

The PEN

Pasadena Elementary News, December 2020

Counselor's Corner with Ms. Noble

During the month of December I will be visiting classrooms in grades K-2 to discuss topics related to developing Healthy Relationships. Depending on the grade level we will focus on solving conflicts peacefully and fostering friendships.



Lessons in grades 3-5 will focus on issues related to Substance Abuse.

These lessons are important because school provides a safe place where children can learn what to do in unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations. The lessons have been modified for virtual learning and can be previewed on the AACPS webpage. Go to [aacps.org/Families>Find a School Counselor>Elementary Core Curriculum](https://aacps.org/Families/Find_a_School_Counselor/Elementary_Core_Curriculum).

Third grade: Recognizing prescription vs. non-prescription drugs – safe use, choices and problem-solving, and an introduction to what opioid drugs are. They will be using a book: *Charlie and the Curious Club: Candy or Medicine*.

Fourth grade: Learning about the physical effects of drugs, understanding why substance abuse is a problem and what addiction is, and identifying how they can contribute to solving the problem of substance abuse on a community level. They will be working with materials from KidsHealth.com and recent news clips to define the problem and discuss how to address the problem.

Fifth grade: Learning and practicing strategies to deal with peer pressure, using refusal skills to build confidence to deal with situations when they might be asked to do drugs, recognizing the effects opioids can have on the brain. Students develop strategies and receive a pocket card (**shared in the Google classroom**) with strategies and resources on it.

Sharing Foundation

Each year Pasadena participates in a toy drive to support the Sharing Foundation. The Sharing Foundation assists families throughout Anne Arundel County during the holidays. This year the Sharing Foundation is holding a Virtual Toy Drive where people can shop on Amazon, Target, Franklin's Toys and Walmart and select from a list of items that are in need. If you would like to assist in filling in the bare spots around the Christmas trees in our community...We invite you to visit <https://www.thesharingfoundation.org/>.



**December 21
Merry Morning
Monday**



**Wear Your
Pajamas**

**December 22
Tacky Tuesday**



**Wear Holiday
Headwear, Ugly
Sweater or Mix
and Match**

**December 23
Winter
Wonderland
Wednesday**



**Wear White or
Dress Like a
Snowman**

Reading with Mrs. Cornetti

As the year's end rolls in and holiday excitement takes over, there is no better feeling than taking some time out and getting cozy with a book. For December, take the opportunity to celebrate your year in reading. (See one of the suggestions below for a way to do this.) Send a thank you into the universe for the wonderful adventures you have had with books and enjoy these challenge ideas while you get ready for a brand-new year filled with reading.



- Read a book about a winter sport.
- Ask a Librarian: Call your local library and ask a librarian, "What are some of your favorite books published this year for readers my age?" Then check one out!
- Read a book about a holiday you do not celebrate at home.
- Celebrate National Short Story Day, December 21, by exploring an anthology or collection of short stories and using it as inspiration to write your own short story.
- Try reading a book aloud to the tune of your favorite winter song.
- Think ahead: What is something you want to learn more about in the New Year? Read a book on that topic to get a jump start!
- Read a book while wrapped in a favorite blanket. Add a cup of hot cocoa if you would like.
- Think about all the books you have read this year and choose your favorite. Flip through it one more time and ask yourself, "What made it feel special?"
- Read a book by an author who has a first or last name that starts with the same letter as yours.
- Gather up old books you no longer read and donate them to those in need.



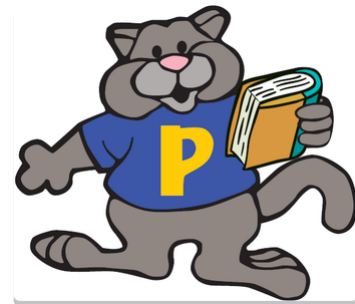
Enhancing Elementary Excellence

EEE - Global Studies with Mr. Peters

In Global Studies students will be starting new projects this month. Some students will be designing travel posters for famous landmarks. Other students will be learning about U.S. geography and how the states are different. Primary students will be learning about where we are and the unique features of Earth.

Media Center Notes with Mrs. Bradshaw

In December, all students will be participating once again in Hour of Code activities. This is an exciting part of our media program! Here is some additional information about it:



What is the Hour of Code?

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code," to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

When is the Hour of Code?

The Hour of Code takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. The 2020 Computer Science Education Week will be December 7-13. Computer Science Education Week is held annually in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper (December 9, 1906).

Why computer science?

Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path.

Physical Education with Mrs. Deaver

During the month of December students will be exploring how to propel objects toward a target. Please help them ensure they have a safe place to move and have their materials ready for class (ball they received in their AACPS backpack). We will also begin our rhythm and dance unit during December. A few reminders:

- We kindly ask that your child(ren) not eat during P.E. class for safety reasons.
- If your child missed a lesson, please check their P.E. Google Classroom for slides and graded assignments.
- Our December Mind and Body Calendar is a great way to add movement into each day. Check out the linked files below!



Mind-Body-Calendar-December-2020-Elementary-Englis.pdf

[Download](#)
216.2 KB



Mind-Body-Calendar-December-2020-Elementary-Spanis.pdf

[Download](#)
208.9 KB

Music Notes with Mrs. Kramer-Dickinson

Did you know?

The combined results of 30 studies indicate that music instruction has a significant positive effect on reading – *Research in Music Education, 2008*

Our [Virtual Winter Concert](#) is coming soon! Chorus, Band, & Strings students will be creating their recordings for this event during class the first few weeks of December. Please encourage them to attend all of their music classes during this time to ensure they are included in the performance. If students miss class, they may need your assistance getting their recordings created and submitted. Our “Live” portion of the virtual concert will feature a combined rendition of all the student recordings and is to be hosted on air by the music teachers later in December. NO VIDEO will be shown of students.

Pasadena’s Concert night will be live on December 21, 2020 from 7-7:30 PM. Check the [Instrumental Music website or](#) Chorus Google Classrooms for a link closer to that date.

Is practice time difficult? The more often musicians practice independently, the easier and more fun making music becomes. There are videos posted in the Instrumental Google Classrooms each week to give the students something to practice along with and walk them through the most effective steps for success. Please encourage your student to check these out, especially if they are having a hard time reaching success.

Upcoming events: Beginning Strings students will be starting to learn how to use the bow after the Winter break. Please have them keep the bows in cases until they learn how to properly care for them. We will be working on different types of short songs in Instrumental music over the coming weeks. Many of them will be perfect pieces for your young musician to **perform for family** over the Winter break. Don’t forget to ask for a little **solo performance** at home to help encourage your musician. All of the **Instrumental students** were given a “**First Performance Interview**” assignment in their Google Classroom. If your student has not completed this yet, it provides a great opportunity for them to perform at home/ virtually and interact with their audience. If they want to, students are welcome to submit the assignment more than once for different songs or different audiences. Don’t forget to **compliment your Chorus member** for singing along with those family favorites over the Winter break too!

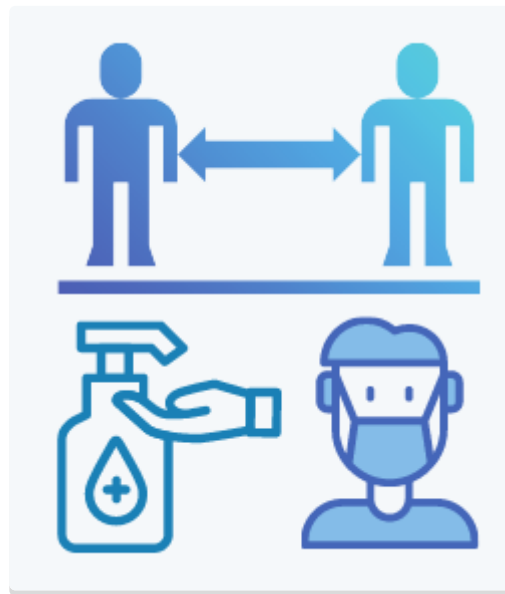
Instrument Storage: As we enter the colder months, please keep in mind that exposure to the much colder air can damage any instrument, as can constant changes in temperature. When instruments are being stored they should be kept inside cases AND *away* from heat/ cooling vents, outside doors, windows, & anywhere that moisture collects. Cases will not protect instruments from temperature or humidity changes. Please try to avoid leaving it in cars for long periods of time as well. Proper storage will help ensure that your child’s instrument remains in good working order. If you do think there is a problem with your child’s instrument, contact [Mrs. Dickinson](#) to work out options for rectifying the problem.

HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!!!!



Cafe News with Ms. Robin & Ms. Donna

We will continue serving meals for curbside pickup from 11:45am to 12:30pm, Monday through Friday. Students coming into the building for hybrid learning will also receive breakfast and lunch meals in the classroom; take home snacks and dinner meals will also be provided. Thank you for coming to PES everyday. We love seeing all of you and the puppy dogs, too!



#PanthersCARE

VALUES: Care, Achieve, Respect, Engage

VISION STATEMENT: We envision Pasadena Elementary to be a school where we maintain high expectations for academic standards through rigorous instruction. We will continue to foster a positive, caring school climate where we respect and value diversity and prepare individuals for success in higher learning and careers.



MISSION STATEMENT: Pasadena Elementary is dedicated to preparing students for college and career readiness, promoting academic excellence and citizenship for all students.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools NON-DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE: The Anne Arundel County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or familial status in matters of affecting employment or in providing access to programs.

[Pasadena Elementar...](#)

twitter.com

The latest Tweets from Pasadena Elementary (@PES_AACPS). We are a K-5 school in Anne Arundel County; 2016 National Blue Ribbon; MD Blue Ribbon School; Green School; & AACPS Wellness School of Distinction. #PanthersCARE. Principal: Jennifer Quirino

