



Inclement weather procedure

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

Once decisions are made, it is our goal to communicate clearly any changes in schedules to parents and staff, as soon as possible. Parents will receive Instant Alert messages. Be reminded that teachers do not receive Instant Alert messages unless they have children in PECPS.

The Transportation Supervisor for Prince Edward County Public Schools travels major and side roads to see if they are suitable for school bus travel. He and the Division Superintendent confer before making a final decision. During inclement weather, schools are either closed all day or they will open two hours late. If necessary, school may dismiss early. 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 11:00 a.m. on the day of the event. If schools are closed for the entire day or if they close early, the high school administration will determine whether extra-curricular activities will be held. Generally, sports or practices and games are cancelled or postponed in these instances.

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

WFLO 95.7
WCVE 88.9
WBBC 93.5
WXJK 101.3
WRQV/WRLX 94.5
WVHL 92.9
WRVA AM 1140
WVTF 89.1
WPAK AM 1490

Cable television - Channel 2
WTVR - Channel 6
WRIC - Channel 8
WWBT - Channel 12
WSET - Channel 13

Freshman Advisory Program Includes Lecture Series

The Prince Edward County High School Freshman Advisory Program has begun a series of lectures featuring individuals from the community. Each presenter brings to the group a unique perspective on their job responsibility and how important it is for our students to stay in school.

The first presenter was the Rev. Kitty Smith, Director of HOPE Foundation and pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church. She was followed by Mrs. Mabelle Eppes, Clerk of the Circuit Court, on Nov. 2; Mr. Gerry Spates, Farmville Town Manager, on Nov. 9; Dr. David Marion, Director of the Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest at Hampden-Sydney College, on Nov. 16; Mr. Wade Bartlett, Prince Edward County Administrator, will speak on Dec. 7. Our students are fortunate to have a variety

of community leaders to share with them their experiences and to help them further understand the importance of getting a sound educational background.

PE teachers, administrators present freshman program at state ASCD meeting

Prince Edward Superintendent Dr. Patricia Watkins, PECHS assistant principal Mr. Ernest Miller, and teachers Mr. Paul Jenkins and Ms. Ava Hawkins presented the high school's freshman advisory program at the meeting of the Virginia Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development in Virginia Beach, Nov. 29-30.

Community Bus Safety Meetings

PECPS is holding a series of parent and community meetings throughout the county on the subject of bus safety.

The community is invited to meet with school officials to discuss areas of concern, including responsible behavior on the bus, communication between parents and the school, and discipline procedures. The first community meeting was held Nov. 13 for the Virso, Meherrin and Hampden-Sydney areas and the second meeting was Nov. 20 in Rice. Further meetings are scheduled for Farmville Jan. 15 and Prospect Jan. 29.

PE Schools Hosts Panel Discussion on Teens

Prince Edward County Public Schools held a panel discussion on "Teens in the Twenty-First Century (How to Understand and Support Them)." The Nov. 19 event helped parents to identify the social, emotional and physical needs of teens, and to respond to those needs more effectively. The Rev. Kitty Smith moderated a panel that included Deborah H. Berkley, Ed.D., Administrative Director of The Madeline Centre, an intensive in-home counseling service in Lynchburg; Dr. Vonnice Colvin, of the Department of Health, Recreation and Kinesiology at Longwood University; and Dr. Linwood Cousins, chair of the Department of Social Work and Communication Sciences and Disorders at Longwood University. A second discussion is planned for Jan. 17 at the Middle School.

Homebound Instruction

To request homebound instruction, parents/guardians must contact Mrs. Avis Gresby, Guidance Counselor, at 315-2130 ext. 3336.

Parents/guardians must complete the Certification for Homebound Instruction form (Part A). The child's doctor must verify the need for homebound instruction before the service can begin.

School administrators, guidance counselors and teachers will be notified of the approval for this service.

Homebound Instruction will be provided using the NEXUS online service if a teacher is not available.

News Notes

PECHS senior Travis Downes earned a Letter of Commendation for outstanding performance on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Ladies of Essence, a mentorship group at PECHS, collected over 550 canned and boxed food items from the students, faculty, and staff of the school for the group's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive project. Because of these generous donations, nine families from the community each received two boxes of food plus a food gift certificate from a local grocery store.

A new organization called Involving Girls Now In Technology Evolution (IGNITE) has been formed at PECHS to get teenage girls interested in and passionate about technology. The group's sponsor is Mrs. Jessica Tibbs. Mrs. Tibbs was also selected by the state Department of Education to serve on the curriculum review and revision project for Career and Technical Education Services.

Ms. Mary Beth Blessing, PECHS instructional technology resource teacher, was recently selected to serve on the Virginia Business Education Association Board of Directors, representing the Longwood region. Ms. Blessing is also a regional adviser for FBLA.

The PECHS 2007 Eagle yearbook received a Gold Medalist rating in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association school publications judging.

The PECHS Drama team took the district championship with its fall play "And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson." The team went on to tie for second place in the region. Liz Chas-

sey, Meghan Banton and Khiry Palmer garnered individual district acting awards. Khiry Palmer, Katisha Sargeant, Emily Wells and James Early won a regional ensemble award.

PECHS student Marian Kidd finished seventh of 94 participants in Regional Competition for Orchestra.

Academic jackets were presented to 70 PECHS students, recognizing their achievements in the classroom. The students and their parents were honored with a dinner and assembly Nov. 20. Students awarded the monogrammed jackets earned a 3.0 GPA through their junior year.

At PECES:

In celebration of Thanksgiving, parents were invited to have lunch with their children at the school cafeteria.

The kindergarten classes sponsored "Community Helpers Day." Students and teachers dressed up as helpers in the community. Kindergartners also celebrated an outdoor Fall Festival.

Second graders held their annual bookfest parade, dressing up as book characters and marching through the hallways.

The health department screened all third grade students for dental health, height, and weight.

Coming up . . .

PECMS

Jazz Band concert, Wygal Hall,
Longwood University, 7 p.m. - Dec. 5
Chorus and Jazz Band,
PECMS cafeteria, 6:30 p.m. - Dec. 13
All Bands, PECMS cafeteria,
6:30 p.m. - Dec. 18
PTA Meeting - Jan. 16

SOL testing Dec. 12-20

SAT

Jan. 26 at PECHS, register by Dec. 26
Mar. 1 at Longwood, register by Jan. 29
May 3 at PECHS, register by Apr. 1
June 7 at Longwood, register by May 6

ACT

Feb. 9, register by Jan. 4
Apr. 12, register by Mar. 7
June 14, register by May 9

For further information on

high school events, call 315-2130
middle school events, call 315-2120
elementary school events, call 315-2110

Wanted: Talented and Gifted Students

Referrals for the Prince Edward County Public Schools talented and gifted program are available at each school. Please see the following persons:

PECES; Mrs. Bonnie Sheeler

PECMS: Mrs. Angeles Christian, or the
Guidance Department

PECHS: Guidance Department

Referrals are on-going throughout the year, but the cut-off date is March 1. For further information call Mrs. Ellen Wood, Coordinator of special Programs, at 434-315-2100, ext. 3429.

Vendor fair held

The Human Resource and Finance Departments sponsored a vendor fair for school division employees. Vendor representatives from the areas of banking, insurance, college savings plans and annuity plans were present to answer questions and to enroll employees for services. The vendors present included Aflac, American Fidelity Assurance, BB&T, Bank of America, Edward Jones Investments, Sam's Club, State Farm Insurance, VRSI Inc., Virginia Credit Union, Virginia College Savings Plan, Wachovia Bank and Woodforest National Bank. It is the goal of the two departments to continue this service annually.

After-school tutoring

After-school tutoring will continue for students at the middle school and the high schools until Dec. 10. The program is held Monday through Thursday from 3:30 until 5 p.m. at each school and is available for students who are having difficulty in core classes or who need help to pass the SOL tests. Students may be referred by a teacher, parent, counselor or administrator. Each afternoon will have a different academic focus: Monday - math, Tuesday - science, Wednesday - social studies, and Thursday - English. The activity bus will depart at 5 p.m. Parents should contact the school principal for further information.

Special Education Advisory Committee

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) advises the school division in the education of children with disabilities, assists in the development of long-range plans, develops priorities and strategies for meeting the needs of children with disabilities and informs parents of local, state and federal special education issues.

Members of the SEAC include concerned parents, students and community members. The SEAC meets four times per year in the School Board Office from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with public participation at 7 p.m. The SEAC met Oct. 16 and Nov. 29. Further meetings are scheduled for Feb. 28 and Apr. 17.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the SEAC, contact Alice McCormick, Director of Special Education, at 434-315-2155 or e-mail her at alice.mccormick@peeps.k12.va.us.

PE Focus

PE Focus is published four times a year from the superintendent's office 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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