



The Piney Press

Piney Orchard Elementary School
2641 Strawberry Lake Way
Odenton, MD 21113
410-672-7591

December 2019



A MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Piney Orchard Elementary School Families,

The holidays are fast approaching! It's a time for celebrating with family and friends. We wish everyone a safe and happy season.

We hope to see you at our concerts this month! The evening Strings Concert will be on Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. and the day Strings Concert will be on Tuesday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m. The combined Band and Chorus concerts will be on Monday, December 16 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Our students look forward to sharing their talents with family and friends!

Now that the weather is getting colder, please dress students in layers, as individual room temperatures vary. **Also, putting your child's name on coats, lunch boxes, notebooks, etc., will help us return belongings to your child.** Please have your child check the "Lost and Found" for any items they may be missing. There are lots of items unclaimed. Please claim items by Friday, December 20th. We will donate items left after this date since we do not have room to store them.

Our winter break is the perfect time for family trips. Please plan vacations on days when children are not in school. Daily attendance and punctuality are keys to student success and help build a strong work ethic.

In closing, we would like to extend our warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season. It is a pleasure to work each day with supportive parents, wonderful children and a dedicated staff. We are also very grateful to our PTA and parent volunteers who go above and beyond to support our entire school community to make Piney Orchard Elementary a great school!

All the best to the POES Community during this holiday season and for a safe, prosperous and wonderful New Year!

Barry Gruber, Principal & Lisa Wild, Assistant Principal

Welcome New Students

Natavia P. — Ms. Hutchison

Alaina G. — Mrs. Liswell

Caden T. — Mrs. LeGrand

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

December	
2	PTA Meeting at 6:00 pm in the Media Center
3	Grade 5 Field Trip to the Planetarium 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
3	Officer Lunch Buddy with Grade 3
5	2-Hour Early Dismissal —Professional Dev.
5	Unity Day (<i>Wear Orange</i>)
7	POES Vendor Fair/Craft Show from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
9	Strings Evening Concert—6:30 pm
10	Strings Daytime Concert —9:30 am
13	Wear Plaid Day
13	Interims Sent Home
16	Band/Chorus Concerts—2:30 pm and 6:30 pm
20	Ugly Sweater Day
23-Jan. 1	NO SCHOOL —Winter Break (<i>Our office will be closed during the entire winter break.</i>)
January	
1	NO SCHOOL —Winter Break
2	School Resumes
8	Officer Lunch Buddy Grade 2
13	Yearbook Pictures - Groups and Candid
20	NO SCHOOL —Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
28-29	2-Hour Early Dismissal —Teacher Workdays**
29	End of 2nd Marking Period **
30	NO SCHOOL —Teacher Workday**
31	Beginning of Third Marking Period
**Subject to change due to inclement weather closings.	

Security Reminder

All visitors to POES must present a government-issued photo ID prior to entering the school building. Please ring the bell, hold your ID up to the camera, and state the purpose of your visit. Thank you for your cooperation!

PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE NEWSLETTER.



Meeting

December 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center.
Join the [Piney Orchard Elementary School PTA](#) group on Facebook for updates and info.

The holidays can be a wonderful time to appreciate the blessings in our lives. However, there are plenty of families who find the holiday season to be stressful and overwhelming. Whether it is the most wonderful time of the year, or the most stressful, it is a good time to help teach our children about generosity. Our students have already had lessons about generosity through the FunRun this fall. Let's continue to expand their understanding by having small conversations, donating to food and toy drives, volunteering at a community center or simply sharing with their family.

Our School Counseling lessons during December will focus on making good choices and drug awareness.

Kindergarten – Listening

1st Grade – Listening

2nd Grade – Work Habits

3rd Grade – Prescription vs Non-Prescription Drugs

4th Grade – Legal vs Illegal Drugs

5th Grade – Impact of Drugs and Peer Pressure

If your child(ren) are struggling with friendships, processing emotions or getting along with others please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season full of joy and relaxation.

Stephanie Brauer, Counselor



From Mr. Gruber and Ms. Wild: Thank you to everyone who made time to visit classrooms and participate in the parent coffees during American Education Week. We love to partner with our families to ensure student success!

From Mrs. Beall, Mrs. Liswell, Mrs. Gallagher and Mr. Marsh: Thank you to the many parents that came with the 4th grade classes to Historic St. Mary's City last month. We had a wonderful day learning about our state's original capital city. Also, we are very fortunate to have such a generous PTA that covered the student admission for our trip. THANK YOU!

From Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. LeGrand, Mrs. Winslow, Mrs. Balderson, and Mrs. Ledford: Many thanks go out to our parents who chaperoned the Downs Park Field Trip. We are grateful!

From Mrs. Conklin & Mrs. Fox: Our 2019 Fall Book Fair was a HUGE success! Thank you so much to all students and families who supported our school by shopping the fair! We hope you enjoy your books! Book fair wouldn't run without our dedicated volunteers! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Chorus/Band/Strings News

Students have now been assigned the music they will perform at the winter concert. Please have your child practice 10 minutes a day at home to continue developing their musical skills (especially beginner students). Practicing at home will help ensure our concert is a success! Please make note of the concert dates on the front of this newsletter and let Mr. Alexander or Mrs. Gruber know if your child cannot attend or if you have additional questions. Thank you!

- Mr. Alexander and Mrs. Gruber



A message from the Nurse:

Parents, please supply an extra set of clothing for your student to keep in their locker in case of an accident. Especially undergarments and pants. Thank you!