



# PANDA PRESS

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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!

March is the official start of Spring testing season. The Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) will be administered this month to fifth grade students across the state of Maryland. PGES fifth graders will take the assessment on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

MISA is aligned to the Maryland Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS integrates three dimensions necessary to understand Science: Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas. The grade five MISA assesses Elementary Grade NGSS for grades 3, 4, and 5.

Test takers are encouraged to: get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and come to school on time. Students must be in their homeroom by 9:15 a.m. Please try to avoid appointments on these days.

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

- KG- Ms. Webb's Class at 94.28%
- 1sr Grade- Ms. Rankin's Class at 95.64%

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Ms. Andrzejewski's Class at 97.78%
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Ms. Berlin's Class at 95.88%
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Mr. Dunn's Class at 97.45%
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Mr. Manzo's Class at 96.30%

Congratulations!

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...

**Friday, March 1** – Read Across America Dress Up Day

**Tuesday, March 5 & Thursday, March 7** – MISA Testing for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

**Thursday, March 7** – Wear college gear!

**Tuesday, March 12** - PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Virtual Link: <https://meet.google.com/zqi-mpuu-mxz>)

**Thursday, March 14** – Wear college gear!

**Thursday, March 21** – Student Support Network Spring Distribution

– Wear college gear!

**Friday, March 22** – Volunteer Breakfast

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

## CARPPOOL

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

Mind Over Matters Suggested Activities <u>Mind over Matters 2023-2024</u>			
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
<b>Coping Strategies</b>  This article, <a href="#">15 Coping Strategies for Kids</a> , includes why coping skills are needed, their impact, as well as multiple strategies that include both emotion-focused coping and problem-focused coping.	<b>Coping with Grief</b>  <a href="#">Grief worksheets</a> are helpful resources to help students gently work through emotional turmoil they experience while grieving. Children have less life experience and emotional maturity to work through the mix of emotions that arise when dealing with a loss.	<b>Positive Relationships &amp; Self-Awareness</b>  Have students analyze what makes a good friend. Consider making a poster on chart paper and filling in the columns "A Good Friend Is" and "A Good Friend Does" or use <a href="#">this template</a> to have students create a "Friend Wanted" ad that can be displayed.	<b>Diversity is Cool in Our Community</b>  <a href="#">Enjoy this read aloud of Todd Parr's amazing book, "It's Okay to Feel Different"</a> Not only does this book teach us how diversity enriches our lives, it also teaches us that what we bring to the table that may be "different" is just what the community needs.
Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊			
<b>Circle Prompt:</b> Describe how your body and mind feel when you are overworked or very tired.	<b>Circle Prompt:</b> When homework or schoolwork gets hard for you, what can you do?	<b>Circle Prompt:</b> Living a healthy lifestyle is not only for adults. Why is it important for kids to exercise and eat healthy?	<b>Circle Prompt:</b> Can you tell when you are becoming frustrated? Describe what it feels like.
<b>Friendship and Teamwork:</b> What is needed for a group to work well together?	<b>Being Responsible:</b> What does being responsible mean to you? Why is it considered a good quality?	<b>Use Your Big Voice:</b> "I don't like it when you _____. Please _____" (in a calm voice)	<b>Being Kind:</b> Share a hopeful quote, <a href="#">picture</a> or <a href="#">video</a> with a friend.
<b>Hot Air Balloon Breathing</b> Inhale and reach up to the sky, and stand on your toes. Imagine you are taking off like a hot air balloon. Breathe out and lower your hands to float back to the ground. 	<b>Four-Leaf Clover Breathing</b> Trace the clover with your finger while breathing in and out through your nose. 	<b>Pot of "Gratitude"</b> Fill up your pot with gratitude! Think of things that make you feel grateful. Draw or write about them. 	<b>Lion's Breath</b> Take a deep breath in to smell the fresh air. Next, open eyes and mouth wide 
			<b>Breathing Bubble</b> 

Office of School Climate and Culture: MTSS

March 2024

## 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 March. The theme for this month is Mindfulness. Students in both primary and intermediate grades will be invited to participate in experiential learning around sensory awareness, attention, and relaxation with the hope that they can then utilize these mindfulness strategies as positive coping skills. The primary grades incorporate movement and sensory exercises to support motor development and awareness. Third graders will learn test taking strategies which include mindfulness to help reduce test anxiety. Fourth and fifth graders will learn about the structures of the brain that regulate physical and emotional responses to stressful events.

We want our students to feel empowered by many different tools of self-regulation. Mindfulness exercises are research-proven strategies for stress and anxiety management that do not require extensive training to implement. We are encouraging students to share the strategies with their families and hope that this will be a source of meaningful and enriching discussions at home!

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 me 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)

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 and Guardians,

As March begins, we are excited to highlight important health awareness initiatives to ensure the well-being of our students. Please take note of the following reminders and updates:

1. **Change of Clothes:** With the transition to warmer weather, please ensure your child has a change of clothes stored at school. This is especially important as outdoor activities increase, ensuring your child remains comfortable and prepared for any unexpected situations.
2. **Immunizations:** March serves as a timely reminder to review and update your child's immunization records if necessary. Ensuring all vaccinations are up to date not only protects your child but also contributes to the overall health and safety of our school community. There has been a recent increase in cases of measles in the US, including in Maryland. If your student has turned five, please be sure to schedule an appointment with their healthcare provider for updated vaccines. The shots scheduled for 5-year-olds include a booster for measles and provide extra protection against measles.
3. **Physicals and Dental Forms:** If you have not already done so, please submit any outstanding physical and dental forms to the school nurse. These forms are essential for monitoring your child's health and well-being throughout the year.
4. **Allergy Awareness:** As we continue to prioritize student safety, please inform the school nurse of any allergies your child may have. This includes food allergies, insect allergies, seasonal allergies, and any other relevant medical conditions. By working together, we can effectively manage and accommodate your child's needs.

Thank you for your attention to these important health matters. Your proactive involvement contributes to a healthier and safer learning environment for all students. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school nurse at 443-809-5449.

Best regards,  
Kelly Franker RN, BSN

## READING SPECIALIST

### **Reading Corner Parent Tips**

#### **Be generous with praise.**

Observe your child carefully and comment on the things that are done well. When you see an area that needs improvement, find a positive way to talk about it with your child.

#### **Encourage "personal best."**

Help your child by encouraging him or her to do the best in school and at home. Remember, "personal best" does not mean "perfect," and learning is not the same as high grades. Children, like adults, need the freedom to make mistakes and to learn from them.

#### **Make learning a priority.**

Your attitude toward school attendance, education and involvement in the school makes a strong impression on your child. Show your child, by example, that learning is a priority.

#### **Show interest in schoolwork.**

- Talk about school each day.
- Ask to see classwork.
- Have your child read aloud to you.
- Read to and with your child from a variety of material in your first language.
- Encourage your child to discuss new ideas and opinions.
- Show appreciation for good efforts.

#### **Offer suggestions for success.**

Help your child use the following strategies to improve performance in school:

- Read the assignment when it is given.
- Keep a list of new vocabulary.
- Proofread assignments to catch errors before writing a final draft.
- Review notes before a test.

#### **Schedule study time.**

Set up an area for homework away from noise and distractions. Post a family calendar that schedules school project deadlines, after-school activities, testing dates, and report card dates.

## ESOL

Hello ESOL families from Ms. Thesen!

Our multilingual learners have finally finished all of the annual English proficiency testing! Scores will be available in May and will be sent home to parents at that time. In March, Kindergarteners will learn all about different types of food, food groups, and where our food comes from. Students in grades 1-5 will brainstorm and discuss business ideas, thinking

about inventions, problems and solutions. These topics will give all students great opportunities to practice listening, speaking, reading and writing in English. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

~Ms. Thesen (athesen@bcps.org)

## GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

### PRE-K

We are ready for Spring! Pre-k students are excited to explore outside, looking for items to collect for our Exploring Museums unit! We will transform our classroom into a museum filled with art, fossils, and collections! Students will continue to practice beginning reading skills by learning print/book awareness (tracking print, directionality), letters and sounds, sight words, and using picture clues. Social-emotional learning will take place through class meetings, problem-solving, and role play. In Math, students will explore measurement using scales and balances, cube rulers, and other manipulatives!

### KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten truly enjoyed the Starlab experience! We had great fun traveling to the moon and looking back at planet Earth. We also enjoyed using our imagination to discover constellations in the stars. We continue to make tremendous progress mastering sight words, using spelling patterns to read and write words, and enjoying stories together. We are exploring shapes in Math and sorting by one, two, and three attributes.

Please send in a complete set of emergency clothes for your child in case of spills, accidents, illness or muddy falls. Also, please consider donating a large box of tissues and black dry erase markers. We greatly appreciate your support!

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

**Hello Spring! Our first graders have been working hard and are looking forward to Spring weather and break!**

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

**Reading/Writing:** We will be reading about changes in nature and writing poetry.

**Math:** We are reviewing basic addition and subtraction and how to use strategies to solve word problems.

**Social Studies:** We are learning about our country.

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

Wow! How is it March already? Second grade is thrilled to celebrate Women's History Month by encouraging students to explore, as well as discover and celebrate the contributions women have made throughout history. We will be reading about some amazing women during our reading module titled, "Everyone Has a Story." To launch the module, we will have a virtual field trip to the Fire Museum of Maryland which connects to the text, "Molly, by Golly!," "The Legend of Molly Williams," and "America's First Female Firefighter." Throughout the module, students will learn how people's life experiences shape and create their life stories. Students will



read biographies, create a timeline and write a story about an imaginary character's adventures. In Math, students will be exploring the topic of Geometry. Students will investigate two-dimensional shapes, fractions (halves and fourths), congruence, symmetry, and transformations (slides, flips, and turns) using a variety of tools and models. The most exciting thing which will be happening in second grade this month is the return of Mrs. Flanigan!!! We are thankful for Mrs. Homa and all her dedication she has given our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pandas while Mrs. Flanigan was on leave.

We will miss you Mrs. Homa!

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

Third graders are currently wrapping up the Safe Racer and Engineering Unit. They have worked so hard to build cards and apply everything they have learned about forces and frictions to protect their passengers (eggs). Mrs. Berlin's chickens provided the test dummies. In Math, third graders are beginning to explore area, perimeter, multiplication and division! They will continue to work through this unit until the end of February! In Reading, third graders are finishing up analyzing everything they learned about animal behaviors that lead to survival. They will embark on learning how each individual can make a positive change in their community in the next module. Third graders will begin to write an opinion essay to convince others to take action and make their school a better place! Teachers want to take a minute to thank our wonderful chaperones who made our trip to the Science Center a success. It was such a success! Teachers have begun to plan our NEXT field trip. Stay tuned! We have seen an improvement in third grade attendance overall. Keep it going! Ms. Lautar's class has been the only class to earn the attendance banner yet! The curriculum moves fast and draws a lot of connections between lessons. We want to see your kiddos every day unless they are truly ill. We are midway through the third quarter. It is a great time to pop in and check Schoology and contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns. It is also a good time to replenish your child's pencil box with crayons, pencils, glue, scissors, whatever they may need. Teachers are always grateful for tissues, sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and pencils.

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

This month in 4th grade, our students will be reading fun tricksters and tall tales in ELA. We will focus on several reading comprehension skills throughout the module while reading a variety of entertaining fiction stories. Students will write an imaginative story, as well as an expository essay about the lessons the characters learn in the module stories.

We will be moving on to Health this month, a unit focused on making healthy choices. After completing the health unit, we will move on to Social Studies where students will learn about America's first European explorers.

In grade level Math, students will be working on multiplication, division, data, and fractions. In advanced Math, students will be studying multiplying and dividing fractions. Please continue to practice multiplication facts with your student each night!

Lastly, please save the date for our field trip to Camp Puh'Tok on Tuesday April 9th! We will need chaperones and station leaders for the trip. More information will be forthcoming.

We continue to need tissues, pencils, and dry erase markers! We appreciate any donations you are willing to provide.

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

This month, 5th graders are continuing their second DBQ (document-based questioning) where they will enhance their essay writing skills to prepare them for middle school and beyond. At completion, they will continue their second Social Studies Unit: Revolution and learning about America's journey to independence from Britain.

In Reading, students just began unit 7: Above, Below and Beyond. Their essential question for this unit is, "What role does curiosity play in exploration?" We will continue practicing using context clues for vocabulary, finding the main idea of a text, and working on our writing skills.

Two of our 5th grade Math classes recently began Unit 5: Multiplying and Dividing Fractions, whereas our third 5th grade class will continue in unit 4: Equations and Expressions. Our students are excelling in all areas of Math, and we are excited to continue challenging them!

As cold and allergy season ramps up, we are always looking for donations of tissues and hand sanitizer for our classrooms. A box of pencils is always welcome, too!

### Ms. Koumides' KG ISDM Class

This month, our ELA module will focus on Home of the Free and the Brave, answering the essential question, "What makes the USA special?" We will read titles including "America the Beautiful," "Take Me Out to the Yakyu," and "Martin Luther King, Jr." and explore related vocabulary. In Math, we'll begin to explore more shapes with a shift toward 3D shapes. Our phonics focus will continue with letter sounds and sight words, and in SEL we'll be focusing on conversations/social skills.

Donations of wipes (baby wipes & Lysol), plastic grocery bags, tissues, and glue sticks are very appreciated at this time.

Thank you!

### Ms. Ryan's ISDM Primary Class

Happy March!

This month, our ELA module will focus on Home of the Free and the Brave, answering the essential question, "What makes the USA special?" We will read titles including "America the Beautiful," "Take Me Out to the Yakyu," and "Martin Luther King, Jr." and explore related vocabulary.

In Math, we'll continue our focus on shapes with a shift toward 3D shapes.



Our phonics focus will continue with letter sounds and sight words, and in SEL we'll be focusing on conversations with peers.

Donations of wipes (baby wipes & Lysol), plastic grocery bags, and tissues are very appreciated at this time.

If you have not sent your child's device back to school yet, please do so.

Thank you!

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

We learned all kinds of interesting facts about great African Americans and their amazing contributions. We discussed the importance of President's Day. In Math, we are learning about how to use graphs to display important information. In SEL, we are working on routines and independence, putting our belongings away when we enter, cleaning up the room before we depart, and participating in classroom jobs to assist with responsibility.

### **SPECIAL AREA NEWS**

#### **ART**

Hello from the Art Studio!

So far, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have explored several different and diverse artists that make a difference in society. They are creating a beautiful collection of drawings of underwater creatures. Fourth grade is also creating a beautiful collection of birds, while learning about a diverse group of artists. Second and third grade explored "Pop-Art." Now, they are now creating space art to show their understanding from Star Lab. First grade is exploring a variety of inspiring artists while focusing on primary colors, kindergarten is creating planets that hang, and ISDM students are exploring shapes from space.

We celebrated Black History Month by looking closely at art from Ivey Hayes, Kerry James Marshall, Alma Thomas, and Faith Ringgold. In Art, we appreciate a large group of diverse artists throughout the year. While some have passed, some are still living and making art in their late years.

Please remember the art studio is 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.

Doodle for Google: This is a contest for students in grades K-12. The prize is huge, and the theme is "My wish for the next 25 years." While this is not being explored at PGE, if you are interested visit [doodle4 google.com](https://doodle4google.com) for more info.

The art studio is collecting empty cereal boxes and paper towel rolls. Also new boxes of tissues. Thanks for your support.

## **LIBRARY**

We are excited for a new month of reading in the library as we celebrate Women's History Month. All students will hear stories of women who made a difference throughout the years. Kindergarten students will listen to nonfiction stories and explore text features within those stories. First graders will spend the month practicing the skill of visualization when reading fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Second graders will conduct focused research on three types of bridges- arched, beamed and suspension in order to create the best bridge for our character to cross. Third grade students will conduct focused research on creating and maintaining healthy habits. These habits may include brushing your teeth, hand washing, choosing healthy foods, and getting daily movement. Fourth grade students will discover the elements of several genres, including: historical fiction, narrative nonfiction, expository nonfiction, science fiction, and fantasy. Finally, our fifth graders will use information gathered from reading historical novels and informational text in order to create a graphic novel about their historical character.

## **MAKERSPACE**

In Makerspace, we will work on projects about Spring arriving, March Madness (basketball) and St. Patrick's Day. Please ask your student what we created each week in Makerspace.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Flexible February has come to an end and the students were rock stars with their patience in cup stacking! March Madness begins with our Basketball unit. Students will be working on the skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, guarding, pivoting and a variety of activities and lead up games to apply these skills.

## **VOCAL MUSIC**

March is Women's History Month and students will be learning about women in history through songs! We will also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and learning new songs and dances to go along with the holiday. Students will also see how music is made through different types of instruments including strings, woodwind, percussion, and brass. Fifth graders are continuing to rehearse for the Spring Concert which will be held on Thursday, May 9th. Third graders will be getting ready to receive their recorder instruments which they will be able to start learning and playing when we return from Spring Break.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Students in 4th grade are concluding their learning of the brass family. They will begin learning about the woodwind family next.

Students in band and orchestra are beginning to work on Music for the Spring Concert. The Spring Concert date is set for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

## **SPANISH**

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish, we will begin our 3<sup>rd</sup> unit, "Lo que nos gusta!" in which we learn how to say our favorite activities, where we like to do them, with whom and why. We will also discuss weather to support our vocabulary development and create detailed sentences.

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish, we will wrap up our 2<sup>nd</sup> unit by creating videos/recordings about food truck menus. We will also take our Unit 2 assessment. We will look forward to beginning Unit 3 talking all about our school and the coordinating vocabulary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 5th Grade Yearbook Shout OUTS!

#### 📌 Attention 5th Grade Parents:

Every 5th Grade Student will receive a yearbook as a graduation gift from the PTA! We are offering personalized messages from loved ones, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts/uncles, and even PETS!

Please note there are TWO options. Messages with a baby photo (\$10) and messages without (\$5). Please keep your message to 30 words or less!

Please use STUDENT NAME when uploading their baby photo.

✍️ Message Submission and Photo payment can be found at:

<https://pge.memberhub.com/store>

#### 📷 Baby Photo Submission:

Use the QR code to load your baby photo. Locate the "Yearbook Snap" in the middle section of the page. Make sure you are submitting to Pine Grove Elementary School.

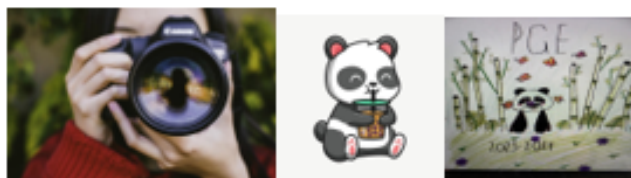
Use Access Code: pge23

Please use STUDENT NAME not Parent/Guardian Name. Please only submit ONE photo per student.

Please submit no later than the DEADLINE March 9th

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Adams at [krhart10@yahoo.com](mailto:krhart10@yahoo.com)





## 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!***

