

# The PEN

Pasadena Elementary News, January 2021

## Message from the Principal

Happy New Year and welcome back from winter vacation! Many wishes for 2021 to bring you and your family happiness, good health, and new memories to cherish.

As we near the end of the second marking period, I would like to invite you to continue being active in your child's education. I encourage you to join the PTA and maintain communication with your child's teachers. Monthly school newsletters from the school and Chesapeake Cluster will continue to be emailed. Connect-ED Messages will continue to provide up-to-date school and AACPS information so please keep your contact information current with the school.

Check out the PES January calendar and updates from school staff below.

Thank you for your ongoing support,  
Jennifer Quirino



PEN January Calendar.pdf

[Download](#)  
141.9 KB

## Counselor's Corner with Ms. Noble

During the month of January, I will be visiting classrooms in grades K-2 to discuss topics related to Problem Solving. We will focus on solving conflicts peacefully rather than tattling to an adult. In grades 3-5 we will learn about goal setting and students will set a personal goal.

### Erin's Law

Maryland schools must implement a prevention oriented child sexual abuse program. As the school counselor, I will be teaching personal safety lessons in all grade levels between February and March. A letter will come home the end of January. The lessons will focus on age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell



a trusted adult. Students will identify trusted adults, both inside and outside of the school, who they can go to for help. Follow up activities to the lessons will be sent home.

1. Parents will have an opportunity, if they so desire, to review the lesson materials. Lesson materials can be found on [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org) by **Clicking on Services>Find a School Counselor>Elementary Core Curriculum**. These lessons will be modified for online learning.

Parents who wish to opt out of having their child(ren) participate in the lessons should contact Ms. Noble ([mnoable@aacps.org](mailto:mnoable@aacps.org)).

## School Success in Virtual Learning

This year has brought unprecedented changes, but some things remain the same, school [attendance](#) matters and is critical to student success.

My name is Patricia Lynch and I am the new Pupil Personnel Worker for the Chesapeake cluster of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. My role as PPW is to work together with the school, the family, and community agencies to identify, address, and alleviate barriers impacting a student's education, one of which is **attendance**.

**Attendance** is huge barrier to school success, even in the virtual world.

Starting as early as kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school. Anne Arundel County Public Schools considers any student who unlawfully misses school for eight days in any quarter, fifteen days in any semester or twenty days in a school year truant.

### What can you do?

- Communication with your child's school is critical.
- Make school attendance a priority.
- Establish routines for bedtime, waking up, and showing up for class.
- Identify a learning space for your child.
- Reach out to the school or community agencies for help if you have multiple children or need technology resources.
- Have a back-up plan for when you cannot be there to help your child.
- Avoid non-urgent medical appointments and vacations when school is in session.
- Help your child stay healthy and engaged.
- Sign up for Parent Connect to monitor attendance and progress.
- [Send a written excuse when your child is absent from school](#).
- Ask for help when you need it.

Not only is **attendance** critical to school success, it is the law. Maryland has a Compulsory Attendance Law. It states that children between the ages of 5 and 18 shall attend public school regularly during the entire school year unless otherwise enrolled in a private school, approved home instruction, or home teaching through the school. Parents may be charged in District Court for failure to see that their children attend school. Parents can be found guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$50 per day of unlawful absence, or imprisonment not to exceed 5 days or both.

My goal is to work together with you and the school to help alleviate this and other barriers to school success. If your child is struggling with school attendance, please contact me to further discuss how we can problem solve together.

The image shows a digital form titled "PES Attendance Note". The form contains instructions for parents and guardians to fill out for each day their student is absent. It includes a note that absences will be treated as unlawful until the attendance office receives a written or electronic note justifying the absence. The form has four input fields: "Email address \*", "Student's First Legal Name (no nicknames) \*", "Student's Last Legal Name (no nicknames) \*", and "Student's ID number (six digit lunch number) \*". Each field has a "Your answer" label and a text input area.

Patricia Lynch, Pupil Personnel Worker

Chesapeake HS, Chesapeake Bay MS, Bodkin ES, Ft. Smallwood ES, Jacobsville ES, Lake Shore ES, and Pasadena ES

[plynch@aacps.org](mailto:plynch@aacps.org)

(443) 510-3426



## CBMS Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information Night

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

9:00am-10:00am

or

6:30pm-7:30pm

Incoming 6th grade parents are invited to attend our parent information session to learn about the middle school schedule, encore classes and the parent portal (our online scheduling system).

It will also give families the opportunity to meet our principal, 6th grade administrator and school counselor. Hope to see you there!

Google Meet Code: CBMSPARENTMEET2021

## Reading with Mrs. Cornetti

### The Importance of Reading Bedtime Stories (YES- even to big kids)

A solid reader still needs storytime, even when your kid can read by himself/herself. Keep the routine going with some tips and book recommendations!



### What Do Kids Gain:

**Time with you.** By keeping your bedtime routine alive, you and your child get to do something new together – cheer for the good guys and boo the bad ones in the books you read. You also get a peek into how your child sees the world through the comments he/she makes on the plot, the characters, and the setting. You enter his/her world through the safe avenue of a third party – a character – you'll have more insight than you ever would by asking 'So, how's life?' And, who knows, you may even find you have opinions in common!

**Stronger reading skills.** As kids reach the upper-elementary grades, reading demands increase, Listening to you read more advanced books shows him/her strategies that will help him/her at school. You read aloud with expression. You pause for punctuation. You raise and lower your voice in tune with the action. You speed up on **new perspectives.** Reading aloud with children, especially fourth and fifth-graders, teaches them to analyze and reflect on the text. When reading to students, you can use think alouds – commenting on how the text may add to the child's knowledge of the topic. For example, if you were reading a book with your child about dogs, you might note, "A Pomeranian, just like Aunt Jen's dog! But Princess is tan. I didn't know there were black ones."

**A headstart on the future.** Kids who are already fluent readers can do something their snugglebunny siblings can't: appreciate the author's craft. If they hear good writing often enough, it develops their ear. They can't help but replicate it in schoolwork.

**Bring On the Picture Books!** Trust me — all kids love them. You just need to find ones that have more mature topics, and more text, than beginner versions.

These make the grade:

**Say Something-** by Peggy Moss- A girl learns that staying silent when a kid is being bullied is nearly as bad as being a bully herself.

**Melissa Parkington's Beautiful, Beautiful Hair-** by Pat Brisson- Tired of being “the girl with the gorgeous hair,” Melissa wants to be known for something important.

**Enemy Pie-** by Derek Munson- Jeremy’s dad teaches him how to outsmart his enemy: Make a pie! Jeremy, the new kid in the neighborhood, finds out how to turn his first enemy into his best friend.

**Fly Away Home-** by Eve Bunting- A boy and his dad live in an airport, moving between terminals to avoid being noticed. After watching a trapped bird escape, the boy dreams up a plan.



Winter Activities

Here are activities for reading and math!

[Download](#)  
425.7 KB



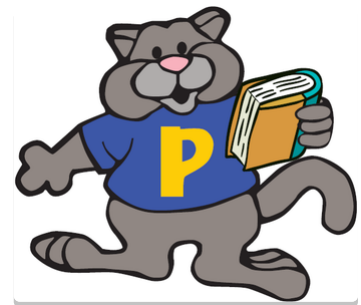
Enhancing Elementary Excellence

## EEE - Global Studies with Mr. Peters

In Global Studies third graders will be continuing their unit on US Geography while fourth and fifth graders will be researching countries and completing travel related projects. Primary students will be starting a new unit on symbols.

## Media Center Notes with Mrs. Bradshaw

In media, we will kick off the new year by giving students a second opportunity to try their hand at coding. We will also continue to share our Black Eyed Susan nominated picture books and explore different literary genres. Be sure to check out what’s new in our MackinVIA E-Book collection!



## Physical Education with Mrs. Deaver

During the month of January students will be reviewing fitness components and completing activities to practice these concepts. Please help them ensure they have a safe place to move and have their cameras on during class. This allows us to give feedback on movement performance.

Students in the primary grades will be working on relationships, levels, and pathways.

Name		Teacher
<b>Purpose:</b> This calendar encourages families to become more physically active and take steps toward a healthier lifestyle. Each day, students are asked to complete a different activity with a family member (or with adult supervision).		
<b>Directions:</b> After students complete a day's activity, adults place initials and a check mark in the space. You can miss 1 day (activity) each week. If you do, use an X instead of a check mark.		
Done	Day	DEAM Activity
	1	Pick 5 different muscles to stretch. Hold each stretch for 20 seconds.
	2	Play outside with a friend or family member.
	3	Do as many curl-ups as you can.
	4	Touch your elbow to the opposite knee 15 times on each side.
	5	Count by 3's while doing reverse lunges.
	6	Take a walk with a friend or family member.
	7	Tell someone 3 ways that you can show a positive attitude.
	8	Pick 5 different muscles to stretch. Hold each stretch for 20 seconds.
	9	Help out around the house.
	10	Do as many trunk lifts as you can.
	11	Perform 40 mountain climbers.
	12	Do push-up shoulder taps while reciting your spelling words.
	13	Take a walk with a friend or family member.
	14	Tell someone one thing you will do to be healthy.
	15	Pick 5 different muscles to stretch. Hold each stretch for 20 seconds.
	16	Help with the dishes or another chore.
	17	Do as many push-ups as you can.
	18	Balance on each foot for a count to 50.
	19	Perform squat-jumps while naming the continents.
	20	Take a walk with a friend or family member.
	21	Tell someone 2 ways you will make a difference.
	22	Pick 5 different muscles to stretch. Hold each stretch for 20 seconds.
	23	Help fold the laundry.
	24	Hold a plank position for as long as you can.
	25	Do 50 sit-ups.
	26	Name as many healthy habits as you can while holding a side plank.
	27	Take a walk with a friend or family member.
	28	Tell someone their personal goals you have.
	29	Pick 5 different muscles to stretch. Hold each stretch for 20 seconds.

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 January Mind and Body Calendar (link below) is a great way to add movement into each day.



DEAM-JANUARY-CALENDAR.pdf

Drop Everything And Move - January 2021 Calendar

Download  
146.7 KB

## Music Notes with Mrs. Kramer-Dickinson

*Congratulations to all of our music students on a wonderful job in the Winter Concert! Let's keep up all that music making for the Spring Concert as well.*

**Books:** If your Band or Strings student still does not have their own book for the class, please purchase one as soon as possible. These are what we use in every class as well as for practice assignments. The title is *Essential Elements*, book 1 for your child's instrument. It is available on Amazon as well as all of the local music stores for around \$10.

**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. We will begin working on more challenging materials now that our first concert is over, and most students need that home practice time to continue their success. Recommended practice time is for 15-20 minutes for 4 days each week. This also gives students an indoor activity that is away from screens.

**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.

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.

**Other music tools:** Just before the Winter break, Advanced Band classes were working with a special software program for music writing. A similar program is available as a free download at: <http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/default.aspx>. Another web subscription-based app is also available at Noteflight.com.

Many other optional resources can be found on the [Instrumental Music website](#).

**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.

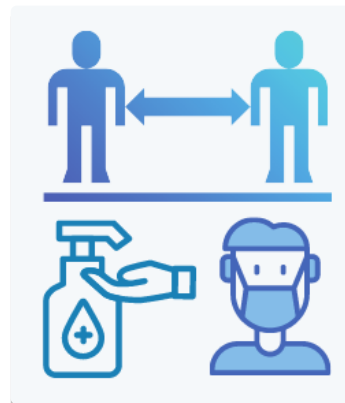
## Notes from Nurse Michelle Martin

### Helping Children Cope

Children and teens react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with the COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best support for their children. Parents can be more reassuring to others around them, especially children, if they are better prepared.

This is a great resource for families:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/for-parents.html>

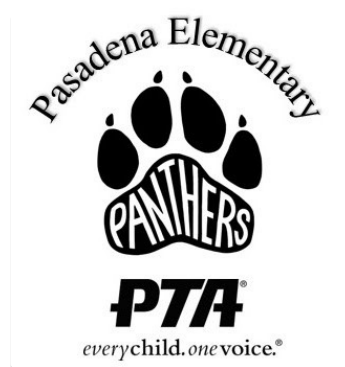


## PTA Info

Hello Panther families!

We will be continuing our winter read-along into January! Each week during the month of January, the PTA would like to post pre-recorded videos of parents, staff, and/or students reading a winter-themed story.

To sign up, please use this [link](#) to tell us what book you would like to share. Depending on the book, we will need to secure permission from the publisher (FYI - Scholastic and Penguin publishing companies both allow read-alouds of their books) After you sign up, we will contact you with directions for recording and submitting your video. Check out the PES PTA Facebook page to get updates on all of our PTA sponsored activities, just make sure to enable notifications so you don't miss our posts!



Mark your calendar! The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, January 12 at 5:00pm.



## 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](https://twitter.com/PES_AACPS)

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