships while learning all the new procedures for F2F instruction. Now that we have settled in, we have so much to learn!

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. As we start the new month, we will look at the author's purpose and how to use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

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 daily routine at home. 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. As we wrap up the month, we will look at number patterns.

In our Virginia History, we will learn about the Native Americans that lived in Virginia in the past, as well as, the current state recognized tribes. Students will look closely at their way of life and how Native Americans used Virginia's natural resources in their daily lives.

Our Science unit for the month will be on Ecosystems. Students will study different ecosystems and how all living and nonliving things interact with each other.

Fifth Grade

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

5th grade math classes will focus on computation of whole numbers. All students should be secure in their multiplication facts.

Our science unit will include "Electricity and Magnetism". Please remember to have your child review their science folder each evening.

Reading and Language Arts classes are geared toward writing in complete sentences and making strong connections to literature.





Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 2020



10/2 CUSTODIAL WORKERS DAY

10/7 SPIRIT NIGHT: CHICKEN SALAD CHICK 4-8PM

10/9 CHARLESTON WRAP FUNDRAISER ENDS

10/12 SPIRIT NIGHT: MCDONALD'S 5-8PM

10/19 SPIRIT DAY: MARTY'S (ALL DAY)

10/19-23 BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

10/29 SPIRIT NIGHT: THE PATRON 4-7PM

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20th of each month.

Maurice Aufderheide— Editor
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