



# PANDA PRESS

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School Counselors: Tina Kubala, [kkubala@bcps.org](mailto:kkubala@bcps.org) and Carly Okeson, [cokeson@bcps.org](mailto:cokeson@bcps.org)

School Nurse: Kelly Franker: [kfranker@bcps.org](mailto:kfranker@bcps.org)

Caliday Extended Care: (410) 329 – 8378

**School Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Morning Drop-off Times: 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

**Afternoon Pick-up Time: 4:00 p.m.**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Pine Grove Panda Family!

Happy Spring!



I hope you have had the opportunity to spend time with your loved ones during Spring Break. It is hard to believe that we are headed into the fourth quarter of school. Let's remind students that although we are close, school is not over yet. There is still lots of curriculum to teach and work to be done.

Join me in congratulating our March attendance winners. The following classes have earned the opportunity to display the *Excellent Attendance Banner* in their classrooms for the month of April. Keep in mind that classes must meet the attendance goal with at least 94%.

- KG- Ms. Heckscher's Class at 95.45%
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Ms. Rankin's Class at 94.14%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Ms. Gentle's Class at 96.25%
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Ms. Lautar's Class at 95.31%
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Ms. Giuffrida's Class at 95.38%
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Ms. Richardson's Class at 95.16%

See you back on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>!

~Ms. Lewis, Principal

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

Please encourage your students to check the *Lost and Found* just outside of the main office. Any items remaining after April 5<sup>th</sup> will be donated.

If you have changed your phone number, email, address, and other contact information please notify the main office so this can be updated in Focus. We need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency.

## DATES TO REMEMBER – A LOOK AHEAD...

**Monday, March 25 – Monday, April 1** – Spring Break

**Tuesday, April 2** – First Day Back from Spring Break

**Wednesday, April 3** – Kindergarten Roundup (Call to Schedule an Appointment)

**Thursday, April 4** – Pre-K Roundup (Call to Schedule an Appointment)

**Friday, April 5** – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period / School Closes for Students at 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 10** – Systemwide Professional Development Day – School Closed for Students

**Tuesday, April 16** – Report Card Distribution and PTA Meeting

## ELA MCAP TESTING DATES

**Grade 5:** 4/8, 4/9, 4/11, 4/12

**Grades 3 and 4:** 4/15, 4/16, 4/17, 4/18

## CARPOOL

Parents, please remain in your vehicles in the carpool line when picking up students. We request that you do not walk up to the carpool area to pick up. If you would like to change your child's dismissal procedure on any given day, please send in a note to the teacher or contact the office and we can accommodate you.

Also, take note of the **Right Turn Only** sign at the carpool exit. There are no left turns out of the carpool lane from 8:00-9:30 a.m. and 3:00-4:30 p.m. When cars attempt to make left turns during these times, it backs up the carpool line. We also ask that you do not cut in line in front of those who have been patiently waiting their turn. We appreciate your assistance with helping our carpool to run smoothly.



## AVID NEWS





Pine Grove Elementary continues to be an AVID school. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Its purpose is to shift schools to a more equitable, student-centered approach and close the opportunity gap, so that all students are prepared for college, careers, and life. Our AVID schoolwide initiatives include color coding, desk organization, Costa’s Level of Questioning, and focused notetaking.

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

### Elementary Social and Emotional Learning Daily Activities

April 2024

Mind Over Matters Suggested Activities Mind Over Matters Campaign 2023-2024			
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
<b>Brain Breaks:</b> Browse Pure Edge’s video library to experience 2-to-9-minute video tutorials that help bring student success through focus and sense of calm.	<b>Mindfulness:</b> Activities for students to help them live in the present and focus on the positive using mindfulness.	<b>Growth Mindset:</b> Activities to explain growth mindset to students - <a href="#">Teaching Kids About the Brain</a> ; <a href="#">Neuroplasticity Activities: Big Life Journal</a> .	<b>5-Minute Chats with Students:</b> This resource provides a template and sample questions for one-on-one chats with students for building relationships.

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊				
<b>Circle Prompt:</b> What job do you think you might want to do when you enter the workforce?	<b>Wrinkled Hearts:</b> Have students cut out a paper heart then wrinkle it all up. Talk about it using the phrase, <i>“Before you speak, think and be smart, it’s hard to fix a wrinkled heart.”</i> 	<b>Circle Prompt:</b> Where do feel safest? 	<b>Inner Coach:</b> When something feels hard to do, be your own coach or cheerleader. Tell yourself, “I can do this! I got this!” Keep telling this positive message to yourself.	<b>Circle Prompt:</b> What is your favorite thing you did this week? 
<b>Happy:</b> What makes you happy? Write about a time that made you happy. 	<b>Flower breathing</b> 	Make a list of 3 things that motivate you. Tape it to your desk to motivate you throughout the day. <b>YOU GOT THIS!</b>	<b>Butterfly Breaths:</b> <a href="#">Pure Edge: Butterfly</a> 	<b>Coping Skills Spotlight</b> 
<b>Bunny Breathing:</b> Make “bunny” hands in front of chest and take quick sniffs like a bunny. Sit or start in a squat and hop forward while taking quick bunny sniffs. 	<b>Self-Awareness:</b> Check Out this video with your students... <a href="#">What is Self-Awareness</a>	<b>Bubble Breathing:</b> Imagine you have a wand to blow bubbles. Take a deep breath in through your nose and blow out through your mouth, as if you are blowing a bubble with a wand.	<b>Feeling Charades</b> Activity to help students identify different emotions.	<b>Deep Breathing Strategies</b> 

## COUNSELORS’ CORNER

As part of our School Counseling Program, your child’s class will have the opportunity to engage in a counseling core curriculum lesson during the month of April. The theme for this month is Coping Skills. Students in primary grades will have lessons that focus on understanding and identifying feeling words, facial expressions corresponding to specific emotions, and coping strategies such as breathing techniques. The intermediate grades will continue focusing on specific coping strategies, coping with stress/anxiety, in addition to learning about effective ways to apologize.

Topics vary depending upon specific grade levels. The one exception to the theme pertains to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Their April lesson focuses on careers, and their May lesson will focus on the transition to middle school.

It is our hope that the core curriculum counseling lessons will help to promote the social emotional, academic, and career development of our students. We hope that you can help your child reflect on these lessons by discussing their content together. Please feel free to contact us with any questions about the program. We can be reached via phone at 443-809-5267 or via email at [kkubala@bcps.org](mailto:kkubala@bcps.org) or [cokeson@bcps.org](mailto:cokeson@bcps.org).

Additional resources to aid in the discussion of this counseling lesson at home include:

- <https://www.apa.org/topics/parenting/resilience-tip-tool>
- <https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/building-on-strengths/building-resilience-in-kids>
- <https://www.psycom.net/build-resilience-children>

Tina Kubala, NCC - [kkubala@bcps.org](mailto:kkubala@bcps.org) (Grades PK, 1, 3, 5)

Carly Okeson, M.Ed. - [cokeson@bcps.org](mailto:cokeson@bcps.org) (Grades K, 2, 4)

## **NURSE FRANKER**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **\*\*Important Bike Safety Reminder\*\***

As the warmer weather approaches, we want to remind you about the importance of bike safety for our students. Riding bikes is fun and healthy, but it's important that children wear helmets while cycling. Please ensure that your child's helmet fits properly and is worn correctly every time they ride. Additionally, remind them to obey traffic rules, stay on designated bike paths or sidewalks, and always be aware of their surroundings. By reinforcing these safety measures, we can help keep our students safe while they enjoy biking.

### **\*\*Allergy Awareness and Prevention\*\***

With Spring in full swing, allergies may be a concern for some of our students. We kindly ask parents to inform the school nurse if their child has any allergies, including food allergies, insect allergies, or environmental allergies. This information allows us to take necessary precautions to keep your child safe while at school. Please remember to provide any necessary medications, such as EpiPens, and ensure that they are clearly labeled with your child's name and instructions for use, and an order for the medication signed by your child's Health Care Provider.

### **\*\*Extra Set of Clothes Reminder\*\***

Accidents can happen, especially with our younger students, which is why we kindly request that all parents provide their child with an extra set of clothes to keep at school. These spare clothes can be a lifesaver in the event of spills, bathroom accidents, or unexpected messes. Please pack

the spare clothes in a labeled bag and have your students place the bag in their locker, cubby or keep in the backpack. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a comfortable and hygienic learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school nurse.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Franker RN, BSN

### READING SPECIALIST

PGE third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be taking the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Assessments. ELA will be in the month of April and Math in the month of May. These assessments are taken by all Maryland students in grades 3-8. Although students will be permitted to make up any sessions missed, most students feel more comfortable taking the test with their classmates. Please make every effort to have students in school and on time on assessment days.

#### Tips on How Parents Can Help ...

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before each test.
2. Remind your child to charge his/ her device the night before each test.
3. Make sure your child arrives to school on time.
4. Be supportive and reflect a positive outlook about the assessment.
5. Talk to your child about what to do during the test, including:
  - o Pay attention to directions.
  - o Ask questions when you do not know what to do.
  - o Read each question carefully.
  - o Eliminate obvious wrong answers, then focus on the remaining answers.
  - o Double check answers.
  - o Use the allotted time given and try your best.

### ESOL

Hello ESOL Families from Ms. Thesen!

We have been working hard in our ESOL/ELD classes. Parents may start to notice a new name for the BCPS program. We are gradually changing the name from ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) to ELD (English Language Development.) Our newcomer students have been busy learning how to use prepositions and comparison words to describe their home and family. In Kindergarten, we are learning to describe the weather and the life cycle of plants. Students in grades 1-5 have been using their English skills to listen, read, write, and talk about problems, solutions and famous inventions. I am proud of the work that our multilingual learners are doing and am happy to see their continued growth!

~Ms. Thesen (athesen@bcps.org)

## GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

### PRE-K

This month will be the perfect time to begin our *Growing Our Garden* unit! Students will learn about living and nonliving, as well as how people, animals, and plants grow. We will plant seeds and grow our own flowers! A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts are included in this unit to practice identifying story elements, predicting, sequencing, learning about text features (like labels and captions), counting and comparing, as well as measuring!

### KINDERGARTEN

Spring has Sprung and kindergarten students are truly blossoming! We are working hard to read fluently using our sight words and letter-sound knowledge. We are noticing spelling patterns to read unknown words. We are exploring 2D and 3D shapes in Math. We are very excited about our upcoming field trip to Oregon Nature Center to learn about insects. As the weather changes, please make sure your child has an emergency set of clothes here at school and dresses appropriately for our changing weather.

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

Welcome SPRING!! I hope you all had a wonderful break, and we look forward to hearing about everyone's adventures!

**Phonics**: We are learning special vowel sounds and spellings.

**Reading/Writing**: We will be reading folktales and writing a personal narrative.

**Math**: We are using addition and subtraction strategies to solve word problems, some with missing addends.

**Health**: We will learn about self-management.

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

Happy April! We hope everyone enjoyed Spring Break! We will be busy this month in phonics practicing word analysis skills, decoding and building our reading fluency. Our essential question in reading is *What do plants need to live and grow?* We look forward to reading a variety of texts and making connections during this springtime season. Second graders will finish our geometry units and move onto measurement, fractions, and multi-digit computation skills. *Healthier Me* and *Sandy Situations* will be our focus in the content areas. Lots of learning and fun planned for second grade this month!

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

Happy Spring! We hope that your break was filled with good health, relaxation, and fun! We have a big month ahead of us. In Math, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will finish up their geometry unit and leap into deepening their knowledge about multiplication and fractions. In Reading, third graders will continue to explore different inventions in concurrence with writing an expository essay about an invention that perks their interest! In content, third graders will wrap up learning about animal survival traits and move into a Health unit where they will learn about healthy habits. This month, the students will take their reading MCAP. It is crucial that your child comes to school every day. Attendance rate and student success are directly correlated. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any attendance challenges with your student to create a game plan for



success. Teachers could use a replenishment of pencils to finish the year strong! Happy Spring, Pandas!

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

Happy Spring! We hope you all had a wonderful break, and we are looking forward to a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> and final quarter with your student!

**Reading/Writing:** We will be reading about healthy eating and nutrition with a genre focus on informational and argumentative texts. Students will write a persuasive opinion essay trying to convince others to try their favorite food.

**Math:** Students in grade level math will divide larger numbers using a variety of strategies such as ratio tables and area models. Students in advanced Math will wrap up multiplying and dividing fractions and revisiting volume. All students will also complete spiral review to prepare for MCAP!

**Content:** Students will start with Social Studies this month by studying European explorers by examining their motives for exploration and the consequences of exploring the new world. Next, we will begin a Health unit on healthy eating!

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

This April, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take their MCAP test the second week of April where they will apply their reading and comprehension skills to our state test.

In content, students will study *Safety & Injury Prevention* in Health, and continuing their Science unit of *BioBlitz*, where they will study the biodiversity of our schoolyard.

In Reading, students will begin Module 8: *A New Home* - their essential question in this unit is “How do people adapt to new experiences and make a new place home?” This unit will connect to prior social studies lessons about different cultures.

Two of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math classes will start Unit 6: *Graphing, Geometry, and Volume*. Our third 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will continue their learning about proportional relationships and percentages. Our students are excelling in all areas of Math and we are excited to continue challenging them!

Mrs. Risinger will be taking some time off in the upcoming weeks for the birth of her first child and Mrs. Law will be taking over as her long-term substitute. Mrs. Risinger’s class will be in great hands. Any support during a transitional time is always appreciated. We are always looking for donations of tissues and hand sanitizer for our classrooms. Boxes of pencils are always welcome, too!

#### **Ms. Koumides’ KG ISDM Class**

Happy Springtime! In April, we are beginning a new unit called *Zoom In*. We will answer our essential question, “What can I learn when I look closely?” where we will practice exploring new things, discovering and appreciating nature, and understanding creatures of all sizes. We will

continue our work on phonics with letters, letter sounds, and sight words. In Math, we will look at weights and place value to improve our understanding of numbers beyond ten.

### **Ms. Ryan's ISDM Primary Class**

Welcome Spring! In April, we are beginning our new unit: *Zoom In!* We will answer our essential question, "What can I learn when I look closely?" where we will practice noticing new things, appreciating nature, discovering new worlds, and understanding creatures big and small.

We will continue our work on phonics with letter sounds and sight words.

In Math, we will look at weights and place value to implement our understanding of numbers beyond ten.

### **Ms. Magruder's ISDM Intermediate Class**

We have been working on graphing and the various types of graphs. We are working on what makes a sentence, and the difference between a sentence and a fragment. In Language Arts, we are working on improving our comprehension skills by citing key details from the text.

## **SPECIAL AREA NEWS**

### **ART**

Hello from the Art Studio!

Thank you for all the donations of cardboard. We are now collecting empty styrofoam egg cartons. They are not biodegradable, but they are awesome for paint containers. So, if you use this kind, please consider bringing them to the art studio.

Please remember the art studio is very warm and can be messy. Please remind students to dress appropriately and think about wearing an art smock or old shirt to cover their good clothes. Also, if anyone is interested in assisting with displaying art or removing art around the school...please let me know by email to [efitzgerald@bcps.org](mailto:efitzgerald@bcps.org).

Thanks for your support.

### **LIBRARY**

April is School Library Month! We will celebrate by listening to stories about libraries, poems about nature, and non-fiction books about Earth Day.

For our daily lessons, kindergarten students will be introduced to the research process by researching which type of pet would be best for their family.

In 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students will also conduct beginning research on clouds and what type of weather they predict.



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will utilize research skills to discover different cultural traditions as they take a trip around the world. Students will explore various traditions, daily life, holidays, clothing, and food of people from different countries.

Third graders will have practice with counting money. The focus of the short research unit is to understand that money can be earned, saved, and spent.

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, students will conduct independent research on a topic of their choice.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will research careers in science to develop an understanding of how science has made contributions to the local and global community.

Lastly, our ISDM students will continue to learn about Spring and the holidays observed in the Spring.

### **MAKERSPACE**

In Makerspace, we will discuss all things spring! We will celebrate Earth Day with environment themed projects. As the end of the year approaches, some of our Makerspace materials are beginning to dwindle. We can always use toilet paper/paper towel rolls and cardboard as donations.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

As March Madness comes to a close and basketball skills are done, we now enter Spring and hopefully some outside time! Our next unit will focus on striking skills using batting tees, wiffle balls and bats, and base running.

### **VOCAL MUSIC**

As Spring arrives, students will be learning about how the different types of dynamics in music can affect how a song makes us feel! We will continue learning about different types of instruments and how they are used in songs. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will receive their recorders when they return from Spring Break and be able to apply their knowledge of reading sheet music. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue rehearsing for their Spring Concert which will be performed on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Fourth grade students are beginning to learn about the woodwind family. They will soon be playing the clarinet.

Fifth grade instrumental music students are preparing for the Spring Concert. The concert date is May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### **SPANISH**

¡Hola! In 4<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish, we will continue to work on our third unit, “¡Lo que nos gusta!” We will discuss what our favorite activities are and share details about where, when and with whom we like to do them. Asking your student vocabulary they have learned is a great opportunity to share at home!

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish, we worked on videos discussing our favorite foods. We will wrap up unit two with finishing our end of unit projects and taking our assessment. Then, we will begin our third unit “Mi vida escolar” in which we will talk about our school lives including classes, school supplies, classrooms, etc. Asking your student vocabulary they have learned is a great opportunity to share at home!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The poster features the Pine Grove Elementary School logo (a panda in a green circle) and the title "Kindergarten ROUND-UP" in a playful, bubbly font with a yellow starburst. Below the title, it reads "PINE GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" and "PRESCHOOL \* PRE-K \* KINDERGARTEN ROUND - UP". The registration details are organized into colored boxes: yellow for Kindergarten, light green for Pre-K, and light blue for Preschool. A list of requirements is provided in an orange box, and a green box at the bottom right contains the phone number 443-809-5267.

**PINE GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PRESCHOOL \* PRE-K \* KINDERGARTEN ROUND - UP**

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DAY**  
**Wednesday, April 3, 2024**  
*\*Call for an appointment*  
**Requirements:**  
5 years old on or before September 1, 2024  
The date of birth must fall between 9/2/2018 and 9/1/2019.

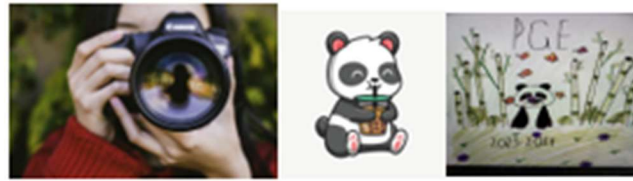
**PRE-K REGISTRATION DAY**  
**Thursday, April 4, 2024**  
*\*Call for an appointment*  
**Requirements:**  
4 years old on or before September 1, 2024  
The date of birth must fall between 9/2/2019 and 9/1/2020.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION DAY**  
**Thursday, April 4, 2024**  
*\*Call for an appointment*  
**Requirements:**  
3 years old on or before September 1, 2024  
The date of birth must fall between 9/2/2020 and 9/1/2021.  
**(\*Note: Placement will not be at Pine Grove Elementary)**

**WHAT TO BRING**

- 1) Parent Photo Identification
- 2) Proof of Residency- Lease or Deed
- 3) 3 pieces of business mail within 60 days of 4/3/24
- 4) Student's Birth Certificate
- 5) Student's Immunization Records
- 6) Your Child!!! Please bring your child to registration day!
- 7) **PRE-K REGISTRATION ONLY** – Proof of household income and Income Verification Form

**Call us in advance to make an appointment for registering your child at 443-809-5267**



## PGE 2023-2024 Yearbooks

Purchase your 2023-2024 yearbook for just \$25. The yearbook includes memories from all your favorite school activities, dances, and class portraits. Scan the QR code below to link to the Walsworth Purchasing Site. Don't miss out!

***\*\*\* Remember that 5th Grade students will be gifted a yearbook from the PTA!***

