



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

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends and had a wonderful winter break.



Congratulations to our staff and students for taking Piney Orchard Elementary School from being a 3 star school to a **5 STAR SCHOOL!** What an amazing accomplishment.

January is one of those months that always goes by quickly. Several days schools are closed due to holidays, early dismissals for teacher professional development and preparation for the second semester, and the possibility of delayed openings/early dismissals and snow days. Because of this, it is imperative that we have your most up to date contact information and working phone numbers to keep the lines of communication open. Please be sure to complete a new Emergency Contact Card or call the school office if there have been changes to address, phone number, emergency contacts, etc... since the first week of school. We need to be able to reach you in the event there are calendar changes or an emergency.

Our PTA has done an amazing job of providing support for students, teachers and the entire school as well as organizing special events like the Book Fair, Family Movie Night, and Craft Fair. We have gradually increased our network of parent volunteers and community partnerships.

Looking forward, we will be spending time preparing our 3rd through 5th grade students for the MCAP and MISA Assessments. Test administration will begin in March. Thank you for a wonderful first half of the school year. Please know that we are always a phone call or email away if we can be of support.

On behalf of our entire POES family, we wish you all a happy and healthy 2020!

Barry Gruber, Principal & Lisa Wild, Assistant Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

January	
2	School Resumes
6-31	#AACPSReadWithMe Challenge
7	CoGAT Testing Grade 5 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
7	CoGAT Testing Grade 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
8	CoGAT Testing Grade 5 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
8	CoGAT Testing Grade 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
8	Officer Lunch Buddy Grade 2
9	CoGAT Testing Grade 5 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
9	CoGAT Testing Grade 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
13	Yearbook Group and Candid Pictures
13	GOTR Registration Opens
20	NO SCHOOL —Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
28	End of 2nd Marking Period**
29	National Elementary Honor Society Induction (Gr. 5) at 5:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria
28-29	2-Hour Early Dismissal —Teacher Workdays**
30	NO SCHOOL —Teacher Workday**
**Subject to change due to inclement weather closings.	
February	
1	African-American History Month
3	PTA Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
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 —Professional Development
12	Unity Day (Wear Orange)
17	NO SCHOOL -Presidents' Day
27	Art Show from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
29	PTA Breakfast at Applebees 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Welcome New Students

Melody T.—Mrs. Lesperance Arushi V.—Mrs. Sweeney
Arunima V.—Mrs. Wallace Declan B.—Ms. Truffer

2020

The beginning of the year is a time for reflection and setting goals. Helping our children look at their actions and words is important in their growth and development. Take some time to talk as a family about the best things about the year as well as some things that you may want to change for the next year. Here are some questions to help you get started:

- What was your favorite part of this year? Why?
- What do you think you were best at this year? Why?
- What are some changes you think we should make as a family?
- What is one thing you would like to improve next year?

Websites to help with reflections:

<https://www.nureva.com/blog/education/15-ways-to-spark-student-reflection-in-your-classroom>

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/goal-setting-for-kids>

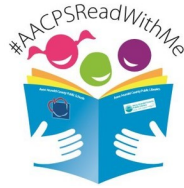
We are encouraging our students to think about their behavior and academics as we enter 2020. We will be setting goals at school to focus the students' efforts in making positive changes or continuing to grow in a variety of areas.

Our school counseling lessons for the month of January will be focused on friendship and peer pressure. We discuss compromise (not always getting what we want), problem solving, and the qualities of good friends.

Happy New Year,
Stephanie Brauer, School Counselor

THANK YOU

- From Mr. Gruber and Miss Wild: Thank you to Mr. Alexander and Mrs. Gruber for the excellent Band, Chorus and Strings concerts. We appreciate the time and care you give to the students.
- From the Staff: A big shout out to Melanie Marx and our wonderful PTA for showering us with holiday cheer and amazing comfort food. We are always grateful for the wonderful things you do for us.
- From Fifth Grade: We appreciate all who volunteered their time to chaperone our Planetarium field trip last month. Thank you!



The #AACPSReadWithMe Challenge will run from January 6th –31st. Here is how it works:

- Take a picture of your child reading.
- Tweet the picture to @POESAACPS and add #AACPSReadWithMe.
- Participate in the "At-Home" Bingo Challenge. Return completed Bingo boards to the media center for a prize!
- Schools with the most tweets will win prizes, books, and more!
- Check out the POES PTA Facebook page for daily tips!



A message from the Nurse:

If your child(ren) wish to have chapstick/lip balm at school during the day, please feel free to allow them to bring it to school. No cough drops unless accompanied by doctor's order.

Thank you!

 Piney Orchard Elementary School
Snow Leopards Are "RARE"

Respectful

Accountable

Responsible

Empathetic

WEATHER-APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Please be sure to dress your child appropriately for the weather each day. Children will go outside for recess as much as possible, so please send them with a winter coat/jacket, mittens/ gloves, and a hat **Be sure to label these items with your child's name.** Each child should also have a change of clothes in his/her locker for the winter season. Thank you!

