



April 2018  
Volume 18  
Issue 8

## Pole Green Elementary School

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# POLE GREEN PRESS

## Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

April showers bring May flowers! Springtime is here, and the students are enjoying the changes in our weather. Please remember as the temperatures increase, the school dress code should be followed. Students need to wear appropriate shoes for playing at recess and P.E. If students wear shoes with an open heel (sandals, flip flops, clogs, etc.), they will not be permitted to participate in certain activities or access recess equipment due to safety concerns. Girls should wear shirts that have a one-inch width band across the shoulder and that do not expose the midriff. Backless or spaghetti strap shirts or dresses are not considered appropriate for school. Shorts should be longer than a student's fist hanging by their side.

The students in grades 3-5 will start reviewing for the SOL tests in May and June, which means parents will see resources sent home as study guides or review binders to help prepare your child for these important tests. Students are encouraged to start reviewing SOL material in preparation for the May and June SOL tests on a regular basis to feel comfortable with the information. Your teachers will provide reviews at school, but additional review at home is important.

The month of April and early May is also an important time for classroom teachers to start making final contacts with parents about students who may need to be retained due to weak skills. There are specific reading benchmarks students are expected to meet each year in consideration for promotion to the next grade due to the increased reading independence level on students. Please work with your teacher as needed to promote reading success with your student. Final retention meetings will be held in late May to give students time for reading growth.

Happy Spring Pole Green families! I hope everyone enjoyed a much needed and relaxing spring break. These final months we have some great family events planned and hope to see you there.

Our annual Science night will be taking place on April 17th. This event is fun, with plenty of hands on activities for the kids. We will also be holding the 2017-2018 PTA executive board elections.

We will be testing a new type of Spirit Day with the Chick-Fil-A mobile app on April 23rd. A portion of all orders placed using the free Chick-Fil-A app that Monday will go to benefiting Pole Green!

May 18th we'll wrap up our after-school events with a free movie night. Keep an eye on Tuesday folders for more information on what movie will be screened and potential dinner options.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events!

Be Well,  
Sam Hudgins  
PTA President  
[president@pgespta.org](mailto:president@pgespta.org)

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

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

## Great Gator Fun Run!

The PGES Great Gator Fun Run was a huge success! We earned over \$20,000 and Ms. Voorhees and Ms. Luck wore onesie PJ's to school all day to celebrate! A huge thank you to our GREAT families, friends, community members, students and teachers for supporting our school. We look forward to the GREAT opportunities we will be able to provide students.

SAVE the date! Yes, you are hearing it here first! Our Great Gator Fun Run date will be March 21, 2019, with a kickoff date of March 12-21 for our 2018-2019 school fundraiser! We had 37 states and two countries represented this year! Can be top it? We'll find out!!

## Counselor's Corner

Happy April and Happy Spring!

As we begin to finish up our regular scheduled classroom guidance lessons, students will be given two extra classroom lessons on Career Exploration. Career lessons in elementary school? That's right! Career Exploration is one of the 3 School Counseling domains in which we have to cover during our classroom lessons. Students will not only discuss what they would like to be when he or she grows up, but they also will be able to identify different career clusters, and the occupations offered under those clusters. It is never too early to start exploring your future! A future career goal allows students to work that much harder in school because they have something to work toward.

In addition to these lessons, 4th and 5th grade students will be taking career interest surveys and saving them to their "Career Counseling" folder in Google Drive. This folder will follow them through the 12th grade. Your student's future school counselors and career counselors will utilize and add on to the folder as he or she continues on through Hanover County Schools.

Several small groups will still be offered between now and the end of the school year for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. Miss Leonarkis will be running the group with 2nd grade. 5th grade will still be receiving Lunch Bunches where we will eat together as a small group, then work on the locker locks together for more practice.

Attention 5th grade parents and caregivers! Important news regarding Middle School!

A 6th Grade Shadow Day experience is also offered to two students from each 5th grade class. Only two students may be chosen to shadow an OKMS 6th grader for the day. The students will then report back to their class and share what they learned. This is an all day trip. Students chosen for the Shadow Day will leave Pole Green around 8:45 am and return to Pole Green by 1:30 pm. The classroom teachers will be choosing the two students from their classroom who are interested in the Shadow Day.

If your 5th grade student is attending another middle school other than the two listed above, I have already contacted you about tour/shadow day information. If you have not contacted me about your student attending a different middle school other than the ones listed, please notify me immediately.

Also, 5th grade parents: Please SAVE THE DATE! Tuesday, June 12th at 6:30 pm, Pole Green Elementary will hold a 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony. More details to come, but please make sure to go ahead and mark your calendars!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

# PTA Board Nominations 2018-2019

# Grade Level News

## Kindergarten

The nominations for next year's PTA board are as follows:

Samantha Hudgins - President  
Stephanie Beardslee - Vice President  
Stephanie Robertson - Treasurer  
Angie Williams - Recording Secretary  
Jennifer Ford - Corresponding Secretary

Elections will take place at the Family Science Night  
April 17th at 6:30.

The students looked FABULOUS as they came dressed to represent possible future career choices! It was interesting to hear them share what they wanted to do! We would also like to thank the parents for sending in items that represented your career. The students really enjoyed sharing their parent's career and learning about other career choices.

Please continue to review and reinforce the numbers 1-20 with your child. We will continue to review and build on skills previously acquired. As we look ahead to throughout the month of April, students will be counting by 1's and 10's to 100, and identifying one more and one less than a given number. Every child loves to play with money AND to spend money, so it is important that they understand the value of coins. You might reinforce the names of coins and their values by having your child sort the coins in your wallet. Have him count by 1's as you add up all the pennies, by 5's as you count up all the nickels, and by 10's as you add up all the dimes. A five to ten minute review using this game would be both fun and beneficial!

To encourage writing, have your child write notes or send emails to family members and friends telling about Spring Break adventures.

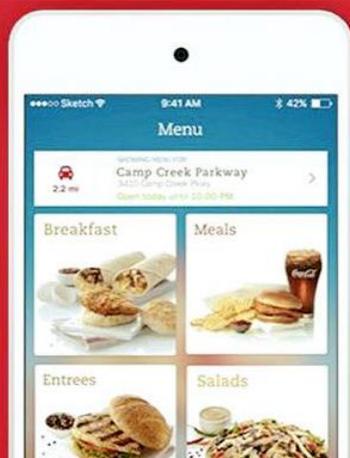
Please refer to your child's personal Goal Folder for individual goals that your child is working on. This is an exciting time of year as we see students beginning to SOAR with reading, writing and math skills. Please read with your child each night. Also, focusing on the word lists in the Goal Folder is very important. Knowing sight words will build your child's confidence when reading and help them become more fluent readers. Make reading together a priority in your family!



**Download the Chick-fil-A  
One Mobile App**

**Place a Mobile Order on  
April 23**

**Support Pole Green  
Elementary**



# Grade Level News (Continued)

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

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

Pole Green 1st "Gators" are showing their determination and perseverance when faced with a challenging activity or task. We GRIT it out and approach the challenge from different ways to achieve success!

- G Give it your all
- R Reach deep into your brain
- I Imagine the happiness you'll feel when you succeed
- T Take a positive approach to the challenge



It is hard to believe that we are entering into our final 9-weeks of school! We hope Spring Break brought your family some wonderful adventures, and that our students are ready for the home-stretch of second grade! Here is what we have in store for your child during the next month of school. :)

In Reading, we will be back to reading groups as normal, since we had been working on individual assessments prior to break. For Writing, we will be working more on descriptive writing, especially since the students are doing so well with understanding how to group their ideas in paragraph form. We are also very excited for to begin receiving Flat Stanley projects back from our students' friends or family members. The students will love to see their letters and chart their maps of places Flat Stanely has visited.

In Math, the students will be working to understand the concepts of Fractions and Counting Money. We will also continue to revisit our computation skills since we have worked so hard to learn to add and subtract correctly with and without regrouping.

For Unit Study, the students will begin our big Animal Unit in Science. We will learn animal life cycles, habitats, and adaptations for various animals. Mrs. Bryant has already begun to work on some of these concepts with students as they have researched in the library with her. In Social Studies, we will learn about Patriotic Symbols.

Thank you for everything that you do at home to support your child! We are so excited to watch your child grow even more in this final nine-weeks of school!

Sincerely,  
Second Grade Teachers

# Grade Level News (continued)

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

It's so hard to believe that spring break is already behind us! Third graders are starting to gear up for their very first SOL tests in both reading and math. We will take these tests at the end of May. What are we doing to review and prepare? In math, students complete a Daily SOL Review for morning work each day starting after spring break. We also begin completing about three review units a week for homework in our formal Math SOL Review Folder for about six weeks right after spring break. In addition, we are taking cold read assessments weekly in the area of reading to focus on test-taking, comprehension, word attack, and vocabulary skills. Students will take practice tests in both reading and math using paper/pencil and the laptop computers.

As we review for these tests, we continue with our fun-filled learning in all subject areas! In math, students are focusing on fractions, time, and money skills during the month of April. Third graders learn to add and subtract fractions with like denominators and to identify both improper and proper fractions. Making change and real life problem-solving continue to be our focus during our money unit. We love to play restaurant with a variety of menus! Bon appetit!

In the area of social studies, students are learning all about the ancient civilization of Rome, including its land, art and architecture, government, and trade. We can now compare this amazing civilization to that of ancient Greece. Science turns our attention to animal adaptations. We just love researching various animals to determine how they survive in their environments on a daily basis. We even have the opportunity to create our own creatures, making sure that they have sufficient adaptations to live long lives! Third graders are excited about heading to The Virginia Living Museum towards the end of the month on April 18th to culminate our unit and learn even more about the amazing world of animals!

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

Now that spring is here, the fourth grade team is working hard to finish teaching all new units/content so that we can begin reviewing for the SOL tests. In reading, the students will be continuing to practice test-taking strategies with cold read passages. Parents can help by reviewing their weekly assignments, encouraging their child to read independently at home and having your child spend quality time on Study Island.

In Social Studies, the students will finish their study of Virginia History with a focus on the the 20thCentury and the Branches of Government. A great way to help your child learn about our government is to take a tour of the state capitol building. It is very informative and free! Another excellent tool to review all of the social studies content is the website [solpass.org](http://solpass.org) (password: gogators).

Our final math units will include elapsed time, as well as probability. Once again, the best way to help your child is to review their homework with them and encourage them to spend quality time on Study Island. If you have not heard about [scholasticstudyjams.com](http://scholasticstudyjams.com), please check out this awesome website. It is another way for your child to enjoy reviewing math and science content!

The 4th Grade Team



# Grade Level News (continued)

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

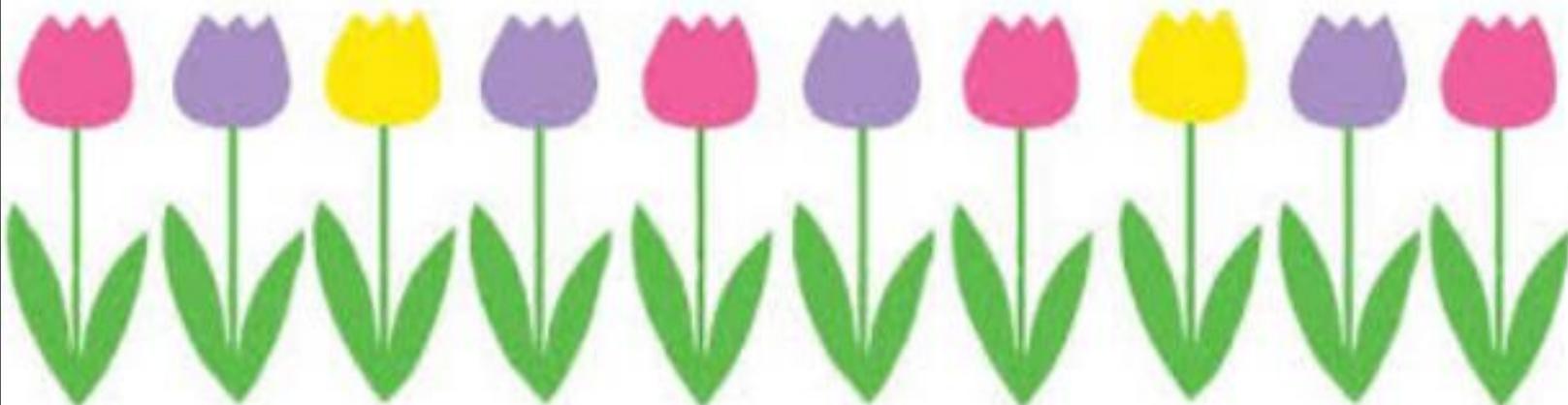
Another 5th grade milestone has marched right by us. Recently our PGES resource officer, Officer Bohannon, trained our students in the DARE program. Each student participated in instruction on resisting the illegal and irresponsible use of drugs and alcohol. We are so thankful for the pledge that each one of our students made in this regard.

In order to graduate from the DARE program, each student was asked to write an essay and create a poster to share the information they had learned. The message of resistance rang loudly and clearly, as each child presented their own masterpiece with their classmates. We are so proud of each of them.

Officer Bohannon and his panel of judges selected these, outstanding entries for the classroom awards:

Teacher	Poster Winners	Essay Winners
Bowman	1. Abbie 2. TJ 3. Ben	Peyton Skylar Sydney
Carrique	1. Patty 2. Nevaeh 3. Logan	Grayson Kristen Anna
Gordon	1. Carrington 2. Chris 3. Isaac	Abby CC Riley
Wilson	1. Peter 2. Liam 3. Nathan	Gabby Daunte Jaelynn

The overall winner from the 5th grade class comes from Mrs. Gordon's class, Hero Hood.





# What is happening this month



## April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Report Cards Go Home	14
15	16	17 6:30 Science Night	18	19 8-4 Kindergarten Registration	20	21
22	23 Chick-Fil-A Mobile App Spirit Day	24	25	26 Now a Full Day	27 K-5 Field Day	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

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