



# The Piney Press

Piney Orchard Elementary School  
2641 Strawberry Lake Way  
Odenton, MD 21113

October 2019



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,

October is here and school routines are *falling* into place. Historically, this is the month that we share our School Improvement Plan and initiatives. We have four action steps:


1. Use Writer's Workshop across all content areas to improve the academic success of each student.
2. To promote each student's academic success, implement guided reading to improve accuracy and utilize miscue analysis to identify errors so that teachers can target specific student needs and provide strategies to support them.
3. Increase teacher capacity to plan and implement effective instruction using the components of an elementary math lesson to promote each student's academic success.
4. Utilize a consistent, school wide plan to promote each student's well-being and the social/emotional and behavioral needs of students in a positive manner that is equitable and culturally inclusive.

During October, we also help others with our "Kids Helping Kids: Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive" from October 1-31. We will combine celebrating Fall and raising money for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. \$1 will equal 8 pounds of food. Children can wear their Halloween costumes to school on October 31, 2019. *We ask that students leave their masks and any toy weapons at home.*

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has joined the PTA! It is not too late to join! All are welcome to attend the PTA Meeting on October 7th at 6:00 p.m.. Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

First in Math returns to 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade! The First in Math program has been purchased by the AACPS Elementary Math Office as an additional way to provide practice students need to help them to succeed in Math. Students will log in with their unique user name and password and then the fun will begin. They will be able to utilize a variety of math content, with various skill sets to earn stickers. Students will be recognized for daily achievement as the *Player of the Day*. Individual and class achievement recognitions will be recorded on the FIM Wall of Fame. We hope our students will get us back to the top of sticker count for all Anne Arundel County Schools and then strive to be the top in the state and then in the nation! Get playing and earn those stickers!

*Barry Gruber, Principal & Lisa Wild, Assistant Principal*



POES' First Boosterthon Fun Run

November 6, 2019

Save the Date!

More information to come home soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019	
<b>October</b>	1-31 Kids Helping Kids: Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive
1	Federal Impact Survey Forms Go Home
7	Interims Go Home
7	PTA Meeting 6:00 pm in the Media Center
8	<b>Two-hour Early Dismissal</b> — <i>Prof. Development</i>
9	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> — Yom Kippur
10	Grade 3 Field Trip to Londontowne ( <i>Truffer/Guernsey</i> )
10	Vision and Hearing Screening Make-Ups
11	Fall Pictures
11	Grade 3 Field Trip to Londontowne ( <i>Simmons/Schar</i> )
15	<b>NO SCHOOL for Students</b> — <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences</i>
16	<b>NO SCHOOL for Students</b> — <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences</i>
23	Unity Day—Wear Orange
28	Boosterthon Pep Rally
29	PTA Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A in Waugh Chapel from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
31	Halloween —Wear your Costume/Parade at 2:30 pm
<b>November</b>	
6	Boosterthon Fun Run 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
7 & 8	<b>Two-hour Early Dismissal</b> —End of First Marking Period
11	Veteran's Day/Beginning of 2nd MP
11—15	Book Fair Week
13	Fall Book Fair Family Night 5:30 pm to 7:15 pm
14	Grade 4 Field Trip to St. Mary's (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)
15	PTA Movie Night at 6:30 pm
16	Family Involvement Conf. 8:15 am –2:00 pm at AAC
18	Dress as a Teacher Day
18	Grade K Classroom Visits at 9:15 am for American Education Week
18	Grade K Parent Coffee—10:15 am in the POES Media Center
19	Grade 1 Parent Coffee—9:15 am in the POES Media Center
19	Grade 1 Classroom Visits at 10:15 am for American Education Week
20	Report Card Distribution
20	Dress for your Future Career
20	Grade 3 Parent Coffee—9:15 am in the POES Cafeteria
20	Grade 3 Classroom Visits at 10:15 am for American Education Week
21	Grades 4 & 5 Classroom Visits at 9:15 am for American Education Week
21	Grades 4 & 5 Parent Coffee—10:15 am in the POES Media Center
21	K Field Trip to Downs Park
22	Picture Re-Take Day (Schar and Simmons Classes also)
22	Spirit Wear Day
22	Grade 2 Parent Coffee—9:15 am in the POES Cafeteria
22	Grade 2 Classroom Visits at 10:15 am for American Education Week
27,28,29	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> —Thanksgiving Holiday

## DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFETY



To ensure the safety of our students, staff, and parents, here's a friendly reminder that during arrival and dismissal the car lane should be a continually moving line. Please ensure children are seated on the passenger side so they can easily get out at the curb. We have staff who can help them exit. Do not let children exit your car until you get to the sidewalk. If you have to stop for any reason unexpectedly, please move forward to the end of the line and pull into the parking lot to handle the issue. Please follow the directions of the crossing guards and staff on duty. They are charged with keeping kids safe and traffic flowing. If we all abide by these guidelines, it will allow everyone to get where they need to be in a timely manner. It also ensures maximum safety for our kiddos! Thanks so much for your consideration.



**Officer Lunch Buddy** - The Anne Arundel County Police Department's Office of Community Relations is partnering with our school to help foster and build positive relationships between our students and law enforcement. AACOPD officers will come to our school each month to have lunch with our students in a very casual, social setting. This way when our students see the officers in the community, they know that they are friends and helpers. They do not need to feel nervous in their presence. The first official "Officer Lunch Buddy" lunch date will be determined soon.

### 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!



**Survey Forms:** On Tuesday, October 1, 2019 your child brought home a Federal Impact Aid Survey form. Please assist us by filling out the information requested on the form and return it to Piney Orchard Elementary. ***School funding is based on completion/return of forms.***

**From the Nurse:** Please do not send cough drops into school with your student unless you have a doctor's prescription.

Also, know that medications for asthma can be kept in the health room so that we can help your child manage their asthma at school. Thank you!

**Extra Clothes:** Please be sure your child has an extra set of seasonally-appropriate clothes (including socks and underwear) to keep in his/her locker in the event of accidents, spills, etc. Thank you!

**Magnet Program Applications:** Applications are accepted starting October 14, 2019 through noon on November 26, 2019. For more information, visit the Magnet Program website [aacps.org/magnet](http://aacps.org/magnet).

**PTA Meeting**— October 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center Join the [Piney Orchard Elementary School PTA](#) group on Facebook for updates and info.

## Counselor's Corner:

I am excited to be back at Piney Orchard for another amazing school year. Here is a little about my position as school counselor.

My role is to be the leader of the social, emotional and career development of the students at Piney Orchard. I work with staff, parents, and the community to ensure they have the skills and strategies to help our students grow. I teach classroom lessons once a month focusing on skills such as acceptance, perseverance, conflict resolution, personal safety, emotional regulation, and goal setting. I also work with students in small groups or individually to support any specific concerns or challenges. Please feel free to contact me at [sbrauer@aacps.org](mailto:sbrauer@aacps.org) if you have any questions, concerns, or are in need of support.

In October, we are focusing on acceptance. This corresponds with Unity Day which is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be more information to come about how Piney Orchard will celebrate Unity Day and continue the value of acceptance of all throughout the year.

Our Kids Helping Kids: Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive last year was a huge success. We were able to raise close to \$7,000 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank to help support the almost 16,000 children in our county that do not have enough food to eat.

During the month of October, we will be collecting monetary donations for this important campaign that helps those living in our communities that are suffering from lack of food. Each dollar donated is 8 pounds of food. We would like to continue to be the largest donor of elementary schools in our county. Please send in cash or checks made out to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. As in the past, we will have spirit days to highlight this significant cause. More information will be coming soon.

Thank you for all your support!

**Stephanie Brauer**  
**School Counselor**

### Camera Notification



Piney Orchard Elementary is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.