



# PINE BOUGH

## Pine Grove Middle School



9200 Old Harford Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21234 410-887-5270

Website- <https://pinegrovemiddle.bcps.org> Twitter: @PGMSinBCPS

*"Where being **P**erformance-Driven and **G**oal-Oriented **M**oves us toward **S**uccess!"*

**FEBRUARY/ MARCH EDITION 2018**

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**  
**MS. TINA NELSON**

**Greetings Pine Grove Middle School Community.**

Hello Pine Grove Middle School Families. It is hard to believe that we are already in second semester, even though the weather has made it difficult to have a complete school week. We hope that the start to your 2018 has been healthy and happy, and that it remains so.

We encourage you to use BCPS One ([bcpsone.bcps.org/](http://bcpsone.bcps.org/)) to stay informed about your child's performance during the second semester. If you have not yet activated your account, or are having difficulty, please contact the school and we will provide assistance. You can reinforce your child's academic progress by encouraging vocabulary development, reviewing math facts, and engaging in other educational activities. BCPS Parent University ([www.bcps.org/parentu/](http://www.bcps.org/parentu/)) is a resource for staying active in your child's education.

Our vision at Pine Grove remains to empower our students to develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century content knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to reach their maximum potential as responsible, life-long learners and globally competitive citizens. We continue to focus on instruction that centers on the learner and on providing meaningful feedback that drives student achievement.

Thank you for your support of Pine Grove Middle School. We look forward to an excellent spring.

**BCPS Stakeholder Survey, opened on January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Last year, BCPS heard from more than 81,000 students, parents, community members, and staff.

Your voice matters! Your feedback shapes our budget, staffing, and programs. Help us continue to improve.

- The survey only takes about five minutes on a phone, tablet, or computer.
- It is available in 16 languages for students, parents, and community members.
- This year, BCPS is including Grade 3-12 students (Grade 3 is new), and all parents, staff, and community members.

Please take the survey online from **January 29 – March 2** at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org), and encourage others to help shape our future!

PGMS Administration

Tina Nelson, Principal,

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Nathan Davis, Assistant Principal

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Jennifer Farmer, Assistant Principal

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## A LOOK AHEAD

February 5 – 9

School Counseling Week



Thursday, February 15

PTSA Meeting in library 6:00PM

Friday, February 16

Palooza, Grade 8, 7:00 – 10:30PM

Monday, February 19

Presidents' Day, Schools Closed

Thursday, February 22

Interims distributed

Wednesday, February 28

Conference Night 3:00- 6:00PM

Thursday, March 8

PTSA Meeting in library 6:00PM

Tuesday, March 20

Spring Picture Day

Friday, March 23

Cougar Activity Night, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

March 26-28

Hoops for Heart- Gym

Thursday, March 29

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends, Schools close 3 hours early (11:40AM)

Friday, March 30

Spring Break begins

Tuesday, April 3

School reopens



## **PARCC TEST TAKING STRATEGIES & INFORMATION**

THE 2018 PARRC TESTING BEGINS IN APRIL- MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

Every year we are faced with the question, “How can we adequately prepare our students for the state assessment?” In Baltimore County and at Pine Grove Middle, we have a balanced literacy program which already addresses many of the demands of the Common Core State Standards. “A language-rich classroom, where students engage in regular guided and independent reading, is the ideal context for developing the skills needed to perform well on standardized tests.”

What are three surefire strategies for reading comprehension that especially come in handy at test time?

1. Encourage Purposeful Reading; 2. Cover All Kinds of Questions; 3. Teach Text Structure.

**We encourage our students to read purposefully.** Our students realize that there is always a purpose for reading, and they must tailor their reading strategies accordingly. They realize that we are teaching them that they must know as much as possible about the types of questions they will be facing on the PARCC assessment in the narrative and informational reading passages.

**In terms of covering all kinds of questions,** we teach our students the kinds of items they will be seeing on the test. We expose them to many different types of questions on a daily basis—literal, inferential, textual, and so on. It is vital that students respond to the prompt and stay focused on the questions being asked when writing a response.

**Finally, we teach reading strategies and reading skills** such as text structure, story organization, compare and contrast, and cause and effect, and claim/evidences to help our students know where to find the answers in the passages they are reading.

**Other strategies** we have used to ensure student efficiency with the test is:

- Utilized “Test” vocabulary (the words encountered in testing questions)
- Reviewed the correct and incorrect answers to practice tests
- Utilized ‘common’ test-taking strategies (process of elimination, pacing, marking the test booklet, highlighting, and “proper” guessing)
- Had student create their own organizers before their writing activities
- Utilized close reading strategies for vocabulary and main idea
- Utilized the PARCC rubric to ensure understanding of scoring of assessment

If you’d like more information or to review the practice tests your child uses during class, log onto <http://parcconline.org/> and explore.

## **Student Service Learning Awards**

Attention 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents: The County bases its 8<sup>th</sup> grade student's service learning award on the total number of hours entered into the system by the end of third quarter. All service learning forms must be submitted to Ms. Curtis no later than March 23<sup>th</sup> so that they can be entered in time to be considered for this award. Please note incomplete or partial paperwork will not be approved.

## **PBIS Committee News**

The PBIS Committee continues to deliver quality lessons during our weekly character education program. The focus of our recent lessons has been Respect and Responsibility in various settings throughout the school. Please ask your child about our character education lessons that take place on Tuesday mornings. As always, the school store is open for business! Please encourage your child to use his/her TRACS at the school store or to enter the PBIS drawings for special prizes.



## **News from the English Department**

In 1951, Henrietta Lacks went to Johns Hopkins Hospital for an unknown illness and, several months later, died of cancer at the age of 31. Two days later, her cells, still continuing to grow, marked the first instance of human cell growth outside of the body. This transformed modern medicine with her cells being used in more than 76,000 studies and, more immediately, in the development of the polio vaccine.

Each year, as an annual reminder of the gratitude, respect, and clear communication due to all research participants, the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group Letter, Essay, and Video Competition is held nation-wide. This year, Brooke Strauss from here at Pine Grove Middle School was selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner of the Letter Competition from among more than 200 entries being submitted from across the country. We wish to congratulate our very talented student, Brooke, on her written selection honoring these contributions to modern medicine. For more information, please visit the website:

[www.henrietalackslegacygroup.com/students-of-hela](http://www.henrietalackslegacygroup.com/students-of-hela)

(You may contact your Language Arts teacher for this website information.)

## **From the Music Department**

Students are learning new concepts and making beautiful music in Band, Chorus, and Strings. Students enrolled in American Music 8 are currently learning about the influence of the early African American music on popular music and how politics are reflected in music.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus will be performing in the mandatory county assessments on March 22; the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band performs on March 23, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra performs on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a required performance and wonderful opportunity to showcase our achievement to the entire county, and to experience performances from the audience perspective.

SPRING CONCERT DATES:

May 16<sup>th</sup> – BAND

May 23 – ORCHESTRA

May 30 - CHORUS



## PTSA NEWS

Our PTSA President, Christina Pumphrey, will be attending PTA Night in Annapolis on Tuesday, February 6 from 6-8 pm, along with fellow Baltimore County PTA Council members. If you have an interest in attending, please contact Christina directly at [cpumphrey31@gmail.com](mailto:cpumphrey31@gmail.com).

Due to PTA night in Annapolis, the date of our February meeting will change. Additional details will be posted on the official PTSA Facebook page shortly. Please note, that as a continuation of our Behavioral Roundtable/Workshop, we will spend the first 15 minutes of future PTSA meetings discussing various behavior topics. This will allow parents to ask questions and express concerns and will allow the PTSA to provide information regarding any issues that are being addressed or improvements and changes that have occurred. Because this is an issue that will require a significant amount of time and is a "work in progress", we will be breaking everything down into very specific topics and will announce which topic will be discussed at each future meeting. Christina is open to additional ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to her directly at [cpumphrey31@gmail.com](mailto:cpumphrey31@gmail.com)

PGMS Participates in the Coke Rewards program as a way to earn money for the school. Simply go to this link: <https://us.coca-cola.com/offers/> to donate to our school. You make an account, choose Pine Grove Middle School and enter the codes from your Coke products.

We also collect Box tops to earn money for the school. The last submission date for Box tops is March 1st so please turn in your box tops before then. Any box tops sent in after March 1st will go towards next year's total. We raised around \$90 with the fall/winter submission. Every little bit helps!

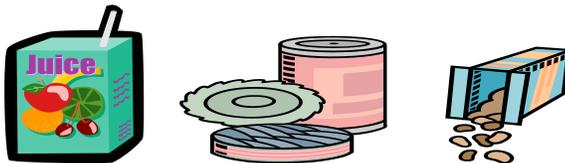
<https://www.facebook.com/Pine-Grove-Middle-PTSA-1137462409665838/>

<http://www.pgmsptsa.org/>



## Pine Grove's Canned Food Drive was a MAJOR success,

We generously collected over 1000 items for families in need in our community. We also partnered once again with the residents at Skylarke Point Apartments, who helped fill our school's food pantry with over 200 items. A BIG COUGAR THANK YOU for all involved!!!



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## Pine Grove Middle School ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

I pledge to ...

Think about what I am saying.

Speak out when I see bullying.

Lend a hand to those who need help.

Stick with it and refuse to bully others.

I will choose to stand up, be a friend and remember that the end of bullying begins with me.

I will say 'NO' to bullying and 'YES' to PEACE!



## What are **Random Acts of Kindness**?

### Why are random acts of kindness so important?

I suppose you could interpret them in your own way, but I like to think of them as things that you normally wouldn't do. Taking someone's dish for them after they are done eating might not seem like a big gesture, but how often do you actually do it without them asking you to do so? What about putting away the towels after mom folded them? How often do you tell someone 'thank you' for their hard work every day, not just on a single day or for a specific project that was assigned to them?

**Those can all be random acts of kindness.** Any act of kindness counts. Some may seem like common courtesies and others may seem like things you would never do. Bringing a smile to someone's face is always the goal. With everything happening in society today, at every age, every race, and every gender, I feel it is important to bring back these small gestures.

What if you could be that one person who makes someone believe that they really are special? Because we all are. We all were put here for a reason and it's a matter of being able to find out what that reason was. What if you could help someone carry on that smile to another person? Who carries it on to another? Don't break that chain, create it. Make someone's day. Make someone feel like they mean something. (Because they do!)

Start inside your own home. Think about what you could change at work to make it a more positive working environment. We often have a tendency to let life get the best of us. Help bring back kindness into the world. Do something kind for someone today-whatever it may be!

**Look for RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) displays and activities during the month of February for ideas on how you can make someone's day.**

### **ADVANCED ART CLASSES (G/T) 2017-18**

The nomination process for the gifted and talented art program opened earlier this year. Students may approach the process themselves by asking their art teacher for the appropriate information, or they may be nominated by their current or previous art teachers. A portfolio of student artwork is required of all students. Art teachers are available to provide counseling to students in the preparation of work. Coach classes will be available on Wednesday afternoons.

A review process will be conducted in April to review portfolios and make recommendations of eligibility for the G/T art program. Students whose portfolios do not meet the eligibility criteria may reapply the following year after further counseling and acting upon recommendations.

Completed nominations and portfolios are due to the art teachers at Pine Grove Middle School on or before April 5, 2018.

Portfolio requirements are:

1. a drawing of an object, such as a shoe or chair, from observation including shading
2. a drawing of a person from real life including shading
3. a drawing from the imagination
4. other artwork done in the past 2 years
5. a sketchbook of drawings

If you or your child has any questions about the process you are welcome to email

## **Box Tops for Education**

Don't forget to save the Box Tops coupons that are printed on various grocery items. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents towards supplies for our art program. They can be found on cereal, tissues, snack bars, and other assorted items.

Make sure that your child's name is on the back of the Box Top so that it can be entered into a drawing for a cash prize. Students should bring them to their art teacher. Thanks so much for your support!

Also, please visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to receive coupons, sign up for contests, and find out about how you can get bonus and eBox Tops for shopping online.

## **Please consider using A+ School Rewards if you shop at Giant!**

PINE GROVE MIDDLE – ID#: 01632 has the opportunity to participate in and earn CASH from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through your local Giant!

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

*You DO NOT need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.*

### **To participate:**

- Visit [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com) and select **Savings & Rewards**. Follow the prompts to create your online account. *You will need your 12-digit GIANT CARD number and the School ID # 01632.*

***IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR GIANT CARD NUMBER CALL 1-877-366-2668 OPTION #1***

### **To earn points:**

- Use your GIANT CARD each time you shop at Giant, and you will earn CASH for my school. You can track the number of points you are earning for our school by checking your grocery receipt starting October 6, 2017 through March 15, 2018.
- At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to CASH rewards. These CASH rewards for our school are updated monthly. You can track our progress when you sign in to your online account.
- Our school will receive one CASH awards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of its educational needs.

## **Hoops for Heart**

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Hoops for Heart event to raise funds for the American Heart Association will be held March 26 through March 28. This event is hosted by our Physical Education Department, with 3vs3 games and contests. These will take place during a variety of gym times during these three days. All students are invited to participate and may sign up with a team of three. Additional information will be distributed during Physical Education classes. You may also contact Ms. Six at [dsix@bcps.org](mailto:dsix@bcps.org) for more information.



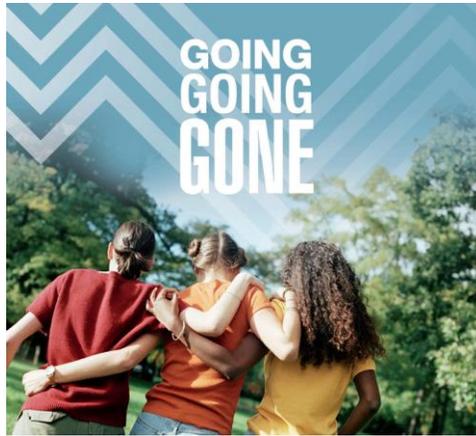


Pine Grove Middle School

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<https://tinyurl.com/pgmsyearbook>



Nothing captures the memories of the school year like a yearbook. But supplies are extremely limited. Order now for **\$26.00** before they're just another memory.

<https://tinyurl.com/pgmsyearbook>