



November 2019
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Issue 3

Pole Green Elementary School
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POLE GREEN PRESS

President's Message

Happy November parents, students and staff!

Thank you to all who participated in our October events! An extra thank you to the volunteers who continue to make these events possible.

Thank you to all the male role models that came out to our Watch D.O.G.S pizza night held on 10/17/19. It was great seeing you all. It is not too late to sign up or get more information about the program. The purpose for the Watch D.O.G.S program is to provide positive male role models for all students, by demonstrating their presence that education is important. As a Watch D.O.G., they will be mentors, enhance school security, and reduce bullying by being an extra set of eyes and ears around the school.

We have created a schedule for Watch DOGS to follow in order to make sure that they have the chance to interact with students of a variety of grade levels. This will ensure that all students can benefit from the positive influence of our Watch DOGS. We know that as fathers, grandfathers, and other father figures that you would like to spend some time with your child.

If you are interested in being a Watch DOG, you can find the daily schedule and sign up with our SignUp genius page <http://bit.ly/PGESWatchDog19>

Remember that you will also have to have a completed an online volunteer form to participate. It can be found here <http://bit.ly/HanoverVolunteer>

If you have any questions you may contact our Watch DOGS coordinator, Clark Jennings at CBJennings@gmail.com.

A special thank you goes out to all the students who entered into the Reflections contest. We are excited to have such a creative bunch of students this year! Winners will be announced at our Reflections Awards Ceremony November 14th and all entries will be on display at this time.

Finally, don't forget you can take a break from cooking on November 18th and eat at Marty's for our Spirit Day. Thank you all for your support to the PTA. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Beardslee
president@polegreenpta.org

For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

November begins the time of year when we show our "thanks" for those who are appreciated at PGES. A GREAT Gator thank you to every parent who has assisted the school, teacher, class, PTA, participated in the fundraiser, sent in donation items, or attended a school spirit night for dinner. Everything you do benefits ALL students at PGES, so thank you! Our students certainly gain from your volunteer work and dedication to improving our school. Of course, a GREAT Gator thank you also goes out to the students for their hard work so far. Our first reports cards will come home on Friday, November 11 and they show your hard work. GREAT job! Last, but definitely not least, is a thank you to the teachers and staff at PGES who spend countless hours planning, preparing and implementing lessons for our students. You are a GREAT Team! Together, we are all GREAT Gators! Thank you!

PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD 2019

PGES is very proud of our GREAT relationship with our parents and community. We are truly a team working to ensure our school is preparing our students for current and future learning. Congratulations PTA on your School of Excellence Award, again!! You are very deserving of this recognition!! Thank you again for all that you do for our school!

PGES SOL Scores for Spring 2019

Parents, here are the PGES SOL results for Spring 2019. These scores represent the average for each grade and subject area.

Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Reading Total School 90%
Math Total School 95%
Science Total School 87%
Social Studies School Total 91%

Counselor's Corner

Happy November! We have done A LOT of things in the past two months of school. Students learned a lot of important information about bullying during the month of October. There were morning announcements made every week, as well as classroom guidance lessons in grades 3, 4, and 5, regarding the topic of bullying. The Great Gators enjoyed a spirit-filled spirit week to remind them of how we can come together as a school and put an end to bullying behaviors.

We have been meeting with as many students as we can, but there is only one counselor at PGES every day! In order to promote self-advocacy and responsibility, we have "counseling slips" accessible in all classrooms, 1st-5th. We have been talking with students a lot about leadership and self-advocacy. We have talked about how it is absolutely okay when you do not understand something, or when you make a mistake. It is then your responsibility to ask your teacher for help or reach out to another adult when you are having a hard time. It has been amazing to see how many counseling slips have been filled out in such a short period of time!

Holiday Assistance Information:

If you are in need of holiday help or if you are wanting to assist families in need during the holiday season, please contact Sydney Hobbs as soon as possible. We have already sent a letter home last month in Tuesday Folders for those of who may be in need. We could always use more families to help in supplying our families in need with holiday assistance. Whether that be in toys, clothing, or gift card form, we would appreciate anything you are willing to give! Please call 804-365-4705 or email shobbs@hcps.us.

Membership

We are off to a great start with our PTA memberships. We have a total of 378 members! We are aiming for 100% membership this year in our school.

Congratulations to Mrs. McMackin's 3rd grade class for being the first class to achieve 100% membership! They will enjoy a class ball or book, McDonalds coupons for free ice cream and a PJ party at the end of the nine weeks! Mrs. McMackin will get money for supplies for her class. We have several other teachers that are so close to earning the next award!

Stop by the front desk, PTA table at an event or go online <https://osp.osmsinc.com/HanoverVA/> to join.

Charleston Wrap

We have successfully completed our first fundraiser of the 2019-2020 school year. Charleston Wrap seemed to be a big hit. THANK YOU so much for your orders from Charleston wrap!! We raised over \$18,000. Our portion of these funds will help to fund our numerous school activities, such as movie nights and help to sponsor things like field trips, books, special school supplies and our teacher incentive programs. We offer our sincere thanks and gratitude. We could not have done it without all of you! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations to Brenda Hall for being PTA's Volunteer of the Month for October! Thank you for the time and talent you have given to our school!

Holly Jolly Open House

The Holly Jolly Holiday Open House is coming up on November 23rd from 8:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this special event to kick off the holiday season! The halls of PGES will be filled with family-friendly fun for all ages. There will be a delicious french toast breakfast, the original RVA Santa, games and activities for kids, shopping with local artisans and vendors, amazing auction items to bid on including gift certificates, themed baskets, and unique experiences with PGES staff, and MUCH more! There will also be performances from School of Dance Arts and Oak Knoll & Hanover High School Orchestra. You don't want to miss this event! More details will be sent home in Tuesday folders and can also be found on our Facebook Page.

The Penguin Shop

The Penguin Shop is coming to PGES! This is a special opportunity for children to shop for their family and friends all on their own! The shop will offer a wide variety of affordable gifts for everyone on your child's list. Your child can experience making a shopping list, creating a budget, selecting gifts (helpers will be available for our youngest shoppers) and wrapping gifts all on their own. The shop will be open on Friday, November 22nd during the school day, again that evening from 5-7, and all day on November 23rd during the Holly Jolly Open House. More details will be sent home in Tuesday folders.

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

We had a great time on our Field Trip to the Hanover Vegetable Farm! We would like to thank all the parents who either chaperoned the Field Trip or met us at the farm.

We began Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening on October 15th. 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 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>. The kindergarten teachers will be discussing the results of the PALS assessment at Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, November 5th.

We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of our fall Parent-Teacher Conference Day, November 5th. 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.

The month of November will be a busy month in Kindergarten. The students will begin formal reading groups with the teacher. They will also begin comparing and ordering numbers 0-10, as well as composing and decomposing numbers 0-5. We will discuss Past & Present, Native Americans, and Pilgrims.

Please continue to check your child's Goal Folder for specific concepts and skills to reinforce at home. Also, please read the book in your child's Reading Bag with him/her each night. We appreciate your continued support!

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 had a great time on our Field Trip to Ashland Berry Farm on October 13th! 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 conference day, November 7th. 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

With the upcoming celebration of our Thanksgiving holiday, the Pole Green First Grade teachers would like to express their thanks for the privilege to teach and learn with your children every day of the school year.

T is for the talented young boys and girls in our classrooms
H is for the happy faces we see each day
A is for the awesome accomplishments of your children
N is for the nice things your children say to us
K is for the kind hearts that your children share
S is for the special qualities of each child
G is for the gift of love your children share with us
I is for the individual uniqueness of every child
V is for the VERY exciting days in first grade
I is for the involvement of you in your children's education
N is for the natural abilities each of your children possess
G is for the GREATEST kids of all: FIRST GRADERS!

We certainly hope you have a most blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We look forward to sharing the final weeks of 2019 with your children and eagerly anticipate the dawn of new adventures in 2020!

~ the First Grade Team



Second Grade

It's hard to believe that it's already time to start thinking about turkey and stuffing! Here in second grade, a favorite November activity involves disguising turkeys as a fun at-home project to share at school. It's always great to see the kids' creativity at its finest! Be on the lookout for this project to come home soon.

Our language arts time has us busily focusing on narrative elements and making connections to strengthen our comprehension of fiction stories. As we enjoy non-fiction stories during our shared reading time, we are sure to identify the importance of the table of contents, glossary, and index.

During our writing workshop time, we are using all of the wonderful ideas we accumulated back in September to learn to write small moment narrative stories. We use the watermelon and seed analogy to learn to narrow our topics and elaborate with more details. Students will also be spending some time learning to revise their stories, paying close attention to capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

We are turning our attention to subtraction strategies, fact families, and missing addends during math to build a strong number sense and computation foundation. We spend a great deal of time on this unit to be sure the children have a firm understanding of the concepts and skills and learn to use a variety of strategies during their problem-solving. Our next unit of study will be place value which is crucial to so many mathematical topics that we will explore later in the year and that they will need to understand in their mathematical future as well.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their study of matter, specifically solids and liquids. We've participated in a variety of hands-on activities in order to investigate the properties of these two states of matter. We will spend most of the month and part of December learning all about Native Americans, specifically three tribes from three different regions of the United States. This unit involves many hands-on activities, lots of fun songs, and a focus on respecting other cultures. It works out well that we are fully involved in this unit of study right at Thanksgiving time. We second grade teachers want you to know that we are thankful for your children and for all of your support and encouragement at home. Happy Thanksgiving!

Grade Level News(Continued)

4th Grade

The 4th grade team is excited to announce our annual trip to Colonial Williamsburg on Thursday, November 14th. This visit allows the students to experience life in Colonial Virginia. The students will have an opportunity to see how the government was run in the 1700's, explore the role tobacco played in the colonies and maybe even meet an important person from this time period.

In math, students will focus on patterns and graphing. Please continue to work on multiplication facts. This is a great time to allow your child to play math games on the computer. The key to success in fourth grade is having a strong foundation in your basic math facts. In science, our students will learn about magnets and electricity in our next unit. They will determine what is needed to make a circuit work, as well as determine what makes an electromagnet.

Please continue to have your child complete and turn in the weekly study log for science and social studies. With over 400 years of Virginia history to learn, including two wars, it is very important that your child is studying each night. We hope you all have a holiday filled with family, food and fun!



5th Grade

November will be action-packed for our 5th graders. Noteworthy events include our field trip to the Virginia Aquarium, our DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education with Officer Bohannon) lessons, and our Thanksgiving holiday. In other news, our second rotation of science instruction is in full swing, so each class is being instructed in a different unit with a different instructor. Stay tuned to your child's homework agenda for test dates and project due dates. In 5th grade math classes, we're focusing on decimal computation.



What is happening this month

Give Thanks

Thanksgiving

November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 Early Release	2
3 Daylight Savings	4	5 No School— Parent Teacher Conferences	6 Jumpology	7 Good snacks with Grans 7:30- 8:15am	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Reflections Award Ceremony 6:30pm AC Moore Spirit Day	15	16
17	18 Martys Spirit Day	19	20	21	22 Holiday Shop	23 Holiday Open House
24	25	26	27 No School Happy Thanksgiving	28	29	30

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