



The Piney Press

Piney Orchard Elementary School

2641 Strawberry Lake Way

Odenton, MD 21113

410-672-7591

February 2020



Our Piney Orchard family collaborates to provide the appropriate level of challenge to enable all students to be successful citizens.

A MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Piney Orchard Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 3rd marking period! It's hard to believe we are already into the second half of the school year with the 100th day of school on February 12th! It's amazing to see how much academic growth students have made during the first two marking periods. To achieve academic success, it is very important that students arrive to school on time and ready to learn. Parents, thank you for your support.

We know students are learning based on their Fountas and Pinnell reading level scores and various progress monitoring tools we use throughout the year. Literacy skills and ensuring that all students are reading on or above grade level, as we work to *elevate all students and eliminate all gaps*, continues to be our top priority as a school, cluster, and throughout all of AACPS. Participation and enthusiasm for the #ReadWithMe Challenge was very impressive! It was great to see so many students excited about reading.

Student safety is the number one priority of all AACPS employees. February is often a very active weather month. It is important to be informed of weather related school closings, delayed openings, early dismissals, or other emergencies. Please be sure the school office has your correct phone number, email, address and emergency contacts on file. It is also important that voice mailboxes are setup. Please keep in mind that there are approximately 90 staff members that could have called from our office number. If you get a call, please check your messages first to see who called you so we know how to direct your call. If you have moved please make sure you provide two proofs of residency and give updated address and phone number to the office staff.

Notifications on the status of schools are issued via text message, the AACPS Facebook page, Twitter, automated phone message, and posted at the top of the www.aacps.org website. Please be sure you receive notifications to help us ensure the safety of all students. If you need assistance to receive this information, contact the school office.

Thank you for an amazing first half of the school year. Should you have questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to call me at 410-672-7591 or email me at BGruber@aacps.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership!

Barry Gruber, Principal & Lisa Wild, Assistant Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

February	
1	African-American History Month
3—24	Jump Rope for Heart Week
3	PTA Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
4-8	National School Counselor's Week
5	Grade 2 Field Trip to Maryland Hall
5	Officer Lunch Buddy Grade 1
10	Report Card Distribution
10	PTA Fundraiser Chick Fil A Night
12	2-Hour Early Dismissal (<i>Professional Development</i>)
12	100th Day of School (<i>weather permitting</i>)
12	Unity Day (<i>Wear Orange</i>)
14	Class Friendship Parties
17	NO SCHOOL -Presidents' Day
27	Art Show from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
29	PTA Breakfast at Applebee's 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
March	
2	Dr. Seuss' Birthday—Read Across America Day
4	Officer Lunch Buddy Grade 4
9	Interims Sent Home
10	NO SCHOOL (<i>Parent/Teacher Conferences</i>)
16-19	MISA Testing for Grade 5 (9:15-11:00 <i>each day</i>)
20	PTA Candyland Dance Party 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
24	Unity Day (<i>Wear Orange</i>)
24	2 Hour Early Dismissal (<i>Professional Development</i>)
26	Picture Day: Spring Individuals, Classes and Gr. 5 Panoramic
27	ISEC (<i>Science Fair</i>) Grades 4 & 5 at 9:00 am

Welcome New Students, Salisbury Interns, and Evening Custodian!

Rita A.— <i>Evening Custodian</i>	Allyanna T.— <i>Ms. Bosset</i>	Sthefanie M.— <i>Ms. Hutchison</i>
Aidan K.— <i>Mrs. Liswell</i>	Nathan K.— <i>Mrs. Wallace</i>	Khalia J.— <i>Mrs. Winslow</i>
Claire B.— <i>Mrs. Doyle</i>	Victor B.— <i>Mrs. Guernsey</i>	Allyson Luttrell— <i>Intern</i>
Colin Pannell— <i>Intern</i>	Dylan Pannell— <i>Intern</i>	Sara Pasker— <i>Intern</i>
Peyton Reynolds — <i>Intern</i>	Julia Scanlon— <i>Intern</i>	Samantha Schrickel— <i>Intern</i>

PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE NEWSLETTER.

Counselor's Corner

Winter is a great time to stay inside and stay warm. It is also a wonderful time to work on social skills like sharing, taking turns, sportsmanship, and problem solving. One of the best ways to incorporate all these skills is through games. Playing games as a family allows us to connect with each other while help practice skills that are important in our daily life. Try to set aside at least one time a week to sit down together and play a board game. Some of my favorites are: Sorry, Clue, Jenga, and Uno. Ensuring that we are modeling positive ways to handle losing, not getting our way and cooperating with others will help our children be successful in school and beyond.

During the month of February, I will be teaching our state mandated Erin's Law Lessons. If you did not receive a letter about the specific topics for your child(ren)'s grade, please use this link to explore the lessons. <https://www.aacps.org/Page/5481>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at sbrauer@aacps.org or 410-6732-7591.

As always, if you or your child(ren) are in need of any help please do not hesitate to reach out so that we can work together to ensure all of our Piney Orchard families are supported.

Stephanie Brauer, School Counselor



From a Piney Parent: about the Dance Festival Performance: "Although I may be biased, Piney was for sure the best elementary school! Tawana you are amazing! These kids were awesome because of you!" Thank you Mrs. Ringgold for volunteering your time for our kids!

Jump Rope for Heart is Back!



February is Heart Awareness month, so once again we will be doing Kids Heart Challenge at Piney Orchard Elementary School. It Takes Heart to Be a Hero!! From February 3 - 24 our school will hold a Jump Rope for Heart event. Students from all grades will have the opportunity to participate (whether they donate or not). Your child will also have a kickoff lesson in PE class during the week of February 3—7. Throughout the month we will discuss Healthy Heart facts and complete heart pumping activities culminating with Jump Rope week (February 18—24). By participating in Jump Rope for Heart, your child will join millions of other children across the country in a meaningful opportunity to learn and help others.

Our goal for this year is to raise over \$6,000. Family and friends are welcome to support your child's participating by contributing ONLINE or through the FREE MOBILE APP (Jump/Hoops: American Heart Association). We ask that children DO NOT go door-to-door asking for donations. We would like this fundraiser to be an ONLINE fundraiser only! Students will be bringing home the Getting Started letter which will have the instructions for the online set-up. Registering ONLINE is a quick and easy way to contact a lot of family and friends. Link to sign-up and donate: <http://american.heart.org/kidsheartchallenge/>

From the PTA: Order your yearbook today! Yearbooks can be ordered either online or using the paper form available in the office or on the POES PTA Facebook page.



Online instructions: Use this link—<http://yearbooks.classic-photo.com/MD1182017/home3/Bookstore.jsp>.



1. Select blue **Order** button under book you want to order.
2. Shopping Cart openings then **enter #**

of books

3. **Enter Student Name** (for each book if more than 1 is ordered)
4. **Enter Teacher Last Name Only** (for each book if more than 1 is ordered)
5. Select **Checkout**
6. Enter **Billing Information** (check box at bottom for shipping same as billing)
7. Select **Next**
8. **Review Order** then select continue
9. Enter **Payment Information** then select **Pay**
10. **Save your email confirmation and make a note to yourself** to make sure you don't accidentally order another yearbook. (We send the form home multiple times.)



The art show is coming to Piney Orchard on February 27th from 5:30-7. Each student will have a framed piece of art in the show. You will have the opportunity to purchase the frame. The price for the frame is \$27, we will accept cash or check only!!! We will also have face painting and visiting artists. Thank you for supporting the art department and your children!

Kindness Club

February 1st—28th the Kindness Club will be collecting loose change for the Odenton Volunteer Fire Department.. There will be a station in the front lobby each morning where someone will be collecting the change.

These men and women volunteer their time and risk their lives to help and protect our community.

**Let's help our volunteers
help our community!**