



PANDA PRESS

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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

Happy New Year Pine Grove Pandas,

I hope you had a safe Winter Break filled with warm, happy, and memorable moments. I love the promise of the new year and all the possibilities awaiting us. The new year brings a renewed sense of energy and is the perfect time for reflection, as we are almost halfway through the school year. This also serves as another opportunity to reestablish our focus and expectations for learning. Please check Schoology frequently and encourage students to turn in missing assignments and re-dos.

There are some exciting upcoming events, such as our STEAM Family Night and the *Get Your Glow On* Dance sponsored by the PTA. Look out for flyers and communications regarding these events.

Drum roll for our December attendance winners. The following classes earned the opportunity to display the Excellent Attendance Banner in their classrooms for the month of January. Keep in mind that classes must meet the attendance goal with at least 94%.

- 2nd grade- Ms. Gentle's class at 96% (2nd time winner)
- 3rd grade- Ms. Lauter's class at 94.32% (4th time winner)
- 4th grade- Mr. Dunn's class at 94.03% (2nd time winner)

Congratulations to all!

Ms. Lewis, Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

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...

Tuesday 1/2 – School Reopens

Tuesday 1/9 – STEAM Family Night 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday 1/11 – Team BCPS Day – Wear BCPS Blue

Monday 1/15 – Schools and Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

Tuesday 1/16 – PTA Meeting 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hybrid (in-person in the Library / virtual join code: <https://meet.google.com/ydr-cjix-mnm>)

Friday 1/19 – School Closes at 1:00 p.m. (End of 2nd Marking Period)

Monday 1/29 – 2nd Quarter Report Card Distribution

CARPOOL

Parents, please 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 January 2024

Mind Over Matters Suggested Activities Mind Over Matters 2023-2024			
Week 1 Healthy Habits	Week 2 Healthy Mindset	Week 3 Healthy Eating	Week 4 Healthy Relationships
Check out these Healthy Habit Bingo Cards for students to identify a healthy habit or habits they want to commit to and track.	Click here for strategies to help teach students how to cope with difficulty and overwhelming feelings (pgs. 31 -40).	Click Choose My Plate to find fun activities for healthy eating habits.	Click here to check out 8 quick relationship building activities to develop positive connections and encourage kindness.

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊				
Make a "done list" of all of the things you have accomplished this week.	Make a chart showing at least five of your responsibilities at school and why they are important.	Use "I Statements" to express your feelings. "I am feeling _____ because _____. I would like _____."	Give yourself an award for one of your biggest strengths. What would the award be?	Two-Minute Talks: Hand out a few slips of paper to each student and ask them to write down questions or topics they would like to discuss as a group.
Circle Prompt: Talk about a hero of yours who shows perseverance.	Disengage Stress: Aquarium Video with Nemo	Circle Prompt: How are you feeling today? Feelings change all the time and that's normal. What causes your feelings to change from day to day?	What do you say to yourself when you are struggling with something? Do you tell yourself you can do it? Do you get mad at yourself? Which do you think is more helpful?	Go through your old toys and clothes. Choose a few things that you don't play with anymore. Put them in a box and donate them.

COUNSELORS' CORNER

Welcome back! The theme for this month is *Character*. Students in primary grades will have lessons that focus on active and whole body listening, as well as self-control. The intermediate grades will focus on empathy, perseverance, growth mindset, and reputation.

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.

-Tina Kubala (Grades PK, 1,3,5) kkubala@bcps.org & Carly Okeson (Grades K,2,4) cokeson@bcps.org

NURSE FRANKER

Tis the season for sniffles, sneezes, coughs and more! Many viruses circulate during the winter months. Holiday gatherings and being indoors adds to the spread of viral illnesses. To protect your family:

- Keep up to date on vaccines. [Find vaccines near you here.](#)
- Stay home when sick.
- Wash your hands before eating, after using the bathroom, and frequently.
- Follow CDC guidelines on COVID testing. [Families can order test kits online here.](#)

Having trouble deciding whether to send your child to school?

[Here is a quick reference guide for parents to use.](#)

-Kelly Franker RN

READING SPECIALIST

Happy New Year! The start of a new year is a great time to set goals for the year. Goal setting helps students become aware of their strengths, challenges, and learning styles while teaching them accountability and perseverance. It also sends the message that we believe they can grow. Using sentence frames can be helpful, like “I want to be able to ____” or “I want to improve at ____” or “I want to ____ when I ____” or “I will ____”. Once a goal is created, display it somewhere visible. This helps keep the goal front and center for your student. Plus, having it out in the open makes it more likely that you’ll remember to check in with your student about the goal. Be sure to celebrate progress towards reaching the goal. Wishing you much success!

ESOL

This month, our multilingual learners in grades 1-5 researched and wrote about their family’s home countries. We all enjoyed learning from our classmates and finding out interesting details about countries across the globe. Kindergarten ESOL students have been busy learning names and discussing members of our school, family, and neighborhood communities. All students will be taking annual English assessments starting the second week of January and continuing until early February. Kindergarteners will have one test. Grades 1-5 will have four tests (listening, reading, speaking, and writing), spread out to approximately once a week. These assessments will give students to demonstrate their ability to understand and communicate in English. The results will be sent home to parents by mid-May.

-Anita Thesen

GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

PRE-K

Happy New Year! 2024 is going to be filled with awesome learning in Pre-k! We will focus on the rules and routines of the classroom to help us get back into the swing of things!

We will continue to build letter and sound recognition, as well as many other pre-reading skills, like directionality and tracking print. Pre-k students are starting a new unit this month called *How Structures Are Built*, where we will discuss position words, following directions, collaborative team building, and creating projects using a variety of materials.

In Math, prekindergarten students will continue to work on counting and comparing objects to 10 and begin measuring objects by size, length, and weight.

You can support your child at home by building fine motor skills using playdough, manipulating objects, and writing their name. Also, be sure to read together each day!

KINDERGARTEN

Happy New Year! We are ready to start the year off right! Please make sure that your child has all necessary school supplies including crayons, pencils, glue sticks, markers, and watercolor paints. Be prepared for outside recess by wearing sneakers and warm clothing. Grippers are strongly recommended for mittens or gloves to ensure safety on the equipment.

ELA:

We are focused on writing with good form.

- Sentences always begin with a capital letter.
- Leave a finger space between words.
- End with a stop sign! ? .
- Write a letter for each sound you hear.

How many sight words does your child recognize instantly? Make a double set of flashcard words and play *Memory*. Write the words in shaving cream in the bathtub or on a cookie tray. Play *Scrabble* using sight words. Go on a sight word hunt in books.

We are continuing to master letter sounds and are building quite a large vocabulary of words to read and write using our short vowel sounds. Don't forget to read for at least fifteen minutes each night and record your reading on the monthly bookmark.

Math-We are using a variety of Math tools to solve addition and subtraction story problems. Look for real life problems that your child can solve. For example: We need five forks for dinner. Two are on the table. How many more do we need?

Thank you for all that you do to make our year terrific! We wish you well!

1st

Welcome to 2023!

We are so excited to be back with the kids and ready to learn more in the new year!

Phonics: We are working on long vowels and additional spellings.

Reading/Writing: We will be reading fiction and non-fiction texts about the changing seasons and writing a folk tale.

Math: We are working on addition and subtraction using number lines and skip counting.

Health: We are learning about keeping our bodies healthy.

2nd

Happy New Year Pine Grove Families! Grade 2 will start 2024 reading text that will help answer the essential question. "What are the qualities of a good leader?" Along with reading a collection of fiction and nonfiction texts, students will write a personal narrative to recognize what qualities they have within themselves to become a good leader in the classroom and in their school. In Math, students will be introduced to inches, feet and yard and explore by estimating and measuring length of various objects. The content area for the month will be Health. Students will

navigate through the unit titled, *The Healthy Relationships Unit*, which focuses on practicing skills that will assist students with building and maintaining healthy relationships at home and at school.

3rd

Welcome back!! We hope your break was everything you needed! Third Graders will embark on the following:

Math- Module 4- Skills such as telling time, exploring weight and fractions

Reading- Teamwork Module

Writing- Writing a persuasive letter about why they would be a good friend

Science- Driving Forces Unit

This is the perfect opportunity to replenish supplies with your third grader (pencils, glue sticks, dry erase markers etc.). Third grade teachers are in desperate need of different colored pens so we can continue to apply AVID note taking strategies in the classroom. Third graders will be heading to the Science Center in February. More details to come.

4th

We hope you had a fabulous winter break! We are so excited to be back in the swing of things with your students. It is a great time of the school year to ask your student if they are running low on supplies like pencils, glue sticks, and crayons. Please replenish things as needed. As a grade, we are in need of tissues and dry erase markers. We appreciate any donations!

In ELA over the next few weeks, we will review a variety of texts and media that presents them with information about the arts. This unit has a genre focus of biography, which allows students to identify text structure and figurative language.

In grade level Math, students will work on adding and subtracting larger whole numbers. In advanced Math, students will work on decimals through the thousandths, metric conversions, and powers of 10. They will also review division of larger numbers and interpreting remainders. As always, please continue to practice basic Math facts with your student!

5th

Happy New Year!

We hope our families enjoyed some much deserved time off!

This January, 5th graders will continue the Social Studies unit learning about Colonial Regions. During this unit, students will learn how colonial regions affected the economy and the lives of colonists. Along with that, we will also begin the long awaited Health unit “Changes in Me”.

In Reading, students will begin unit 4: Project Earth where we will focus on how caring for the Earth and its living things can improve life now and in the future. Two of our 5th grade Math classes will begin unit 4: Multiplying and Dividing Whole Numbers and Decimals, whereas our

third 5th grade class will be working with decimals and fractions. Our students are excelling in all areas of Math and we are excited to continue challenging them!

It is a great time of the school year to ask your student if they are running low on supplies like pencils, highlighters, and colored pencils. Please replenish things as needed. As a grade, we are in need of tissues and sanitizing wipes. We appreciate any donations!

Ms. Ryan's ISDM Primary Class

Happy New Year!

We are moving into Module 4 in ELA, "Happy Healthy Me!" where we will discuss the importance of healthy habits that help us avoid spreading germs, move our bodies, develop healthy eating habits, and get enough rest to help our bodies grow! Using our differentiated access point for the unit, we will explore how informational texts give us new knowledge and develop new vocabulary.

We are moving to unit 4 in math where we will finish up our work on addition and subtraction and begin looking at measurement as it relates to determining the length of objects. Toward the end of the month, we plan to dive into the basics of identifying and counting money.

In SEL, we will continue working with *Zones of Regulation* to identify our feelings and select response strategies for the zone we are in.

Ms. Magruder's ISDM Intermediate Class

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We wrapped up our unit on *Giving* and students have been practicing *Giving a Try* in our classroom. We are practicing being kind to others and spreading the Holiday cheer!

SPECIAL AREA NEWS

ART

Happy New Year from the Art Studio! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing winter break. I look forward to working with all the Panda artists while we work on many new challenges.

STEAM night is **January 9**. There will be art making in the art studio. Please stop by and make something fun during the event.

As a reminder, please remind Pandas to dress in layers due to the varying temperatures in the Art Studio. Also, bring in a lightweight art smock (an old large shirt is great...it just needs to cover their nice clothes). In addition, please consider donating a new box of tissues to the art studio for all the running noses. Thank you!

LIBRARY

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their winter break and had an opportunity to snuggle up with a good book! For the month of January, students will continue to listen to stories and learn more about our library collection.

In **Kindergarten**, students **will** become familiar with different popular authors and identify their favorite author from the unit.

First Graders will merge literacy, geometry and writing together as they learn about tangrams in order to make a tangram picture with a story.

Second Graders will read a variety of award-winning and nominated books in order to explore what makes great books so great.

Third graders will explore character traits and how they form the foundation of our identity.

Fourth grade students will learn how to use effective reading strategies to assist them in reading, analyzing, and synthesizing online informational texts.

Fifth graders will continue to explore the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Award, and the Schneider Award. It will help students understand what makes us enjoy good literature.

Finally, our students in **ISDM** will focus on identifying signs of winter and how to use self-check in order to check out a library book.

Also, with all of our students visiting the library on a weekly basis, we go through many boxes of tissues, especially during this season. If you would like to donate a box to the library, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

-Mrs. Benz

MAKERSPACE

In Makerspace, we will complete projects based on a Winter theme. Please be on the lookout for projects coming home and encourage your students to share their design process.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In the month of December students, participated in the Movement Education Equipment (M.E.E.). This unit provides students with physical, social, emotional, and intellectual benefits. The obstacle course challenges students through a series of movement experiences. Students will be given the opportunity to solve individual and group tasks, to gain self-confidence and self-esteem, to socialize in cooperative settings, to develop physically, and to have FUN!

This unit continues through the first two weeks into January, then we will work on volleyball/striking skills as our next unit.

VOCAL MUSIC

In Mr. Pugh's Vocal Music Class, students are learning about the major scales and different dynamics in music based on volume and tempo. Fifth grade students are enjoying their successful performance at their Winter Concert and will be getting ready for their Spring Concert already! Third graders will get their recorders soon. They will be able to play scales and songs as well as be able to read music on a staff! We are all looking forward to the things to happen in 2024!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Students in 4th grade will continue learning about the brass family. During this time, they will learn how to play the trumpet.

Students in 5th grade will continue learning new notes and rhythms on their instruments. Students should continue practicing at home 20-30 minutes a day in order to learn new skills at school.

SPANISH

4th Grade Spanish- We will continue working on our second unit "Mi Familia Moderna" (My Modern Family). We will be covering the following vocabulary: family/relationships, favorite activities, likes and dislikes, personality traits and pets. Please encourage your student to share new vocabulary they have learned in Spanish class!

5th Grade Spanish- We will begin our second unit, ¡Buen provecho! In which, we will discuss menus and food! We will learn new vocabulary including food items, meals, food groups and healthy choices. Please encourage your student to share new vocabulary they have learned in Spanish class!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PGE STEAM NIGHT

January 9th is our STEAM Night from 5:30-7:00 pm! We look forward to seeing everyone there for a night filled with “Winter Wonderland” themed STEAM fun! Please be sure to RSVP using the QR code below.



MESSAGE FROM THE PTA

**Tickets
\$5.00
Adults
FREE**

**Tickets
available at
pge.memberhub.com**

GET YOUR GLOW ON

**Dance at Pine Grove
Elementary**

**CONCESSIONS
GLOWSTICKS
PGES APPAREL
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE**

**6:30pm - 8:00pm
January 12th
Pre K - 2th Grade**

**All students must be accompanied by a
responsible adult who will need to stay for
the duration of the event. Doors open 6:15pm**