

JANUARY 2020 • ISSUE 1

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-575-5485

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday being able to rest and spend time with your family and friends. As we start the second half of the year, please take the time to talk to your child about the importance of staying focused on their academics. The third quarter is traditionally the time when some students tend to slack off. If they complete all of their work and stay focused, they should be able to finish their year strong and receive all of their credits. If your child did receive an F for the semester grade in any of their core classes first semester, they will need to do the credit recovery in order to retrieve that credit. You may contact your child's counselor if you have any questions.

In this newsletter, you can see the variety of activities we have going on here at Punta Gorda Middle. We have students participating in music programs, academic events and a wide variety of varsity and intramural sports. You will also find some very important information like the dates for our FSA and EOC Testing. I must stress that these dates are scheduled as shown but they are subject to change if the state requires us to do so or if we have any technical issues. Please do your best to avoid scheduling any appointments for your child during this time.

Just like first semester, we have a lot of different events scheduled. I look forward to a great second half of the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the school.

Sincerely,
Justina Dionisio
Principal

Mrs. Justina Dionisio,
Principal

Mrs. Allison Portwood,
Assistant Principal, Discipline

Mrs. Kellee Anderson
Dean of Students

Dr. Scott Nicklas,
*Assistant Principal,
Activities & Facilities*

Dr. Michael Davey,
Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Mrs. Kerri Thibeault,
School Counselor, 6th Grade

Mrs. Kalyn Wolff,
School Counselor, 7th Grade

Mr. Douglass Barr,
School Counselor, 8th Grade

**Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!**

PGMS PRIDE

PGMS PRIDE club is collecting small blankets, new stuffed animals, and art and writing journals for Valerie's House, the first and only organization in southwest Florida founded to help children and their families grieve the loss of a loved one (valerieshouseswfl.org).

Bring items to the Media Center January 13-31st.



Calendar of Events

January

- 16 Volleyball game at Murdock Middle, 5:30 pm
- 17 Professional Development Day, no school for students
- 20 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, no school
- 23 Volleyball game at Port Charlotte Middle, 5:30 pm
- 25 All County Volleyball Playoffs, Lemon Bay High School, 9 am

February

- 12-13 Student Council Talent Show Tryouts
- 12-28 8th Grade Field Trip Payments collected, Room 315
- 17 Presidents Day Holiday, no school

March

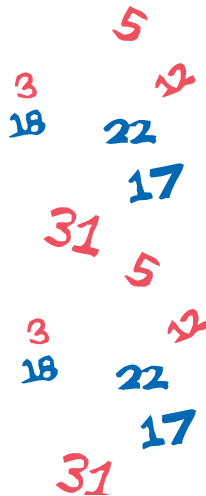
- 13 End of Quarter 3
- 16-20 Spring Break
- 23 Teacher Work Day, no school for students



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Winter Concerts Showcase Music Education

PGMS bands were in concert December 2nd at CPAC, with over 200 band students showing their skills while rocking out to holiday selections. 6th graders performed tunes from their method books, while the 7th grade bands took listeners through a series of dances, including an Eskimo Dance, Hanukkah Dance, Japanese Bon Dance (with singing in Japanese) and a Russian dance by Rimsky-Korsakov. The 8th grade band concluded the evening with a Mass by Franz Schubert and the crowd favorite "Secret Agent Sugar Plum" (think Tchaikovsky versus James Bond!!)

Thank you to the parents and families supporting our students in their musical education. Students wishing to join band are encouraged to talk to their school counselor or Dr. Courtney.



8th Grade Field Trip is May 20th

The 8th grade field trip to Busch Gardens is Wednesday, May 20th. Busses will depart PGMS at 7:45 am and return at 8:00 pm (approximate). The cost for the trip is \$75.00 per student and \$75 per chaperone. This price includes the ticket to the park and a charter bus. The cost for students and chaperones who have an annual or fun pass to Busch Gardens is \$25



Field trip payments for both students and chaperones will be collected on February 12th-28th in the morning in front of Mrs. Combs' room, #315. The front office will NOT accept payments dropped off by a parent. If you are interested in sponsoring a child who cannot afford this trip, any amount is

greatly appreciated! This can be done in February during the payment window. Thank you in advance for your generosity. We look forward to a great day together at Busch Gardens!

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Congratulations to our 2019-20 Take Stock in Children Scholarship Winners

- Kayde Jones
- Novera Sayed
- Savannah Kidwell
- Brittany Tarman
- Megan Langhans

Pre-Order Your Yearbook NOW!



The yearbook staff is still accepting orders for the 2019-20 yearbook. The only way to guarantee you get a copy is to pre-order, since supplies will be limited once they arrive in May. To place an order, please visit yearbookforever.com or bring \$45 to Ms. Hall in room 302.



Talent Show Tryouts February 12th and 13th

Student Council will host talent show tryouts during the school day on February 12th and 13th. Students planning to audition should be prepared to perform a song (karaoke version), dance, skit, comedy act, instrumental performance, or any other talent they want to share. Video submissions will also be accepted. Anyone with questions regarding tryouts should see Mrs. Combs in room 315 or Ms. Alumbaugh in room 229 before February 12th.



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National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society completed a day of service at the Animal Welfare League of Port Charlotte on December 7th. Students cleaned cages, washed materials and ran a car wash with proceeds going to the Animal Welfare League. Students also brought over 50 donated items from the AWL "Wish List." *Great job, Honor Society, on serving the community and representing PGMS!*



National Junior Honor Society



NJHS



Media Center News

PGMS Media Aides help keep our library in order and recommend books to other students every day. They also help Mrs. Sheehan host classes from many curricular areas who visit our library – math, science, peer counseling, history, learning strategies, and of course English. Helping students develop reading, writing, and listening skills is what we do.

We hosted a Book Tasting at the Carpe Diem Café (media center) with Mrs. Brooks' classes recently, and students were served a menu of different genre books, offered a taste of a few, and given time for the main course - checking out a book to take home. We also hosted Mrs. LaPlume's sixth graders who shared a variety of creative book presentations with their peers. Students are what make the library what it is – a center within the school that buzzes with excitement and has windows to our souls and doors that open to opportunity for all.

The sixth grade will be treated to an author visit in January, made possible by the Friends of the Punta Gorda Library. Who will it be? You will have to wait until January when we announce his name. There will also be a writing workshop for a few students who "write their way in." The contest will be explained and completed here, but chosen by "the Friends." That way we remove all bias. So exciting!

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Jesus said, "My peace, I give unto you." (John 14:27)

United 4 Him Youth Group

Meets Sundays from 5pm-7pm at the 1st UMC

Dinner, games, social time and worship.
507 W. Marion Street

Meets Thursdays from 4:10pm-5:15pm in the PGMS cafeteria

Fun time with snacks, games and discussion about God.
1001 Education Avenue

For further info contact Tim@whatist1st.com or 941-639-3842 ext 221.

Congrats to PGMS Science Fair Winners!

Third Place

Alexander Walsh, Keegan Rhymor, Harrison Darke, Alyssa Revilla, Tayte Earnest, Victor Otero-Smith, Elliot Courtney, and Emily Deno

Second Place

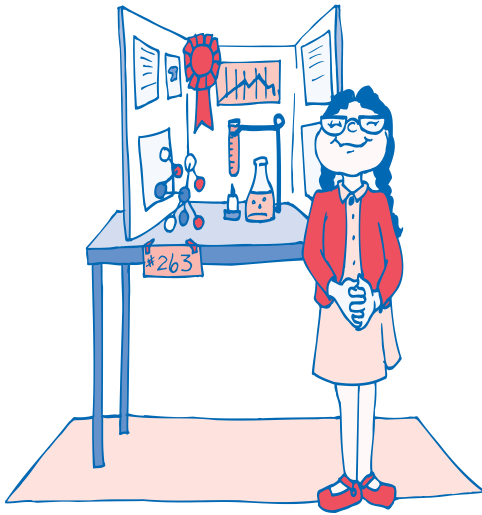
Pariz Fernandez, Nadia Carwile, Ethan Rider, Elizabeth Lawson, Abigail Willis, Caleb Ruggiero, Jaryd Desfosse, Suzette Garcia, Bryce Taylor, and Andrew Thorne

First Place

Emma Hawes, Sander Vincent, Colin Keegan, Noah Love, Ashley Wasson, Cole Vanagas, Tyler Rhodes, Brittany Tarman, and Mickinley Tingler.

First place winners will represent PGMS at the Thomas Alva Edison Science and Engineering Fair at Alico Arena at FGCU on January 18th.

We wish them the best!



Ique, Beck Earn CIW/MOS Certifications with Perfect Scores

Sawyer Ique, a 6th grader in Ms. Bruno's Computer Applications in Business 1 class, and Ron Beck, an 8th grader in Mrs. Welton's Computer Applications in Business 3 class, both earned perfect scores on industry certification exams during first semester. These two students are the first to earn perfect scores on industry certification exams while enrolled at PGMS.

Sawyer was actually the first PGMS student to earn certification in the school's new Certified Internet Web (CIW) Professional program, which launched in the fall. When he passed the CyberSecurity exam in November, he set the bar high with a score of 100%. He said he learned a lot while preparing for the exam. "I learned about being safe on the internet. Also, if you want to post something, think first before sending it because a post will stay online forever." Now he is working toward his second CIW certification, in Computing Essentials. "I'm learning about computer hardware and software - stuff like that" he said. Sawyer likes using technology. "I use the internet to code things and make things, like games, online. I also have a YouTube channel where I share animations and videos I've created." You can find him on YouTube by searching Sawyer Ique.

Ron Beck is the first student to ever earn a perfect score on a Microsoft Office Specialist exam at PGMS, earning 1000 on the Microsoft Excel 2019 exam in October. Ron, who earned certification in IC3 Spark, Microsoft Word 2016, and Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 in 6th and 7th grades, said, "I went through everything in Excel and made sure I knew all the skills before taking the exam. I wanted to make sure I could get a 1000 on each of the regular practice tests in testing mode. The hardest thing about Excel was learning all the formulas, but then once I figured one out, it was pretty easy to get the hang of it." Ron said he uses Excel to make spreadsheets for his classes. He also recorded data for his science fair project on charging iPhones, and then he used the software to create charts for the science fair. "There are definitely jobs in the future where I'll be able to use all the things I've learned in my computer classes," he said.



Ron Beck & Sawyer Ique are the first PGMS students to earn perfect scores on industry certification exams. Congrats, guys!

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Lady Eagles Volleyball



The Lady Eagles volleyball team celebrated a big win over L.A. Ainger in December. The next game is January 16 at Murdock Middle, and the last game is at Port Charlotte Middle on January 23. Playoffs are January 25th at Lemon Bay High School. Go Eagles!

Intramural Sports



Girls are staying active with Intramural Weightlifting

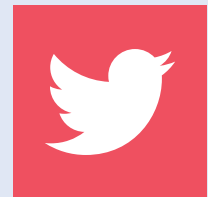


Ava Taylor is one of PGMS' Girls on the Run

Spring Testing Schedule

- April 1 FSA Writing, all grades
- May 5-6 FSA ELA/Reading, all grades
- May 7-8 FSA Math, all grades
- May 12 FCAT Science, 8th grade
Civics, 7th grade
- May 13-14 Algebra EOC
- May 22, 26-28 End of Year Exams

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www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School

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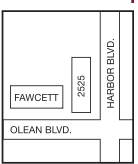
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New Year's Resolution

A New Year's resolution can bring both excitement and fear. We are excited because we are hopeful about changes and growth. Yet, often there is a fear associated with change because of the possibility of failure. Our kids also experience these same feelings of excitement and fear. We can help ourselves and our kids remove that fear by being successful in achieving our resolutions by following a few simple steps.

First, let's take a look at the 3 main reasons why many people never reach their resolution goals:

1. A goal is never really set. Many people examine the things they would like to change, improve, or grow in and have no problems with expressing those ideas. However, until it becomes a goal, complete with steps and a timeline, it is still just a thought. In order to achieve a goal, it is vital to write it down, plan out your sub-goals or steps, and to create a timeline by which you plan to achieve each sub-goal to get to your main goal. Keep this somewhere that you can look at it regularly to keep your goals in mind.
2. Your goal is not meaningful, measurable, or realistic. There are many things we may have in our mind that we should do, but it does not have value to us personally. Without having a goal that is significant to us we will lack the passion needed to push through the difficulties in achieving that goal.

A goal should also be measurable. My father always used to say to me, "Goals worth achieving are never easy". As an adult I can now see such truth in that. When we work toward our goals, we are going to hit snags and hiccups and times when we are going to want to give up, because it is hard, especially when it comes to long-term goals. However, when you measure your progress toward your goals, you can see how far you have already come and that can help push you through those difficult patches.

When creating your goal, you need to consider if your goal is realistic. Are you giving yourself enough time to reach the goal? Do you have the supplies needed to reach your goal? Have you done the research required?

3. You don't reward yourself. Motivation is a real struggle for most people when working towards a goal. We know that there is something great once we reach the goal, but sometimes that can be too far away to keep us motivated. It is important to reward yourself each step of the way, particularly with each sub-goal so that you can stay motivated. Plan ahead of time what your rewards will be and make sure that it is something you will enjoy and look forward to. Then always keep that reward in your sights to help you stay the course.

Next, let's talk about how you achieving your goals helps your kids in 3 main ways:

1. You're a roll model! When your kids see you setting and achieving goals in the right way, it gives them the confidence to give it a shot as well. It let's them know that it is possible, and it is a behavior that will help them become successful, just like you. Don't be afraid to show them or talk to them about times when you have made mistakes along the way or experienced challenges, this will help encourage them as they experience their own challenges.
2. Your kids will have confidence in you helping them create their own goals. They have seen you do it, so you are their live-in expert. They are more likely to listen to what you have to say about setting and achieving goals, and they need your help in this. Make sure to talk to them about being flexible and being able to adjust their goals if they hit a snag. Check in with them from time to time and see how they are doing toward reaching their goals to remind them they are important to you too.
3. Setting goals in their own life will help them gain a sense of purpose, and this is also great quality time together. You can enrich this process with experiences that can bring their goals to life. These are moments with you that they will cherish as they get older as well.

For more information and resources, visit us online at www.drugfreecharlottecounty.org. Or visit us on social media: Facebook - Drug Free Charlotte County, Instagram - drugfreecharlottecounty, Twitter - @DFCCTweets