

Point Pleasant Elementary School Newsletter

*"Readers, Writers,
Mathematicians!"*

September 2019



September

- 2 Labor Day/School & Central Offices Closed
- 3 Schools open for grades 1-5
- 3/4 Conferences for kindergarten & Full day Pre-K students
- 5/6/9 Staggered entrance for kindergarten and Full day Pre- k
- 10 First day for all kindergarten & full day pre-kindergarten
- 27 Back to School Night (6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 30 Rosh Hashanah/Schools & Central Offices Closed

Looking Ahead...

October

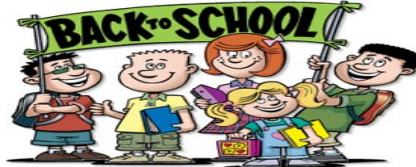
- 7 Interims to be sent home
- 8 2/hr. Early Dismissal/ Professional Development day
- 9 Yom Kippur- All Schools & Central Offices Closed
- 15 School closed/Parent/Teacher conferences
- 16 School closed/Parent/Teacher conferences



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Christopher Gordon
Principal

Alexis Lively
Assistant Principal



PPES Parents and Community,

We've had a very busy summer hiring new staff, attending conferences, and vacation time. We are excited to be back for the 19-20 school year. RISE! AVID!

We welcome these new staff members to our PPES Team:

- Megan Barrows (Pre-Kindergarten Teacher)
- Stephanie Clampitt (Kindergarten Teacher)
- Sherry Harms (EEE Global Studies Teacher)
- Breanne Rowe (1st Grade Teacher)
- Ashley Thompson (1st Grade Teacher)
- Victoria Mosley (2nd Grade Teacher)
- Emily Bandier (4th Grade Teacher)
- Beth Doolittle (.4 Art)
- James Robison (.4 Music)
- Julie Blumstein (.4 PE)
- Kevin Randolph (PPW)
- Tonya Thurston (Pre-Kindergarten Teaching Assistant)

Point Pleasant Elementary School is a demographically diverse Title I Targeted Assistance comprehensive elementary school. Our diversity is reflected within our school demographics. Our special education students make up 15% of our school enrollment, while our primary and intermediate autism classes and self-contained class make us a unique elementary school. We are highly prideful of our schoolwide PBIS motto, RISE. The guiding principles of Respect, Integrity, Success, & Effort, lay the foundation for positive behavior choices, positive behavior supports, and team unity amongst all staff members. In our 2nd year as an AVID Elementary School, we were recognized for our consistent and well-implemented AVID structures and teaching strategies which created the beginnings of a sound foundation for increasing academic success. Chosen as an AVID Showcase School for the 2019-2020 school year, our one-year goal will be to implement schoolwide PreK-5 AVID, strengthen community support and academic achievement through an AVID lens, and create a fully comprehensive and quality AVID experience for all school community members.

As noted above, Point Pleasant Elementary School is school-wide AVID school. We were recognized as an AVID showcase school during the 2018-2019 school year!

Our Back to School Night is scheduled for Sept. 12th from 6:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M. Come and meet our teachers, hear about your child's day, and learn how you can support your child's learning. You are needed!

In partnership,

Christopher G. Gordon, Principal
Alexis Lively, Assistant Principal

Guidance News

School Counselor Corner (Ms. Westfall)

Welcome to a new school year, parents and students! My name is Molly Westfall and as your School Counselor, I am excited to get to know you as well as to learn and grow with you this school year.

I work with students: (a) in large groups when teaching monthly classroom guidance lessons; (b) with small groups to focus on skill and personal development; and, (c) individually with some students on a short-term, focused basis for extra social, emotional, and educational help. Also, if need be, I can help you learn of resources in the community to help with needs in your families.

We are hoping for regular attendance to ensure that our students achieve academic success. Research shows that good attendance is critical for a child to have success at school. Please ensure that your child is at school, on time and ready to learn.

A Special Note to Parents

Sometimes School Counselors are called upon to help students with concerns that students might have or due to concerns you or a teacher may have. This would mean I would meet with your child upon occasion. Please let me know if you would like me to notify you when I have met with your child when such a need arises. In contrast, when I have a longer, on-going counseling relationship with a student or as part of a group, I am required to get a parent's written permission so a parent or guardian will be informed in this situation.

A Special Thank You for School Supplies

PPES would like to thank the donors from many different organizations and individuals who donated through the Back-to-School Program coordinated by the Anne Arundel Department of Social Services. Your help is greatly appreciated. We look forward to our continued partnership with you as the year progresses. Thank you!

Guidance Lessons

There will be a brochure available this year which details the role of the School Counselor and the classroom guidance schedule by topic this year. At the elementary level, counselors will be delivering age-appropriate lessons that focus on social and emotional learning as well as ways to achieve long term academic success. Your child will have one classroom guidance lesson per month. If you have questions about these lessons, please email me at mwestfall@aacps.org or call the main office (410-222-6425).

5th Grade Parents: Magnet Program Information

In Anne Arundel County Public Schools, the Magnet Programs are one of your choices for your student's middle school education. These specialized programs offer unique opportunities, methods of teaching, and themed curricula. In most Magnet Programs, students attend their magnet school every day instead of their home middle schools (so, instead of Marley Middle in our case).

Anne Arundel County offers three different Magnet School Programs for Middle School at these locations for students from our school who would normally go to Marley Middle School: (1) International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB) at MacArthur Middle; (2) the Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) at Brooklyn Parks Middle; and (3) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) at Lindale Middle.

General Magnet Information sessions provide an overview of all magnet programs and the application process. These sessions are for all interested students and their families.

There will be a lot more information coming out about these programs and the students will in the fall receive a presentation from the Magnet Programs.

You can find out more about the Magnet Programs by clicking on the "Academics" tab on the AACPS homepage (www.aacps.org) and then in the middle of the next page, look under the Programs area and find the Magnet Programs information as you scroll down.

Please contact Ms. Westfall if you have further questions, mwestfall@aacps.org or by phone via our office at 410-222-6425.



Student Awards

This year we will honor the students who excel in academics and their attendance at quarterly awards ceremonies in their classrooms when report cards go home. Award certificates will be given with report cards, please look for these when report cards come home so you can join us in praising your student! Please make note of the awards criteria:

Honor Roll

1. Grades 2 -5
2. All A's and B's.
3. No EM's (for "emerging") or ND's (for "needs development") are allowed to qualify. A certificate/qualifying student will be given.

Principal's Honor Roll

1. All A's.
2. No EM's (for "emerging") or ND's (for "needs development") are allowed to qualify. A certificate and pencil/qualifying student will be given.

Attendance Awards

Grades Pre-K through 5th

Perfect Attendance – this award means the student has had NO Absences and NO tardies. A certificate and pencil/qualifying student will be given.

Excellent Attendance – this means the student cannot have more than any of what is listed below in any of these categories:

- 1 absence (either excused or unexcused)
- 2 tardies.

A certificate/qualifying student will be given.



DO YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR? WE HOPE SO! Volunteers Needed!

We invite you to volunteer this year. Please attend one of our two volunteer orientations: Please be on the lookout for information coming home about the volunteer process and volunteer orientations to attend!

It's fun and can sure use your help! Here are some ideas:

- Help with our book publishing of students' written work;
- Come in once a week in a classroom so students can read aloud to you;
- Read aloud to students;
- Make bulletin boards (we have posters – it's easy);
- Be a class helper, copying, cutting, etc.;
- Help plan special events;
- Help with the book fairs;
- Help with the day we do vision and hearing screening.

It is important you attend an orientation session.

On that date, a video will be shown that must be seen by anyone working with students in our school prior to beginning to volunteer. This orientation is for anyone who plans to work regularly in the classrooms. *If you saw the video last year and we have a form from you that you completed last year, you will not have to watch the video again but we would still like you to attend the first part of the meeting.*

If you only volunteer for field trips you do not need to attend this orientation.





Kinship Care

If you are caring full-time for a relative's child (such as a grandchild, niece, or nephew) you can receive help and information from Kinship Caregivers. Please contact the Kinship Navigator at 410-897-3933 for more information.

Counseling Help for your Student

There is a program at our school called Villa Maria Based Services that may help your child improve his or her relationship skills. Parents and caregivers can also benefit from Villa Maria's support, information, and guidance that leads to better communication and a less stressful home. Villa Maria is run by Catholic Charities.

Villa Maria has licensed therapists that provide children, adults, and families across Maryland with a variety of confidential behavioral health and special education services. School-based services are effective at helping young people learn so that their school performance can also improve. Villa Maria licensed therapists provide confidential individual and family therapy. Combined with other school supports such as guidance and classroom interventions, these services can help students with moderate to severe behavior and emotional problems.

Please contact Ms. Westfall if you are interested in learning more or call Villa Maria directly at 410-451-0682.

Students who receive services must have, or be eligible for, medical assistance insurance. Prior to starting help, authorization is obtained from the public health system. For more information on eligibility and authorization for medical assistance, you can please call the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at: 1-800-456-8900.



Family Resources

The *Community Resource Guide* was developed to assist schools in identifying resources to support the multiple needs of students and families. AACPS recognized that student and family issues impact educational progress and performance and that these needs frequently exceed the school system's role in education. The revised edition of the *Community Resource Guide* additional includes broader categories which now have subcategories identified. The broader categories are: Critical Needs, Family Needs, and Health Care. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Westfall.

The AA County Department of Health Prevention Services sponsors a program called "**Strengthening Families**" for parents and their children ages 6-17. The program provides training in parenting; children's social and life skills; and family relationship skills. This program is free and meets once a week for 14 weeks, providing a free dinner at each session, locally. Gift cards are given at each session. The program helps to improve family communication, train parents about effective discipline, and help children and parents understand behavior. Incentives will be given for attendance. For more information, please contact Ms. Westfall, the School Counselor or call Darren Ford at 410.507.8000 from AA County's Health Prevention Services or you can reach by email at: hdford88@aacounty.org

A phone resource is the *Family Stress Line* at: 1-800-243-7337.

Character Education Program

Each month we have morning reflections read over the morning announcements about some characteristic of good character as part of our Character Education Program.

Safety Reminder

As we know you are, we are concerned for your child's safety. Please make sure any children traveling from home to and from school are wearing a seat belt. Most car accidents happen close to home. It's also safe practice to have your child ride in the back seat.

The police occasionally make checks at schools about this so we hope you will start good practices now and discuss why you are doing it with your children, so they learn from their most important teachers, you, about being responsible and safe.

Holiday Help Program

Some of the programs in the community which we tap into in order to help families in need at the holidays are pushing up their dates this year. Please be looking in your child's backpack for information about this in October or the next couple of newsletters. Please let Ms. Westfall know if you will have need at Thanksgiving and in December.



Bullying

Bullying and cyber-bullying, harassment and intimidation, hazing, and/or bias behaviors are unsafe behaviors that do not reflect respect for others as defined by the Code of Student Conduct. If your child is a target of these behaviors, you can report this using the *Bully, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form* that is available on the AACPS website or in the main office of our school. Students can also report directly to a staff member. When a situation is reported, staff members will respond quickly and provide a safe place for your student to talk about what has happened.

How to tell if your child is being bullied:

change in school performance;
absenteeism;
truancy;
peer rejection;
fear of social situations;
alienation and loneliness;
poor self-esteem;
chronic illness.

What can you do as a parent?

If the bullying is occurring at school, contact the teacher, school counselor, and/or administrator;
Ask your child's teacher questions about his or her interactions with other children;
Look for help from the school counselor to help your child learn social skills or assertiveness.

If it is determined by an administrator that bullying or cyber-bullying, harassment, intimidation, hazing, and/or bias behaviors have happened, the students involved in these behaviors will receive support from the school counselor and possibly the school psychologist, pupil personnel worker, or school health staff person to be sure that everyone involved in the incident feels safe and supported, and also understands how to avoid these situations in the future.





Maryland Meals for Achievement Classroom Breakfast Program



During the 2019-2020 school year all children attending Point Pleasant will be able to eat breakfast at school each morning at no charge. All children eat free regardless of family income. Breakfast will be served in your child's classroom as soon as the doors open at 8:00. Children will eat at their desk at the start of the school day. Teachers will be supervising the students as they eat breakfast.

The Maryland Meals for Achievement Classroom Breakfast Program (MMFA) is funded with money from the federal School Breakfast Program and the State funds awarded by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Cameras

Point Pleasant Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT consistently monitored, 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.





October 1, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools will once again be participating in the Federal Parent/Pupil Survey. The information needed to comply with the Federal Impact Aid Law is based on your current information as of ***October 1, 2019***. Federal funding generated from this survey will greatly enhance our school system's quest to elevate all students and eliminate all gaps.

Please complete the survey, sign/date the form, and have your child return it to their teacher as soon as possible. The U.S. Department of Education allows two students to be listed on a single form.

Each survey form needs a ***complete address of the parent's/guardian's employer if they work on federal property, complete address of the federal property on which they work, and must be signed and dated, on or after October 1, 2019 by the parent/guardian.*** All forms must be returned to your child's teacher no later than **November 1, 2019**.

As parents/guardians of our students, please help us reach our goal of 100% participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Central Office at 410-222-5200.

Again, thank you for your cooperation in completing this survey and returning it in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Chris Gordon
Principal



Point Pleasant Elementary School
1035 Dumbarton Rd. Glen Burnie, MD 21060

410-222-6425

1 de octubre de 2019

Estimados Padres/Tutores Legales:

Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Anne Arundel participarán, una vez más, en la Encuesta Federal para Padres/Alumnos. La información necesaria para cumplir con la Ley Federal de Ayuda de Impacto (*Federal Impact Aid Law*) se basa en su información actual al 1 de octubre de 2019. Los fondos federales generados a partir de esta encuesta ayudarán en la aspiración de nuestro sistema escolar de elevar a todos los estudiantes y eliminar todas las brechas.

Por favor complete la encuesta, firme/feche el formulario y procure que su niño/a se lo entregue a su maestro/a lo antes posible. El Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos requiere ahora una encuesta por separado por *cada estudiante*. Cada encuesta requiere la dirección del empleador del padre/tutor legal si es que trabaja en un edificio de propiedad federal, y que cada encuesta esté firmada y fechada por el padre/tutor legal. Todos los formularios se deben presentar a más tardar el **1 de noviembre de 2019**.

Como padres/tutores legales de nuestros estudiantes, ayúdenos por favor a alcanzar nuestro objetivo de participación del 100%. Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en ponerse en contacto con la Oficina Central, al 410-222-5200.

Les agradecemos nuevamente su colaboración al completar esta encuesta y entregarla dentro del término indicado.

Atentamente,

Chris Gordon
Director de escuela



Communicating with Your School Nurse

Parents/Guardians - Keep Your School Nurse Up-to-date.

1. Be sure to inform your school nurse about your child's health conditions or other special health needs in order to plan for safe management at school. Chronic health conditions include, but are not limited to, asthma, seizures, diabetes or life threatening allergies.
2. Remember to provide your school nurse with current emergency contact information.
3. Tell your school nurse if your child's health condition interferes with school attendance.
4. Make sure to tell your school nurse about medications and medical treatments your child requires during the school day.
5. Tell your school nurse about any changes in your child's health or mobility status, or about any infectious disease.
6. Speak to the school nurse if you need to obtain information about health insurance for your child.

Any questions or health related concerns? Please contact your school nurse, Susan Streaker at 410-787-3494.

OR 410-222-6404

**Working Together for a Safe
and Healthy School Year!**

Anne Arundel County Department of Health
School Health Services



Healthy Habits = Healthy Children

Healthy habits that decrease the spread of germs and help keep children and families well:

- 1. Hand washing** is one of the best ways to keep from getting sick.
 - Wet hands with running water.
 - Add soap and rub hands together for 20 seconds.
 - Rinse.
 - Dry hands with clean paper towel.
 - If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 2. Cover that sneeze and cough** – Coughing and sneezing spread germs. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow to prevent spreading germs to your hands.
- 3. Get moving** – Exercise helps the body fight off simple illnesses. Include active play in your child's schedule.
- 4. Sleep** – Getting the right amount of sleep will help fight off colds and infections.
- 5. Healthy eating** – Good nutrition is vital for good health. Provide a variety of foods, including plenty of vegetables, fruits and whole grains at meal and snack times.
- 6. Keep your child home when sick** – Children should stay home until they feel better.



When Do I Keep My Child Home From School?

(Although no comprehensive list is possible, the following conditions may be appropriate reasons to keep a student home from school)

Temperature 100°F or greater	Suspected fracture
Vomiting, diarrhea	Severe pain
Shortness of breath, wheezing	Undiagnosed rash
Abdominal pain	Productive cough and fever
Red, draining eyes	Suspected communicable disease
Chest pain	Head injury
Earache	Adverse medication effect
Nuisance condition not currently treated, e.g., ringworm, scabies, head lice	

Anne Arundel County Department of Health
School Health Services



Medication: My child needs to take medication at school.
What procedures do I follow?



Students are permitted to take medication at school only when it is necessary and only under the supervision of the school health staff. A form titled "*Parent's Request to Administer Medication At School*" must be on file for each medication. No medication can be accepted without this form being completed by both the parent and the student's physician.

The following steps must be taken:

- ✓ All medications, whether by prescription or over-the-counter drugs must have a completed medication form. This includes cough drops and throat lozenges. A new medication form is needed for each school year.
- ✓ All prescription medications must be in a properly labeled pharmacy container with the following:
 - *Name of child* *Name of medication* *Dosage, route and time to be given at school*
 - *Name of physician* *Prescription date and expiration date* *Conditions for storage if any*
- ✓ All non-prescription medications must arrive at school in an un-opened factory-sealed package. Only exception: Students may carry chapstick.
- ✓ Students are not permitted to carry medications to school. Any adult may bring the student's medication to school.
- ✓ The parent is responsible for administering the first dose to the student if it is a new medication for that student.

The school health staff can help answer any questions you may have about medications at school for your student. Medication forms are available in the school health room. The forms may be sent home with your student upon request. The medication form is also available on-line at www.aahhealth.org. Click on Clinic and School Health.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

PARENT'S REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

FOR COMPLETION BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

Name of Student: _____ D.O.B: ____/____/____
(LAST) (FIRST) (MI)

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____ School Year: _____

In order for my child to receive medication in school, I agree to the following:

- All prescription and non-prescription medication will have a physician's signed order fully completed for each school year.
- The prescription medication will be in a container labeled by the pharmacist or physician with:
 - Name of child. Name of the medication. Dosage, route and time of administration.
 - Name of physician. Prescription date and expiration date. Conditions for proper storage.
- The non-prescription medication will be in the original sealed container with the label intact. Student's name will be put on the container in a position that does not obscure the label.
- The medication will be brought to school by an adult.
- The physician will be called if a question arises about my child's medication.
- The first dose of this medication (except for epinephrine auto-injector) has been given without problems.

Having read the above conditions, I request Anne Arundel County School Health Services personnel administer the medication as prescribed by the physician below. I certify that I have legal authority to consent to medical treatment for the student named above, including the administration of medication at school.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to student _____

Phone Number: (H) _____ (W) _____ Other _____

Address: _____

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNED ORDER FOR MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
ONE MEDICATION PER FORM

Diagnosis: _____

Name of Medication: _____

Dosage: _____ (mg, ml, ml/tsp, # of puffs)

Route: _____ Time of Administration at School: _____ Lunchtime

If PRN, for what symptoms? _____ How Often? _____

Please list any specific precautions personnel should be aware of or any unusual effects that might be observed.

Student medication allergies: None Known _____

Services from the beginning to the end of school year OR
Services should begin (Date) _____ and terminate (Date) _____

FOR INHALER, EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTOR, AND INSULIN ONLY:

_____ It has been determined that this student is able to self-administer and carry inhalant medication or epinephrine auto-injector and has been trained in its use, including knowing when the medication is to be used.

_____ It has been determined that this student is able to self-administer insulin.

_____ This student should not self-administer inhalant medication, insulin, or epinephrine auto-injector.

Physician's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Original signature/NO stamps

Physician's Name (Printed): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Order and MAR Reviewed _____ R.N. Date _____