

PE Focus

Serving the faculty, staff and parents
of the Prince Edward County Public Schools



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Inclement weather procedure

When it snows . . .

In the event of a weather-related or other emergency, Prince Edward County Public School officials do their best to make timely decisions regarding closings, delayed openings, or early dismissals.

Decisions about closings and delayed openings are made by 5:30 a.m. on the day of the event. Decisions on early dismissals are ideally made no later than 11 a.m. on the day of the event. If schools are closed for the entire day, or if they close early, the administration will determine whether extra-curricular activities will be held. Parents will receive Instant Alert messages.

Parents may also check the school division web site at www.pecps.k12.va.us or call the school announcement hot line at 315-2101. In addition, several radio and television stations are notified of cancellations, early dismissals, or delayed openings. They include:

WFLO 95.7	WVTF 89.1
WCVE 88.9	WPAK AM 1490
WBBC 93.5	Cable TV - Channel 2
WXJK 101.3	WTVR - Channel 6
WRQV/WRLX 94.5	WRIC - Channel 8
WVHL 92.9	WWBT - Channel 12
WRVA AM 1140	WSET - Channel 13



21st Century grant provides learning, fun

A young animal lover enjoys the petting zoo at Prince Edward County Middle School's Harvest Festival. The Festival was the culmination of a series of activities reinforcing the Standards of Learning and was sponsored by the school's 21st Century Grant. The federal 21st Century grants support community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core subjects, such as reading and math, and offers educational services and literacy training to the families of participating children. The PECMS 21st Century grant also funded summer enrichment camps, where 51 middle school campers spent two weeks studying forensics, robotics, fine arts and international foods.



"Whan that april . . ."

Prince Edward County High School senior Geoff Archer and state Sen. Frank M. Ruff Jr. listen to English teacher Deb Rush recite the prologue to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, in Middle English. Sen. Ruff visited classrooms Nov. 10.

Graduation requirements

Diplomas de-mystified

by Maribeth Ewing
PECHS School Counselor

There are two main diplomas recognized by the State of Virginia: the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Diploma.

While there are significant differences between the two, each diploma requires the student to earn a certain number of verified credits, indicating that the student has passed both the class and its SOL test.

To earn a Standard Diploma, students must earn

28 total course credits, including six verified credits. Students must have four English credits, including two verified credits in English. They must also complete three science courses, three math courses, and three social studies courses, earning at least one verified credit in each area, along with a verified credit of their choice. Also required is one fine arts course and 12 additional electives.

To earn an Advanced Diploma, students must com-

plete 30 credits, including nine verified credits. They must complete four English credits, earning two verified credits in that area. They must also complete four credits in science, four in math, and four in social studies, earning two verified credits in each area, along with one verified credit of their choice.

The advanced diploma also requires the student to earn three foreign language credits, along with one fine art and six elective credits.

Drama team takes district championship #6

The PECHS drama team earned its sixth consecutive district championship Oct. 31 with George Brant's one-act play *Elephant's Graveyard*, scoring 394 out of 400 possible points. The team also swept all five district acting awards. Waldell Goode took the Best Actor award, followed by Alicia Moseley, Carter Chassey, Kendra Walker and Kat Lewis. The team is coached by Ms. Deborah Rush.

PECHS stays in the game

The Virginia High School League has awarded its prestigious "Stay in the Game" sportsmanship award to PECHS for the 2009-2010 school year. This honor is given to schools whose teams demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship and which have had no athletes or coaches ejected from games and matches during that period of time. Only one other school in the Southside District received the award, and only four of the 26 schools in the region.



German exchange students from the St. Angela Schule in Koenigstein visit Monticello with their PECHS host students. The group was treated to lunch at Michie Tavern by former PECHS Latin teacher Linwood Davis.

German students visit PECHS

The seventh annual exchange program between Prince Edward County High School and St. Angela Schule from Koenigstein, Germany, took place from Sept. 24 to Oct. 8.

Eleven students came to visit PECHS and the community, living with local host families and attending classes at the high school. The German girls were accompanied by their chaperones, Mr. Wolfgang Heisl and Ms. Sabine Hohm.

During the 10 day visit, the German students and their American hosts visited Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, and the College of William and Mary; met the German students from Hampden-Sydney College; and toured and participated in German classes at Longwood University.

The students from St. Angela's visited a number of PECHS classes and gave

presentations about their country, customs and traditions, thus reaching more of the PECHS students and starting a dialogue about multicultural aspects, and differences and similarities between Germany and the United States.

In June PECHS students will have the chance to visit Germany for two weeks.

Mrs. Meda Lupas, PECHS Spanish teacher, directed the program, assisted by Ms. Janet Miller.



Checking the data

Prince Edward County Elementary School third graders enter information on data collection sheets at the Holiday Lake Environmental Science Center. A grant from the Center enabled all third grade classes to spend a day outdoors working on their environmental science Standards of Learning. The third grade science SOLs emphasize conducting investigations and include the study of types of soils, patterns and cycles in nature, dry-land and water-related environments, aquatic and terrestrial food chains, and sources of energy.

VASS honors AP students

Prince Edward County High School students were recently recognized by the Virginia Advanced Studies Strategies organization for their achievement on the Advanced Placement tests. A grant from VASS helps fund math, science and English AP classes at PECHS.

Honored were current PECHS students Dylan Abrams, Aritz Aldecoa, Noah Bowman, McKenzie Brastow, Matthew Breckinridge, Shannon Burke, Sean Burns, Victoria

Carter, Jake Dixon, Kylie Dyer, Erin Gansert, Nicole Hayes, Kyerra Hurt, Sarah Kingsley, Rachel Thomson, Brandon Toney, Justin West, Rachael Winston and Rebecca Zeledon.

Also honored were 2010 graduates Lydia Bass, Abigail Bowman, Nitra Eastby, Amanda Favret, Courtney Garrett, Bradley Lowe, Chelsea Morris and Amanda Neese, and teachers Noel Cabautan, Katherine Cole, Sarah Fulcher, Gary Lutz, Rachel Overstreet and Gary LePalm.

PE Focus

PE Focus is published from the office of the superintendent of the Prince Edward County Public Schools.

Its purpose is to keep faculty, staff members and parents informed of district-wide initiatives.

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