



POWHATAN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Powhatan County Public Schools School Board Report

Pocahontas Elementary School January 2022

General Information

Ga-Ga Pit

On October 18, Dr. Tibbs and members of the maintenance team assembled a Ga-Ga Pit. The materials from this pit were purchased thanks to the donations from the Curtis Grant. This is an outdoor game for students to play at recess and provides another activity for student engagement. Prior to being allowed to play, all students were taught the rules. The game has been fun for students of all ages.



Annual Bus Driver Breakfast

On November 4, Pocahontas Elementary hosted its 14th annual Bus Driver Breakfast to recognize and support the members of the transportation team, the backbone of our school system. This group included ALL Pocahontas drivers, assistant drivers, and bus garage staff. In addition to a delicious meal, several door prizes were handed out. Invitations to the celebration were also extended to all cafeteria, custodial, and maintenance staff to boost morale and keep everyone well fed.





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Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair was back at Pocahontas, both virtually and in-person! Students and teachers were eager to get their hands on some new books, as Mrs. Ray opened up the Scholastic Book Fair. Students were given opportunities to shop during their library resource time from November 1 – 9. Sales were quite successful, as Scholastic offered a better variety of items at different price points this time.

Ronald McDonald Tab Collection

Pocahontas Elementary collected soda tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House throughout November and December. Our students collected over 401,639 tabs, equating to 144,224 grams of tabs or just over 317 pounds of tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.



Watch DOGS Kick Off

The counseling department hosted two Watch DOGS kick off meetings the evening of Thursday, December 9. Our first Watch DOG started Monday, December 13. The kick-off event was not well attended, but as the Watch DOGS are seen in the building, the counselors are confident that more dads and father figures will participate. The DOGS' schedule has been adjusted to minimize in-class time while still providing opportunities for the individual to spend time with their own student.

Pocahontas Gives Thanks

On November 22, Carla Crump read *Thank You, Omu!* school-wide via Google Meet. As our reading coach, she selected this book by Oge Mora because of its focus on gratitude. Following the read aloud, ALL students and staff then found ways to give back to the community. A variety of groups were recognized, as many students chose to make cards for nurses at St. Francis, active



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duty military, seniors at an assisted living home, nurses at VCU, and the Powhatan Sheriff's Office.

PBIS Schoolwide Incentive

The PBIS team is encouraging all staff to pass out PBIS tickets to students whenever they are caught showing any of the four core values – respect, responsibility, kindness, and effort. The students have already filled one five-gallon jug with tickets, thus earning a schoolwide incentive (showing movies during lunch). The students are close to filling their second five-gallon jug, at which point they will earn hot chocolate for the entire school.

After a student inquired as to how many tickets were in the five-gallon jug, the math coach and school counselor worked with TAG students to develop a lesson on estimation. This lesson was available to all grades, and students were then encouraged to estimate the number of tickets in the jug. The activity culminated with TAG students counting over 6,000 tickets in the container.

Holiday Festivities

The Pocahontas front office team enjoyed getting ready for the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. Several contests were held around the building including finding “Butterball” the stuffed turkey for prizes. The staff also participated in a “Poca Tree” game where prizes could be won leading up to the holidays. There was a holiday door decorating contest where staff and students were encouraged to decorate a door for the holidays. The class winners will receive a pizza party. Finally, just before winter break, students and staff enjoyed a spirit week with tacky sweaters, fuzzy socks, and pajamas. Administration treated the staff to a holiday luncheon to acknowledge their hard work so far this year.

Other Notable Pocahontas Events

- Veteran's Day Hats – Students wore hats on November 11 for a small fee of \$1. Each dollar raised was donated to Powhatan's Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center. The \$610 raised will be used to help provide year-round therapeutic horseback riding for veterans with special needs and disabilities.
- Christmas Mother Donations – The Pocahontas community collected small items to be given as gifts for the Christmas Mother. This yearly event is a great way for young students to give back to the community.
- First Grade Winter Concert – Mr. Wright, music teacher, hosted the first concert in almost two years for first graders and their families on December 6 at PHS. The event was very well organized and the parents loved seeing and hearing the performance.
- STEM Days – The STEM coaches are once again working with all teachers and students to provide day long STEM experiences. All students on a grade level work to solve a problem in small groups using a hands-on approach and integrating all subject areas. The coaches completely plan these days; students and staff love these opportunities. Grades KG, 3, and 5 will have their STEM days during the second semester.



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- October 25 – Fourth grade STEM day
- November 5 – Second grade STEM day
- December 3 – First grade STEM day
- A special guest showed up on the last day before winter break at dismissal to wave goodbye to our students as they left for the long break. This Good Samaritan nice deed was the perfect ending to an incredible week of fun and excitement for the students.



Student and Staff Recognition

The Ronald McDonald top classroom collectors were **Ms. Salyers** with 26,812 grams, **Mrs. Charters** with 18,380 grams, and **Mr. IJpenberg** with 13,247 grams.

Grade level winners were:

- VPI – Mrs. Fields 161 grams
- Kindergarten – Ms. Morton 4,827 grams
- First – Mr. IJpenberg 13,247 grams
- Second – Mrs. Manna 4,342 grams
- Third – Ms. Salyers 26,812 grams
- Fourth – Mrs. Howell 4,666 grams
- Fifth – Mrs. Charters 18,380 grams

Mrs. Allison Yandle was awarded a Powhatan Education Foundation Grant for her grant entitled “Pocahontas Plays.” Mrs. Yandle will work with the maintenance team to create some fun games and activities outside on the blacktop for the students during recess.

Mrs. Lisa Brown and **Mrs. Barbara Adcock** were awarded a Powhatan Education Foundation Grant for their grant entitled “Learning to Code with Ozobots.” These robots will be used at all three elementary schools to help teach students how to code and encourage coding activities.

Congrats to the following students/classes for being recognized through our PBIS team!



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VPI				Kindergarten			
Teacher	October	November	December	Teacher	October	November	December
Fields	Reid Lourinia		Eli Carroll	Bowles	Maddie Merkel	Georgia Young	Luca Clough
Gauntt	Nora McGary	Charlotte Hannaford	Teagan Johnson	Johnson	Cooper Franklin	McKinley Whitlock	Mason Laurimore
Welch	Olivia Volin		Kaiden Wiggins	Morton	Trevor Elton	Andrea Hunting	Carter Schwend
				Mosher	Easton Shepka	Levi Burton	Kellen Lavimodiere
				Rama	Emerson Aycock	Asher Matney	Gabe James
				Turley	Matthew Andrews	Missy Swanson	Noemi Lucaci

First				Second			
Teacher	October	November	December	Teacher	October	November	December
Fleming	Aidan Belcher	Luna Lunde	Cora Mock Smith	Bates	Dalton Morrison	Brooklyn Carmichael	Aiden Yanez
Ijpenberg	Audrey Shaw	Landon Craig	Gavin Rohfing	Manna	Weston Lourinia	Miranda Ortiz	Kinsley Congdon
McCue	Kally Senger	Alexa Hodges		Miller	Wyatt Leondard	Kian Cosgriff	Vinny Yates
Nice	Gentry Davis	Kathy Dickerson	Blake Lindsey	Raley	Patrisha Doyle		Walker Losch
Senger	Logan Taylor	Joanna Moyer	Jacqueline Plunkett	Trimmer	Kalynn Bareford	Jocelyn Hunter	Carter Jastram
Stech	Deacon Waters	Charlotte Farrell	Madelyn Beach	Yandle	Easton Gordon	Briar Jarrell	Colin Castillo

Third				Fourth			
Teacher	October	November	December	Teacher	October	November	December
Beach	Jack Henry Hendrick	Harper Burton	Sydney Maxwell	Brown	Chase Melton	Olivia Reinke	Levi McGee
Blackburn	Luna Withers- Dyke	Jaxon Lilly	Bethany Willis	Faria	Emmarose Lewis	Trevor Melton	MJ Dickerson



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Hill		Kayden Pizzeck	Avery Alexander	Hannaford	Emma Palmore	Sydney Raymond	Ethan Stepko
Salyers	Eleanor Watson	Collins Davis	Liam Lavender	Howell	Phoenix Edwards	Ryleigh Plummer	Harlan Coleman
Schott	Levi Richter	Raelynn Hodges	Claire Fairchild	Morin	Luke Hudson	Lilly Campbell	Caleb Reinke
Timberlake	Austin DeKeyser	Milena Yancey		Stout	Isaac Hill	Stuart Jeffress	Jovani Medina

Fifth				Resource by Class			
Teacher	October	November	December	Teacher	October	November	January
Bowman	Nalea Graham	Campbell Moore	Michael Williams	Britz – PE	Bowles/ KG	Stech/ First	TBD
Brooks	Steven Yellis	Parker Daniels	Hailey Fishburn	Faria – Technology	Brown/ Fourth	Bowles/ KG	TBD
Chartters	Hadley Singh	Emma Huff	Jackson House	Freund – PE	Beach/ Third	Turley/ KG	TBD
Reese	Corbin Cridlin	Rachel Bohn	Luis Michael Ruqus V	Martin – Art	Mosher/ KG	Nice/ First	TBD
Smith	Rylee McNutt	Camden Lilly	Reed Golden	Ray – Library	Hannaford/ Fourth	Salyers/ Third	TBD
Yoder	Liam Dinch	Lillian Hendrick	Brooke Bellamy	Wright - Music	Senger/ First	Manna/ Second	TBD

Important Upcoming Events

January –

- 4 – PocES PBIS Leadership Meeting
- 5 – Retiree Supplemental Update Q&A with Mrs. Terri Allison
- 11 – PocES SEL Leadership Meeting
- 14 – Report Cards Distributed
- 17 – Student/Staff Holiday
- 18 – PocES Faculty Meeting
- 24 – 28 – Mid Year Benchmarks
- 25 – PocES E&D Meeting

February –

- 1 – PocES PBIS Leadership Meeting; Title I Family Night
- 4 – Tech Ambassador Meeting
- 8 – PocES SEL Leadership Meeting
- 15 – PocES Faculty Meeting
- 21 – Professional Development Day



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22 – PocES E&D Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Thomas Sulzer, Principal