

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SOARING TO EXCELLENCE

April 2018 | Notes From The Principals' Desks:

The students at Prince Edward Elementary School have had several exciting events taking place. Students in various grade levels have had their artwork displayed at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. The theme this year was "Egypt." Students in Pre-Kindergarten received a visit from Benchmark bank. The focus was learning fiscal responsibility. Our students in 4th grade traveled to Pamplin Historical Park in Dinwiddie, Virginia. There students learned about the history of Pamplin Historical Park, and received an authentic experience of America's Civil War heritage to nurture a deeper appreciation and understanding of our nation's past. Fourth grade students are preparing for "Lancer for a Day." They will have the opportunity to tour the campus of Longwood University and follow a class schedule similar to college student. They will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about what to prepare themselves for college. Finally, students in third and fourth grade have working diligently to prepare for the Standards of Learning Assessment tests that will be given during the month of May. Students have had an opportunity to complete practice assessments on the chrome books. They have been focusing on testing taking strategies in reading and math. Students will all receive a study guide and support materials to assist them at home to review the content from the year. Students are encouraged to attend after-school tutoring if they are seeking additional help. We are excited about the great work that our students are doing academically. PECES remains United in Excellence.

~Mrs. Carolyn Jones | Elementary School Principal



STEM

Wonder Workshop, LEGO, Little-Bits...these are a few of our new learning tools that will be used at the elementary and middle schools! Thanks to the Lowe's Toolbox for Educations grants, our mobile robotics carts are coming together! The kits are being sorted and organized for student use while valuable teaching resources are being downloaded from the various websites to the STEM Resource folder. Teachers will be able to access a variety of lesson plans and activities through the Teacher Resource folder.

The High School Robotics Club has been meeting after school every Thursday in the CTE Building. This diverse group of students is learning about the competitive robotics program as well as equipment safety, coding, and the many aspects of engineering. They are also working on building teamwork and collaboration skills and will soon be announcing their team name! Any student, grades 7-8, interested in joining the Robotics Club, please contact Mr. Dwayne Bates (dwayne.bates@pecps.k12.va.us) or Mr. Donte Montgomery (donte.montgomery@pecps.k12.va.us).

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Notes From The Principals' Desks Cont..

Prince Edward County Middle School students have been busy learning and experiencing many exciting things. The 7th grade students attended the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond. The 7th and 8th grade science classes visited Holiday Lake State park to experience outdoor learning first hand. 5th grade students were visited by Twin Lakes Rangers to learn about environmental sciences. The 5th grade students were also visited by Jamestown presenters, who brought history to life for the students. 6th and 7th grade students have been working diligently on their Science fair projects. They have presented their projects to esteemed judges from the community and will receive awards later this week. Spring sports have begun and the teams are off to good start. Destination Imagination team, "Engineering Turtles" competed this year and did a wonderful job representing our school. The Middle School Drama Team has performed their play "Lil' Red in the Hood" at competition, where they had an outstanding performance. Prince Edward County Middle School students are learning and growing through new and different opportunities.

~Dr. Julie Gilliam | Middle School Principal



There are WONDERFUL things happening at the high school with our young people. They are casting their talents in many arenas, from participating in leadership conferences at Hampden Sydney College to competing in scholastic and/or athletic events. This is the final 9 weeks of the 2017-2018 school year, and with that yields the benefits from all of the hard work that has been exhibited this year as it relates to SOLs. As you may know, the 11th grade students completed their Writing SOL test in March, and they will embark upon the Spring SOLs in May. We are really proud of our students here and the work ethics that they have displayed this year; we are confident that they are on their way to becoming United in Excellence.

~Mrs. Gwendolyn McQuaige-Hicks | High School Principal





On Thursday, March 8, Habitat for Humanity, Fuqua School, and Prince Edward County Public School held the first annual Birdhouse Build Benefit Basketball Game at Willett Hall on the Longwood University campus. The purpose of the faculty vs students basketball game was to raise funds to support the Birdhouse Build, a H4H home build that is being sponsored by Fuqua School and Prince Edward County Public Schools. Almost 400 people attended the game, and the event raised almost \$4000 to support the build. Games, raffles, and a dance-off by mascots from Fuqua, Prince Edward, Hampden-Sydney, and Longwood kept the crowd entertained. The faculty struggled to keep up with the younger and more agile students. Despite three additional players on the floor for the faculty during the 4th quarter, the students prevailed by a respectable margin. More importantly, our community came together to support one another and a family in need of affordable, safe housing. Thank you to all who attended and to those who volunteered their time and resources to support this event. We are already planning for next year -watch out students!

The home build is underway and students from both schools have already been and will continue to be involved in the build process. Please consider volunteering your time on the build site or making a contribution to the build. Please contact Alanna Rivera at Alanna@farmvillehabitat.org for details about volunteering or making a donation.

Photos courtesy of Teddy Hodges.

Middle School Prepares for New Leader.

Prince Edward County Public Schools is pleased to announce that Mr. Thomas S. Foster has been selected as the new middle school principal, effective July 2, 2018.

Mr. Foster has more than 12

years of experience as a public educator. He earned his B.S. in Education from Lynchburg College and his M.S. in Education Administration from Liberty University. He began his career as a physical and earth science teacher at Dunbar Middle School in Lynchburg and was instrumental in the creation of various programs that targeted math and reading deficiencies in students struggling to meet standardized objectives.

Currently, Foster is an assistant principal at Halifax County Public Schools. His list of accomplishments and distinctions is long and impressive, and includes serving on the Governor Bob McDonnell's Teacher Cabinet and the State Superintendent's Board Committee. In addition, Foster was the Virginia Super Teacher of the Year in 2013 and earned the McGlothlin Award for Teaching Excellence in 2012. Upon acceptance of the principal position, he stated, "I am excited and honored to join the Prince Edward County educational family. I look forward to the opportunity of working with our staff and community to further the goals of Prince Edward County Public Schools and obtain the highest degree of excellence deserving of our families and community."

Dr. Barbara Johnson, noted, "This position announcement attracted a very competitive pool of candidates. We are confident in our choice and believe that Prince Edward County Public Schools will benefit from Mr. Foster's proven leadership as we transition into the 2018-2019 school year."

Dr. Johnson invites the Prince Edward County Public School family and community to join her in welcoming Thomas Foster, his wife Diane and four daughters, Desiree', Gabrielle, Madalyn, and Danielle, to the PECPS division.



Alumni Spotlight

Lindsay LeSueur | Class of 2015
Always Purple & Gold!

We love to watch the success of Prince Edward County Public School Alumni. Lindsay LeSueur, class of 2015, was accepted to all three colleges that she applied to after attending PECPS. Lindsay is currently a Junior at the University of Valley Forge located in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. She is pursuing a bachelors degree in Sports Management. She is a member of the Women's Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball teams. She is even the current captain of the Women's Softball team. In addition, she serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is the Administrative Assistant to the Athletics Department. When asked about her memories of PECPS, Lindsay responded with: "There are a lot of memories that I am quite fond of, such as, homecoming week, graduation day, and being able to participate in the first Respiratory Therapy Government School program. However, being able to play 3 sports throughout high school was definitely a highlight for me." Lindsay LeSueur is certainly Soaring to Excellence! #EaglePride



STEM continued from page 1.

Students in Ms. Emily Camden's Horticulture and Agriculture classes have been afforded the opportunity to see how STEM relates to their area of study. Students visited a local dairy farm and learned how technology is used to improve upon the process of running a farm. Students have also visited farms in other countries to compare those farming practices to those here in the United States. The use of Virtual Reality goggles and Google Expeditions made this "trip" possible! Ms. Camden is also working with Ms. Carrie Saxton at the elementary school to help clean up the hydroponics area and create an outdoor learning center for students. Ms. Camden's students will work to clean up the area and make it child-friendly so that students as young as 5 years old can benefit from this resource.



Connections

:written by parents for parents:

SOL Season is upon us!

The Standards of Learning (SOLs) are Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) expectations for student learning in designated subjects across elementary, middle, and high school. This can be a stressful time of year for teachers, students, and parents. For students, it's a little daunting when they realize that it is a cumulative test. Yes, your child has been preparing for these tests all year, AND they need your support to help manage stress and maximize learning.

Here are some things you can do at home to help them prepare.

- Good sleep and breakfast on the day of the test to help maintain focus.
- Encourage them to slow down when they are taking the official tests. Many students will rush "to get it done."
- Review teacher provided study guides and worksheets with your children. You do not need to go over the entire study guide every night - it's a years' worth of information! Instead break it up into sections or jump around and ask questions.
- Use released tests as a guide for additional review questions. Your children will take practice tests at school; you can review released tests on the Virginia Department of Education website @ <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml>. Be wary of the student memorizing items on the test. Here's why-- if they memorize questions and answers, when they take a practice test in class, their teacher may not be able to identify topics where extra help is needed. Also, the same type of question will be presented differently in the official SOL.

Here are some additional helpful resources:

SOL Pass - <http://www.solpass.org/> - for Elementary, Middle, and High School includes study guides, review quizzes, games, and other activities.

Jefferson Lab - <https://education.jlab.org/solquiz/> - This website has Math, Science, and Technology quizzes. You choose your class and the number of questions you want to be quizzed on, and it will generate a quiz and provide guidance on areas where your child might need help. You can take these over and over again as the questions are randomized.

Study Island - <http://www.studyisland.com> - your student may have a password from their teacher. It is not applicable to all grade levels.

Portaportal.com - <https://quest.portaportal.com/solprep> - is a collection of SOL resources.

Pam Tracy & Sarah McElfresh | Parents



Embrace your impact.
Accept the urgency.
Get focused.
Lead fearlessly.
Engage, excite, educate.
Stay the course.

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Important Dates



General Dates To Note

- Spring Break: April 2-6
- Interim Reports: April 18
- Early Dismissal for Students: May 24 | 12:30PM
- Holiday No School: May 28
- Early Dismissal for Students: May 29 | 12:30PM
- Early Dismissal for Students | Final Day of School: May 30 | 12:30PM

Elementary School

- Kindergarten Registration: April 17 | 9AM – 12PM & April 19 | 4PM – 6PM
- Pre K Registration: April 10 | 4PM – 7PM & April 24 | 9AM – 12PM
- Pre K & Kindergarten Stepping Up Ceremony: May 22 | 6PM | High School Auditorium
- 4th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony: May 29 | 9AM | Middle School Gym

Middle School

- 7th & 8th Grade Semi Formal: April 14 | 6-9PM | Middle School Cafeteria
- 8th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony: May 30 | 9AM | Middle School Gym

High School

- BWF Wrestling After Prom Fundraiser: April 21 | 8PM | Middle School Gym
- Spring Band Concert: April 26 | 6PM | High School Auditorium
- Prom: April 28 | 8PM-Midnight | Longwood University
- After Prom Party: April 29 | 12:01AM | Bowling Alley
- SOL Testing: May 1-24
- Senior Trip: May 18
- Senior Showcase: May 22 | 9AM | High School Auditorium
- Senior Picnic: May 22 | 12PM | Wilck's Lake
- Graduation Practice: May 23 | 9AM | Middle School Gym
- Pre Graduation Reception: May 24 | 5PM | Middle School Cafeteria
- Graduation: May 24 | 6:30PM | Middle School Gym