



# Panda Press

Principal: Valerie Lewis, [vlewis@bcps.org](mailto:vlewis@bcps.org)

Office: (443) 809 – 5267

Assistant Principal: Melissa Markle, [mmarkle@bcps.org](mailto:mmarkle@bcps.org)

Fax: (443) 809 – 5268

Administrative Secretary: Shanel Diggs Harris, [sdiggsharris@bcps.org](mailto:sdiggsharris@bcps.org)

Nurse: (443) 809 – 5449

Front Office Secretary: Connie Nittinger, [cnittinger@bcps.org](mailto:cnittinger@bcps.org)

School Counselor: Tina Kubala, [kkubala@bcps.org](mailto:kkubala@bcps.org)

School Nurse: Kelly Franker: [kfranker@bcps.org](mailto: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 December Pine Grove Pandas,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We are concluding 2022 and welcoming 2023.

December is packed with lots of exciting events, and what better way to end the year than to bring families together to celebrate the community we share. This month, we will begin with a Magic Laser Show sponsored by our PTA. Thank you so much to the PTA for being an amazing support to our school and community. In November, they gave away 50 turkeys, produce bags, coats, toiletries, and household items to our families.

Following the Magic Laser Show, we have a Family Literacy Night scheduled for Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> with literacy fun, parent resources, and the Scholastic Book Fair. This is a great time to build your at-home library and purchase gifts for others as well. We will also showcase the talents of our students in the Winter Concert on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Messinger and Mr. Pugh have been working with students to bring you a special musical treat. Please come out to support our students as they have been practicing very hard. Stay tuned for spirit days that will be planned for the days leading up to Winter Break.

I am grateful for the parent support and caring community culture here at PGES. It is my hope that you take the time to enjoy your loved ones during the holiday season. Make every second together count. Have a safe Winter Break!

Ms. Lewis, Principal

## 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 and efficiently.



## AVID NEWS

Pine Grove Elementary is proud 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 to our objectives.






## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS



### Social and Emotional Learning Daily Activities December 2022



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
<b>Healthy Relationships</b> Play “ <a href="#">Kindness Bingo</a> ” or use the bingo cards to gather additional ideas to promote kindness.	<b>Coping Skills – The ‘Turtle Technique’</b> This ‘ <a href="#">Turtle Technique</a> ’ shares a visual to help children control their emotions and includes strategies and links to a turtle story that teaches a self-regulation strategy.	<b>Coping Skills – Art Helps!</b> Explore <a href="#">100 Art Therapy Exercises</a> to support students with their emotions, relaxation, focusing on happiness, as well as trauma and loss activities. *Check out #11	<b>Healthy Relationships</b> Enjoy this read aloud of <a href="#">Shubert Sees the Best</a> , a Conscious Discipline text, that focuses on positive intent and relationships.

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊				
Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to.	Write down a list of gifts that you have received from others that are not objects.	Draw or write about when you feel most joyful.	Count how many people you smile at today.	Make a list of all the ways you can be kind to others in 2023.
While washing your hands, look in the mirror and tell yourself one thing you like about YOU! Continue to think and say nice things about yourself all day. Notice how you feel.	Close your eyes and think about how you are feeling. Happy? Sad? Angry? Excited? Something else? Think about how you know you are feeling this way.	You can be a problem solver and stand up for yourself! Think of 1, 2, or 3 positive ways to respond to someone calling you a name or doing something that you do not like.	As a Brain Break, do 20 jumping jacks, 15 squats, 10 lunges and 5 pushups. Or play some oldies but goodies like <i>Simon Says</i> , <i>Mother May I</i> , and <i>Red Light/Green Light</i> .	Make paper snowflakes and write down all the thoughts going on in your head on the snowflakes. One thought on each snowflake. Gather all of them up and throw them into the air! Picture all of your thoughts leaving your mind as you throw them.
<b>Breathing:</b>  Breathe in 1-2-3-4 to smell the hot cocoa. Blow out 1-2-3-4-5-6 to cool the hot cocoa.	<b>Movement:</b>  Stand with your feet wide apart. Reach your hands out to the side as far apart as you can. Remember to keep your body nice and tall. Spin and twist like a falling snowflake!	<b>Breathing:</b> Breathe slowly and deeply through your nose as you trace the snowman’s 3 circles. 	<b>Movement:</b>  Sit tall with your legs straight ahead of you. Hold onto your legs and rock back and forth like you are sledding down a hill!	<b>Breathing:</b>  BREATHE IN FOR 3 COUNTS HOLD FOR 3 COUNTS BREATHE OUT FOR 3 COUNTS

## COUNSELOR’S CORNER

During the month of December, as part of our School Counseling Program, each class will be participating in a counseling core curriculum lesson on personal safety and decision-making. The lessons are based on Baltimore County Public Schools’ Personal Safety Program PreK-5: Making Healthy Decisions curriculum. This program includes age-appropriate information on body safety and neglect and abuse prevention strategies. It highlights the importance of telling a trusted adult about uncomfortable situations. Our goal is to help children be better able to manage the issues of personal safety should they arise.

Keeping your child safe is a priority to all of us at Pine Grove Elementary. It is our hope that these lessons will help to reinforce the information and strategies that you have already given your children, and that your family can discuss together the important information presented in these lessons. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the program. I can be reached at (443) 809-5267 or via email at [kkubala@bcps.org](mailto:kkubala@bcps.org).

## MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

IT'S FLU SEASON! We are seeing an increase in upper respiratory illnesses throughout the state. Please consider getting the flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine/booster, and practicing good hand/cough/sneeze hygiene to protect your student from illness. People with mild symptoms are encouraged to wear a mask while at school. Please refer to the BCPS (BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS) COVID-19 Webpage for additional information about COVID-19 testing, exposure, and recommended isolation periods.

Remember, students that have a temperature of 100°F or above are to stay home from school and may return when fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. If your student has vomiting or diarrhea, please keep them home for 24 hours after the last episode. All students should have a change of clothes in their locker for accidents, illness, or spills. If you have questions about your student's health, please call the nurse, Kelly Franker RN, 443-809-5449, to discuss.

## GRADE-LEVEL NEWS

### PRE-K

The Pre-K students are feeling jolly as we learn about what makes us special through texts, songs, and teamwork activities! They are getting in the holiday spirit by building fine motor skills to make beautiful decorations, as well as adding to our kindness tree for demonstrating helpfulness in the classroom!

### KINDERGARTEN

As November ends and December begins, Kindergarten is thankful! We had many visitors during American Education Week and enjoyed showing off our learning. We also had many, many parent conferences to share the successes of our young learners. We can use our letter sound knowledge to read and write words following the CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) spelling pattern using the letters *a, d, h, m, p, s, t*. Each week, we will be learning more letters and mastering sight words! *Short i* will be our next vowel sound. In Math we are focusing on instant recognition of numerals and quantities. We are making combinations of a specific total. We are using a variety of mathematical tools to solve problems including a ten frame, number rack, our fingers, tally marks, and simple pictures. As our Winter Break approaches, please replenish your child's school supplies so they have a terrific start to the New Year! (Pencils, crayons, and glue sticks can make great stocking stuffers.)

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

This month in Language Arts, first graders will be reading informational texts, writing an informational book, and learning about plants and animals. In math they will be adding subtracting, counting and comparing. In Science, they will be learning about the behaviors and parts of living things.

## 2<sup>nd</sup>

During the month of December, second grade will continue to read fiction and nonfiction to develop an understanding of text structure to make connections between reading and writing text. In Math, students will be working through Unit 3 which focuses extending knowledge of place value by applying strategies for multi-digit addition and subtraction with up to three-digit numbers. In Science, students are becoming agricultural engineers through research and observations as they build their knowledge of different pollinators around the world and use their learning to design and build a hand pollinator. Second grade students are also looking forward to celebrating the winter holidays and learning about holidays around the world by traveling to Goucher College and watching a performance of, “Holiday Tales: Kwanzaa, Christmas & Chanukah.”

## 3<sup>rd</sup>

Third graders are off to a great start in the month of December! In Reading, students are continuing to read informational texts to explore how animals and plants interact. In Math, students are working hard to add and subtract 3-digit numbers. Be on the lookout for information coming home about an upcoming science unit called "Driving Forces".

## 4<sup>th</sup>

Fourth grade is currently enjoying reading Kate DiCamillo novels. We are discussing dynamic characters and themes that develop throughout the stories. As the holiday season approaches, we are working on spreading kindness!

Please encourage your student to check their supplies as we head into the new year. This is a great time to see if your student needs pencils, glue sticks, crayons, and other supplies.

## 5<sup>th</sup>

This month, our fifth graders, will continue ELA second units which include reading nonfiction texts about the American revolution. In Math, they will be working with decimals, including adding and subtracting fractions and decimals. In Science, we will continue with our “Blast Off” units. Students will use the knowledge they acquired about chemical reactions to blast off the rocks.

Parents/guardians that would like a preview of the puberty lessons, are welcome to email Mrs. Daniels at [mdaniels3@bcps.org](mailto:mdaniels3@bcps.org). Previews will be held Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Before you know it, we will be at the start of a new year. This is a great time for school supply replenishment for items such as headphones, pencils, dry erase markers, etc.

We look forward to our fifth graders performing at their Winter Concert on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ms. O' Keefe's CLS Class**

The students are gearing up for the Holiday Traditions & Hygiene Unit.

### **Mrs. Ryan's CLS Class**

The students are exploring Holiday Traditions, Family Traditions and Winter Holidays.

### **Mrs. Bittner KCLS Class**

The students are learning about Family Traditions & Fairy Tales.

## **LIBRARY**

This month in the library, students will learn about the new books in our collection by enjoying a visit to our "Starbooks Cafe". While here, students will dine on delicious picture books, devour dangerous non-fiction books, and feast on fabulous fiction chapter books. Later in the month, students in all grade levels will participate in the worldwide movement- Hour of Code. During this week, students will be introduced to computer programming. Near the end of the month, students will take a book journey to learn about winter holidays celebrated across the world. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Remember to stop by your local library to gather a few extra books to hold you over until school opens again in January!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students have just completed our unit on soccer skills and drills. We are now beginning our striking unit with floor hockey/pillo polo. It is great to see all our students participating in skills and drills they didn't know they could even do! WAY TO GO!

Fourth and fifth grade students are working very hard with FitnessGram, focusing on the push-up, curl up and the pacer assessments.

Stay active and have a wonderful holiday!

## **ART**

Greetings from the Art Studio!

I am enjoying getting to know everyone at Pine Grove Elementary School. This community is very supportive and kind. I am grateful to be a part of it.

Third grade is entered in a poster contest for Baltimore County Fire Department. Students worked on illustrating the theme “Fire Can’t Wait, Plan Your Escape.” Please ask your students if they know what to do during a fire. This is a great way to stay safe with the holidays approaching. They will be our teachers for fire safety once the posters are completed and hang in the hallway.

Second grade is currently working on a community theme for an art exhibition at Pine Grove Elementary School. Their work is inspired by the houses in Hampden and the community’s passion for sharing their art with everyone. For those of you who have never been to the lights before, I highly recommend it. It is located on the block of 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The lights go on at dark and it is free for all to enjoy!

Kindergarten and first grade will be working on textured trees. Fourth grade is wrapping up their passion for pumpkins and fifth grade is learning about Gargoyles. It is a busy and fun month of learning in the art studio. Enjoy the season.

## VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The fifth-grade students have been preparing for the Winter Concert and we are excited to have them perform for you. The concert is on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The doors for the concert will open at 6 PM and the concert will begin at 6:30 PM. We ask that students wear something nice. No jeans, t-shirts or sneakers, if possible. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact Mr. Pugh at [jpugh@bcps.org](mailto:jpugh@bcps.org) or Mr. Messinger at [bmessinger@bcps.org](mailto:bmessinger@bcps.org). We look forward to your family hearing the wonderful sounds of the fifth grade. A letter was sent home with the students with more information. If you didn't get one, please check with your child or get in touch with us. - Justin Pugh and Ben Messinger

## ESOL

This fall in our Grades 1- 5 ESOL classes, we have been discussing food and exercise while working on writing with transition words and detailed sentences. After Thanksgiving, we started comparing foods from different cultures, and will soon practice our listening, speaking, reading and listening for the WIDA Access Language tests in January. This month's Kindergarten topics include pronouns, parts of the body and emotions. Parents have probably noticed that your children have been bringing home books on ESOL days. Reading for enjoyment is one of the best ways for students to develop their vocabulary and spelling skills, so I try to give the students fun books that appeal to their personal interests. You may choose to keep these books, pass them along to another child, or return them to me if they are not being used anymore. As always, parents can reach me at [athesen@bcps.org](mailto:athesen@bcps.org) if you have any questions about our ESOL program or need assistance with any other language-related issues. - Ms. Anita Thesen

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday, December 5** – Prismatic Magic Laser Assembly Sponsored by the PTA (THANK YOU!)

**Tuesday, December 6** – Literacy Family Night 5:30-6:30 pm, Book Fair 5-7 pm

**Thursday, December 8** – College Paraphernalia Day, Winter Concert at 6:30 pm

**Thursday, December 15** – PTA Meeting 6:30 pm

**Thursday, December 22** – School and Office Closes at 1 pm

**Friday, December 23 – Monday, January 2** – School and Office Closed – Winter Break

## PARENT RESOURCE

<https://www.towson.edu/coe/centers/reading-clinic.html>



### [Reading Clinic | Towson University](https://www.towson.edu/coe/centers/reading-clinic.html)

Participants of any age are encouraged to join us. If you or your family member have a learning difference, are lagging behind peers, are reluctant to read, or simply want to improve reading confidence, we can help.

[www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu)

## FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Family Literacy Night -- "Reading is a Journey"

Please join us at Pine Grove Elementary for a night full of literacy and fun! The evening will provide you with ways to promote reading at home with your student. Passports will be given as you travel through classrooms engaged in important literacy skills and activities. Come for the free materials and book giveaways!

When: Tuesday, December 6, 2022

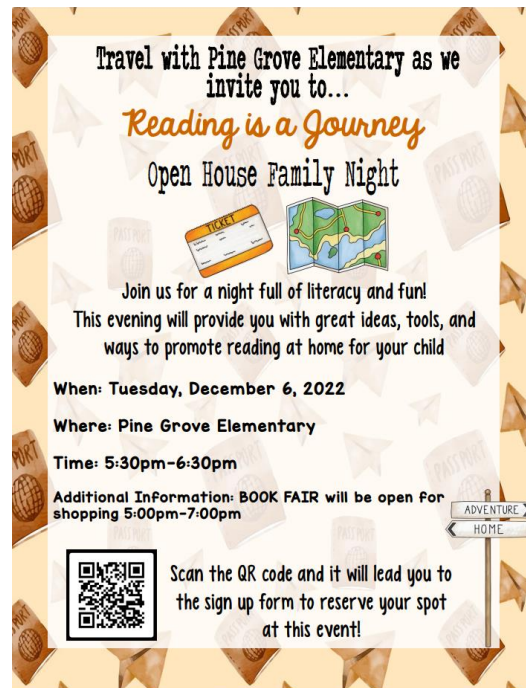
Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm



Scholastic Bookfair will be open from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the cafeteria for your shopping pleasure.

Sign up today! Use this link to pre-register

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHeShM8H1on1pqC0l5CVe2KYl2hFLMdqxHVMCQsFYLS83hPw/viewform>



## 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](http://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.

If you haven't already, please complete the Free and Reduced Meal Application, to qualify for free meals. [MySchoolApps - Getting Started](#)

## Apply NOW for Free and Reduced-Priced Meals!

The online application is **NOW OPEN** for 2022-2023

[www.MySchoolApps.com](http://www.MySchoolApps.com)

(Translations Available)

**APPLY TODAY!**

*\*Students of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools need NOT apply  
(School Meals are FREE to the students at CEP Schools)*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



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