



February 2020
Volume 20
Issue 6

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

Happy February,

First, I want to send out a great big 'Thank You' to all attended and volunteered at our Winter Wonderland Dance! We had a blast dancing the night away. As a reminder, the pictures taken at the dance will be sent home in students backpacks in the coming weeks. Thank you for patience as we print and sort them all.

We had such a wonderful time volunteering at bingo last month. Please take a look at the schedule and see if you can sign up to help. Dinner and drinks are provided for volunteering for this fundraising event. Get your friends together and come on out.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AEAC2EA7F49-bingo>

This month we have all new spirit night events planned for you so make sure to check the calendar and Tuesday folders for all the fun events coming your way.

We need your help!!! We have the treasurer position open on the board next year please let me know if you are interested or have any questions about the position.

I would like to continue to encourage you to support our Spirit Nights and Community Programs with Box Tops. These events and programs help raise money for our PTA, so we can continue to support our children and the staff of PGES. Thank you for taking time to support our school.

Thank you for your continued support,
Stephanie Beardslee
PTA President
president@polegreenpta.org

We are now in the second semester of school. Our students and teachers continue to work hard each day and their accomplishments are on display throughout the building. You can enjoy pictures, posters, and projects in each hall and even in the cafeteria.

This is also the time during the school year when teachers assess individual student progress. Sometimes student skills may lag behind the grade level expectations. In determining the best academic path for each student, a teacher may contact you about a possible retention and establish goals for student progress. The "possible retention" notice is an alert that a student will not be ready for the next grade at the academic pace he or she is making, and therefore, interventions both at school and home will be necessary. Final decisions for retention are not made until May. In addition, letters will be sent home to students who may be in danger of violating the county attendance policy. Student attendance is crucial for academic progress and we appreciate your efforts to have your children at school each day and in the classroom on time to limit the interruptions to all students and teachers. Our next parent-teacher conferences are on Wednesday, February 26. Your child's teacher will schedule a conference with you if needed to discuss academic concerns. If you have specific concerns about your child's progress, please schedule a conference with the teacher.

For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

Administrator's Corner

R.E.B. Teaching Award Nominations

The R.E.B. Awards for Teaching Excellence were established in 1988 to recognize public school teachers who have distinguished themselves by their inspiring classroom performance. This program has been developed by The Community Foundation and is funded by the R.E.B. Foundation. The R.E.B. Foundation believes that a child's educational experience at the elementary, middle, and high school levels should develop basic skills and form positive life-long habits toward learning and discipline. The R.E.B. Foundation is committed to improving public education so as to benefit a broad segment of the community.

The R.E.B. awards are designed to identify, recognize, and support teaching excellence in the metropolitan Richmond public school systems. Grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$12,000 each will be given to approximately fifteen teachers to support professional development activities. Recipients will be required to share educational ideas and experiences with fellow teachers.

The Community Foundation invites nominations from students, parents, colleagues, school personnel and administration, and the community at-large. Teachers are not permitted to self-nominate and Principals may not nominate their own teachers. The eleven-member Steering Committee will review each nomination to determine final candidates. Final candidates will be asked to submit proposals and participate in an interview describing use of the award.

If you are interested in nominating a teacher, please visit the website for full criteria details for nomination and eligibility rules at <http://www.tcfrichmond.org/>

Counselor's Corner

Happy February everyone! I was able to meet with and register all 5th graders for Middle School! Wohoo! Please let me know if you have any questions regarding middle school registration. A course verification form will be going home with each 5th grade student in March.

Since I am officially done with middle school registration, I am now able to get back in the classroom for classroom guidance lessons. Each grade level receives lessons related to academic, personal/social, and career standards. 1st grade lessons will include various topics such as: feelings, self-control, caring character, listening, as well as two career lessons. 2nd grade lessons will receive diversity, checking your work, friendship, and honesty lessons, as well as two career lessons. 3rd grade lessons will consist of: learning styles, stress reduction, cooperation, positive thinking/growth mindset, as well as two career lessons. 4th grade lessons will consist of: homework help, stress reduction, goal setting, perseverance, as well as two career lessons. The majority of 5th grade lessons during the spring will be middle school transition lessons, as well as two career lessons.

Along with my career lessons, I am still asking for a parent volunteers in each classroom (1st-5th), to come in and present about his or her career. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at (804)365-4705 or shobbs@hcps.us.

Sydney Ellis Hobbs
PGES School Counselor

Membership

A Great Gator applause for Mrs. Gordon's 5th grade class for achieving 100% PTA membership in their class for the 3rd 9 weeks!!! They earned a PJ day, McDonalds coupon for free ice cream and a book or a ball for their class. Mrs. Gordon will also be awarded money for classroom supplies!!! We still have a few classes so close (only one or two off) from our next award. Who will be next?



Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations Cynthia Dorotich for being PTA's Volunteer of the Month for February! Her children are in Mrs. Healy and Mrs. Morrisons class. Thank you for the time and talent you have given to our school!

Winter Dance

Thank you to all the volunteers and families that came out to the 3rd annual PGES Winter Dance! We had a great turn out and everyone had a blast. Photos from the evening will be coming home in your students Tuesday folders. Can't wait to see you back out on the dance floor next year.



Bingo

Do you have a few friends who are looking for something fun and easy to do? Would you like to help raise money for the PTA while having a good time? Then Bingo is for you. Get ready for Bingo night at the Mechanicsville Little League! Enjoy a few hours of fun selling instant win tickets to bingo players. A complementary meal is included at the concession stand and unlimited soft drinks all night! Our next date is Saturday February 8th from 530-930pm. Come join us for some fun. Sign up below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AEAC2EA7F49-bingo>

Grade Level News

1st Grade

The season of LOVE is upon us! So, what do the Pole Green first grade teachers love about school? Read on to find out!

- V Very motivated students
- A Action in the classroom
- L Late arrivals for weather (okay, okay...)
- E Exciting learning opportunities
- N New books to read
- T Thoughtful story writing
- I Interesting student ideas
- N New discoveries
- E exciting science experiments
- '
- S Smiling students faces
- D Delightful compliments from students
- A Another chance to make a difference
- Y Young minds growing



Second Grade

Love is in the air and second graders are as busy as can be! During our language arts time, we are writing letters and paragraphs. Get ready for our big Flat Stanley project to begin soon! Our comprehension focus at the beginning of the month will be making connections to self, text, and world while reading. Students will also be reading and writing a variety of biographies to correlate with our study of famous Americans during social studies. We continue to read an amazing array of interactive read aloud stories, shared reading big books, fluency passages and poems along with our Scholastic News magazines. You can always catch second graders reading and writing!

Our math lessons involve a wide variety of topics including geometry and graphing. Students are investigating and comparing plane and solid shapes, taking a look at their edges, corners, vertices, and faces. Students are also learning all about the wonderful world of bar and picture graphs. We will read, interpret, and construct both types of graphs. It's always fun to relate graphing to the world around us as we create our own questions and then collect our own data.

We will spend the majority of February focusing on communities, civics, and famous Americans. This is a great time of year to revisit rules, routines, and procedures as we learn about the character traits of a good citizen. As we take a look at ten influential leaders in our nation's past, students will analyze how these individuals exhibited these traits. We will enjoy creating our own book of biographies about these trail blazers as we read a variety of biographies about them!

Some other highlights of February include Donuts with Dad on February 13th and of course, Valentine's Day on February 14th! We look forward to Valentine's Day as we pass out special notes to our classmates and read kind messages from our friends. Your child's teacher will be sending home information regarding Valentine's Day details soon.

Grade Level News(Continued)

3rd Grade

Third grade is having a great start to 2020! In the area of science, we are focusing on animal habitats. Students are investigating specific habitats around our world, including animals, plant life, physical characteristics, and climate. We will have a blast creating trioramas showcasing each habitat in a 3D version. Later in February, students will learn all about the amazing world of ancient Greece. From the vast landscape itself to the brilliant government to the beautiful architecture, Greece always intrigues our third graders!

We are busy working on multiplication concepts and facts during our math time! Students will begin learning the facts of 0, 1, 2, 5, and 10. There are so many great tips and tricks and we try to teach them all. It really is important that students spend some at-home time each week learning their facts. It's better to learn them now than to have to continue to memorize them in fourth or even fifth grade when so many other math skills rely on the quick recall of multiplication facts. So try to really get excited about it and encourage your child to use his/her grit and reach those math goals.

Students continue to read a variety of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry while focusing on specific comprehension skills and fluency strategies during our language arts block. We spend a great deal of class time writing in our journals as well. We will continue with our daily read aloud, focusing on multiple comprehension strategies. As we near springtime, we are definitely spending some more time working on cold reads to practice those test-taking skills. We're focusing on learning how to answer questions about fiction, non-fiction, and poetry passages. Happy February!

4th Grade

In February, the teachers will be holding parent/teacher conferences. If your child is struggling in an area it is essential to meet with your child's teacher to discuss strategies that can be developed to help improve your child's academic experience.

This month, the students will continue their study of fractions in math class. It is very helpful if parents check their child's homework daily to make sure that their child understands the concepts. Fractions can be challenging for 4th graders so please give them an extra hand.

Our focus for Virginia History will be on Reconstruction. We will also be learning about Forces and Motion in our next Science unit. Don't forget to check out Study Jams and SOLpass.org for review activities.

5th Grade

Wow! Our 5th graders are half way through their last year in elementary school. We continue with our DARE lessons during the month of February. We'll also spend time preparing to take the reading and math benchmark tests. Our language arts classes continue to focus on developing, and practicing good writing and reading skills. Most math classes will be busy with "Fraction Computation". Science and Social Studies courses round out our curriculum, by continuing with our fourth rotation for science, and taking a look at the different regions across our grand country in social studies.

What is happening this month

February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 ← Counselor's Week	4	5 Spirit Night at Zaxby's 5-8	6	7 →	8 Bingo at Mechanicsville Little League
9	10 Spirit Night at Panera 4-8pm	11	12	13 Donuts with Dad	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Chorus Performance 6:30pm	21	22
23	24	25 2 hour early release TSAC Mardi Gras Event for the teachers/staff	26 2 hour early release	27	28	29

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