



Panda Press

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School Counselor: Tina Kubala, kkubala@bcps.org

School Nurse: Kelly Franker: kfranker@bcps.org

Caliday Extended Care: (410) 329 – 8378

School Hours: 9:15 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.

Empowering with Audacity

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring PGES Families,

It's finally beginning to feel like Spring. I can't believe it is May already. As the school year winds down and the weather gets warmer, students will enjoy field trips, field day, and end-of-year picnics. Look out for details of these events.

We are now in countdown mode. It seems just like yesterday that I met PGES staff and families for the first time during my *New Principal Meet and Greet*, *Sneak-A-Peek at Your Seat*, and opening day. This has been a great school year. Students and staff have worked diligently all year despite some hurdles. The last day of school for BCPS students has been approved by the Board and the date is June 13th. It is a bittersweet time of the year as we bid farewell to our fifth graders, who will move on to new and exciting opportunities in sixth grade. Fifth grade farewell will take place on June 9th. All fifth graders transitioning to a BCPS middle school need to provide residency re-verification information. A message was shared through School Messenger and a letter was sent home with 5th grade students about this process.

MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

PGE Families,

If you have recently changed your address, phone number and other contact information, please advise the front office so that your student's contact information is correct. We need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency.

Thank you!

DATES TO REMEMBER – A LOOK AHEAD...

Friday, May 12th – Family Fun Night

Tuesday, May 16th – PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 18th – Spring Concert at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 19th – PGE School and Office Closes at 1:00 p.m.

Monday, May 29th – Memorial Day, Schools and Offices Closed

Friday, June 9th – 5th Grade Farewell

Monday, June 12th – All Schools Close 3 Hours Early

Tuesday, June 13th – **Last Day of School** - PGE School Closes at 1:00 p.m.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

Families, please note that our phone number has changed to **443-809-5267**. For some time, our old number, 410-887-5267 was being forwarded to the new number. That has since discontinued. Please use the new number when contacting the school.

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 am and 3:00-4:30 pm. When cars attempt to make left turns during these times, it backs up the carpool line. 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, and Costa’s Level of Questioning. This year, we are adding focused notetaking.

SOCIAL- EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Children’s Mental Health Matter’s (CMHM) Week [Children’s Mental Health Matters](#)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Exercise! Going for a walk outside, doing a quick stretch, or dancing can help keep our bodies and minds healthy. When faced with mental or emotional challenges in life, exercise is a healthy coping strategy. Take 10 minutes a day to do some sort of physical activity and work up a sweat.</p>	<p>Quality Time Spend time with people you love and care about. Spending time with others, doing something you enjoy (eating a meal together, watching a show or movie, playing a game, talking on the phone or online) reminds us that we have support and people who we can talk to.</p>	<p>Sleep is Important It is important to try to sleep between 8 and 10 hours each night. If you’re having trouble falling asleep, try putting away electronics (phone, tv, computer, video games, or tablet) an hour before bed, or do something relaxing as part of your bedtime routine such as reading a book, writing in a journal, or taking deep breaths.</p>	<p>Eating Healthy What you eat affects how well your body, mind, and brain work. You can try out a new healthy recipe or replace an unhealthy snack with a healthier option (swap out chips for your favorite fruit).</p>	<p>You are Awesome! Do something that makes you feel good about yourself. You might want to make yourself feel good by writing down some of your best qualities or things you feel grateful for, giving yourself a pep-talk or saying a positive affirmation such as, “I am smart, I am loved, I am important” or doing something you are good at for a few minutes each day.</p>

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊

<p>Special: Think about a peer who is special to you! Find a way to wish them well. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or telling them how special they are.</p>	<p>Spring Outdoors: Take a walk outside, enjoy a picnic, or go on a Spring scavenger hunt. While you are outside, notice what you see, hear, or even smell.</p>	<p>Kindness Circle: Circle up and talk about kindness. What does kindness look like, feel like, and sound like? Create an anchor chart to share acts of kindness.</p>	<p>Wave Rolls: Sit or stand up. Slowly roll your shoulders forward 5 times like the waves in the ocean. Then roll your shoulders back as the wind changes the direction of the waves.</p>	<p>Trace and Breathe: From your seat, trace in the air the number eight. As you trace up, breathe in slowly, as you trace down, breathe out even slower.</p>
<p>Kindness Kite: Draw a kite with 4 parts. On each part, write or draw about things that make someone kind.</p>	<p>Write a SPRING acrostic poem about all the things you love about Spring.</p>	<p>Journaling: Keep a journal about your feelings. Each day write down how you were feeling and why.</p>	<p>Relax: Sit somewhere comfortably and listen to a relaxing song to help yourself unwind. Relax and enjoy the music in between learning tasks.</p>	<p>Pass it on challenge! Call or text 3 people to share something positive and have them pass it on.</p>
<p>Wave Breathing: Lie on the floor with your hands on your belly. Visualize your belly as a wave, rising and lowering like the ocean. Breathe in and make the whooshing sound as you breathe out. Do this 3 times.</p>	<p>Face, Shoulder, Knees and Toes: Sit or Lie on the floor. Tense your face muscles (hold for 3) and relax. Do the same with your shoulders, knees, and toes.</p>	<p>Pat, Pat, Squeeze: Cross your arms over your chest and touch your shoulders. Pat, pat, and squeeze your shoulders for the count of 3. Then let go. Repeat with the tops or your legs, arms, and knees.</p>	<p>Flower Breathing: Imagine you have a flower in your hand. Take a deep breath in through your nose and slowly breathe out as if you are smelling a fresh flower and blowing the petals away.</p>	<p>Kite Breathing: Place your hand with your palm facing you. Inhale and then blow your kite to the sky. Exhale as your kite makes its way back down.</p>

COUNSELOR’S 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 May. The theme for this month is Careers for students in K-4. Students in grades K-4 will explore different careers and think about how their interests and strengths align with different career paths. Students in grade 5 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 me with any questions about the program. I can be reached via phone at 443-809-5267 or via email at kkubala@bcps.org.

Please encourage your students to practice kindness, empathy and respect during the break. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

NURSE'S NEWS

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end. Here are a few reminders to parents as we transition to a summer schedule:

Medication Pick up- Please remember to pick up medication, inhalers, and epi pens by the last day of school. Any medication left after that time will be discarded. New medication forms will be given with medication pickup. Remember each school year requires a new medication form filled out by the provider.

Pre-K Parents- Please send updated immunizations to the nurse as soon as your child has their 5-year checkup. All students in kindergarten are required to have a second MMR and Varicella before beginning kindergarten. These immunizations are given at the 4- or 5-year-old visit with the doctor. Copies may be sent to kfranker@bcps.org or faxed to the school office at 443-809-5268.

5th Grade Parents- BCPS (Baltimore County Public Schools) request updated physicals on students moving up to middle school. Look for letters and forms for your students to take to their next physical appointment. Physicals obtained after the school year ends may be sent to the middle school nurse.

All Parents- To keep the nurse up-to-date on your child's health, please communicate by email to kfranker@bcps.org or fax doctor's forms to 443-809-5268.

Thank you for all your support as we work together to finish this school year Healthy and strong.

Kelly Franker RN, BSN
443-809-5449

GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

PRE-K

As we get ready for Kindergarten, pre-k students are working to build independence and self-direction in the classroom! We are learning important early reading strategies like rhyming, blending and segmenting words, listening for beginning sounds, and more! Pre-k students are doing a great job building comprehension by using picture clues to make meaning, predict, sequence, and make personal connections to text! In Math, our friends are practicing counting and comparing strategies, as well as solving story problems using addition and subtraction! We have become wonderful investigators as we learn about helping our earth, life cycles, animals, and using our five senses!

*Pre-K Field Trip to the Baltimore County Agricultural Center on Wed., May 17th, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

*Pre-K End of Year Picnics on Monday, June 5-grassy area out front of Pre-K Doors 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN

May and June are exciting times in Kindergarten! We are applying our knowledge of letters, sounds, and spelling patterns to read and write words, sentences, and stories. Many students have mastered all fifty sight words and are working to master the 220 Dolch Words. Several students have already mastered the Dolch words through Second Grade! We are using our math knowledge to solve story problems using both addition and subtraction equations. We are learning to use the best tool or strategy to solve mathematical problems. As the weather warms up, please remember to keep a sweater or sweatshirt available to stay comfortable in our sometimes-cool air conditioning. As always, students need a snack and full water bottle every day! Thank you for a terrific end to a very productive year!

1st

First grade is learning special vowel sounds in phonics and will wrap up the year reviewing all of the sound/spellings we've learned this year. In Reading, our module is "Tell Me a Story" and will be using the texts we read to answer the question, "What lessons can we learn from stories?" We will work on various strategies that good readers use before, during, and after reading. We will also be working our way through the writing process to write personal narratives and descriptive essays. In Math, we will end the year focusing with numbers above 100 and the concept of changes.

Phonics: We are learning prefixes, suffixes, and will review short and long vowels.

Reading/Writing: We will learn about plants using fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Math: We are counting to 120 and will look for patterns when using a 120 chart.

Social Studies: We will learn about our country's culture and economics.

2nd

Second graders are working hard this Spring. Students continue to apply sound and spelling patterns as they decode new words and build reading fluency. Second graders have also been working on word analysis concepts such multiple-meaning words, prefixes and suffixes, and words with the same base. In Reading, we are moving closer to our next unit called Home Sweet Habitat. Students will be reading a variety of genres as they explore the essential question: How do living things in a habitat depend on each other? In Math, students are finishing Unit 7 by practicing metric measurements, fractions and multi-digit addition and subtraction. We will continue onto Unit 8 so that we can review place value and three-digit computation skills. Students are looking forward to our upcoming science unit, Sandy Situation. There are also many exciting activities for our second graders this quarter as we prepare for end of the year activities like field day and class picnics.

3rd

As we wrap up the year in third grade, we will continue to work hard and prepare for fourth grade! In Math, third graders are extending their knowledge of multiplication, division, and fractions. In Reading, students have two final units of study, "From Farm to Table" and "Tell a Tale." Third graders will continue to work on writing and practice grade level reading skills. In Social Studies, students will study the early colonization of Maryland. Our final science unit will focus on plant and animal survival.

We have several end-of-year events coming up! We have several opportunities for parent volunteers (including a field trip) but you must be volunteer trained to help. If you aren't yet volunteer trained, there is still time! When you have completed the training, please send the **certificate AND application** in with your student. We will submit it to our secretaries.

4th

Finishing up the year in ELA, students will be continue reading different genres on the topic of SPACE in order to create a Space ABC book to reflect all they have learned. We will finish ELA for the year by reading "Island of the Blue Dolphins." To wrap up the year in Social Studies, students will learn about early English

colonies in the New World. Please continue to have your students charge their devices each night. Be on the lookout for upcoming dates for end of the year activities. Have a safe and fun summer!

5th

As fifth graders enter their last months at Pine Gove Elementary School, we have a lot we will be doing. They will be working on "Division and Decimals," "Schoolyard Sustainability," and our "Our Ever-Transforming Word" units. In Advanced Math, students will learn about "Rational Numbers" and "Data Sets and Distributions." We will take a BioBlitz field trip on May 31st. Fifth grade farewell will be June 9th. We will have a "Fifth Grade Fun Day" on June 7th. Although, we hope all students be able to participate, Fifth-Grade Fun Day is a privilege that can be lost due to behavior. Each child brought home detailed paperwork about the end of the year activities the first week of May.

Ms. O' Keefe's CLS Class

To wrap up the school year, we will be focusing on units related to life science! In Reading, we will learn about animals that look alike and are in the same families. We also will discuss different features of plants and the life cycle of plants. In Math, we will be working on different forms of measurement: using a clock to tell time, and how to use a ruler to measure the length of items. In content, we are going to continue learning about the water cycle, and then wrap up the year with a unit on Living/Non-Living things.

Mrs. Ryan's CLS Class

For May, we are working on identifying similarities by learning about baby animals and their parents. We're working on basic computation and then shapes for our math work. For SEL, we are learning about perseverance and growth mindset.

For June, we will move into our sea unit and celebrate our accomplishments with some End-of-Year celebrations by completing our alphabet countdown.

Mrs. Bittner's CLS Class

This month in Mrs. Bittner's class, our literacy theme is plants and gardening. We will be learning different vocabulary words related to plants and flowers and learning about the life cycle of a plant. We will also be learning different social games and activities during outdoor play to prepare for field day and the end of the year celebrations.

LIBRARY

May/June Library News

We are nearing the end of another wonderful year in the library! The last day for book checkout will be Friday, May 26th. Overdue book notices were sent home a few weeks ago. Please continue to look for books. Oftentimes, they are hiding in bookbags, shelves, in the back of a desk or the bottom of a seat sack. If you find one, please send it back to the library! Our last few weeks together will focus on the following topics:

Kindergarten: Seeing Ourselves in Stories

Students will examine the literary works of various authors. Students will be exposed to various authors and stories and use them to practice multiple reading skills and strategies including predicting, sequencing, connecting, emotional literacy, and story mapping.

First Grade: Who's New at the Zoo?

This is a Slam Dunk Research Unit that focuses on the classification of animals based on their external features and habitats.

Second Grade: Genre Genius

In this unit, students will study the elements of realistic fiction, mystery, and autobiography. Students will track their comprehension of reading by using think marks and will use elements of two genres to create a short story.

Third Grade: Tall Tales

In this unit, students examine the elements of a tall tale in order to distinguish tall tales as a unique genre of literature.

Fourth Grade: Wordless Books

In this unit, students will be interpreting and analyzing wordless books. Students will be making inferences about the stories, determining the theme of wordless books, and, ultimately, creating a written story to accompany the illustrations of a wordless book.

Fifth Grade: Virtual Vacation

In this unit, students will be given an imaginary budget in order to create and plan a vacation to a dream destination.

Don't forget to sign up for the summer reading program, opening later in June. Check out BCPL's website for more information. Have a safe and happy Summer!

- Mrs. Benz

VOCAL MUSIC

In Mr. Pugh's Music class, students are learning about dynamics in music such as tempo changes as well as melodic contour and syncopation. Third graders are learning their first notes on their very own recorders and will be applying their skills they have learned throughout the year in order to read music and play songs. Fifth graders are preparing for their Spring Concert, which will be performed **Thursday, May 18th at 6 p.m.**

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

In Exploratory Music, fourth-grade students continue learning about the string family. They are learning how to take care of and play the violin. Before the end of the year, they will also learn about the percussion family.

Fifth grade band and orchestra students continue working on skills and music for our Spring Concert. The date of the concert is **Thursday, May 18th** and students should arrive to school at **5:30 p.m.** and the concert will begin at **6 p.m.** We ask that, if possible, students dress up (no jeans, t-shirts or sneakers). Full band and orchestra rehearsals begin on May 11th during the school day.

Happy Mother's Day to everyone who is a mom or serves in the role of one.



FOOD AND NUTRITION

Would you like to be more involved with your student's spending in the Cafeteria? Would you like to pay off your negative balance and prevent future ones? Sign up for www.MySchoolBucks.com! By creating your free MySchoolBucks account, you can conveniently view your student's Cafeteria purchases, check their balance, limit their spending, set automatic notifications, set up automatic payments, and make secure payments! There is a fee to **fund** the account online. However, you can take advantage of all these features, and fund your account for **free**, with cash or a check at your student's school.

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