

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We had another great start to the school year thanks to all of our staff and wonderful students. Our enrollment is the highest it has ever been with 6th grade being our biggest class with over 400 students. Many students are participating in clubs or sports after school. We have also had a couple of dances and sporting events that have been well attended, showing our students' pride and school spirit.

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be close to the end of the marking period and report card time already. As you know, keeping your middle schooler on track and organized can be a challenge, so I want to make sure you are aware of some resources available to you. You can visit the teachers' websites to see what they are doing in each of their classrooms and gain access to any resources they may have available at yourcharlotteschools.net/pgms. You can also log into your child's FOCUS account to see their current grade and what they may be missing. If you need additional assistance, you can make direct contact with your child's counselor or teacher through email or by calling on the phone.

One of our big issues every year is school attendance. Research has shown over and over again that student achievement is related to that student's attendance. We want our students to attend every day and for the full day so they do not miss any instruction. We know there are times when missing a class or a full day cannot be helped due to an appointment or because they are truly sick. If that is the case, please call the attendance line at 575-5490 to keep us informed.

I am looking forward to this year, working with you and your children. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Justina Dionisio

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!

PGM Media Center News

The 2019-2020 school year began with a burst of students who love to read, and our media center has been full of activity. Sixth grade orientation was a success, our Sunshine State Young Readers Association program is well on its way, and Mrs. Brooks' classes were treated to a "book tasting" experience in September. But that's not all:

- Students visited the fall Scholastic Book Fair September 30 - October 4 with their language arts teachers, and FAMILY NIGHT is Thursday, October 3rd, from 4-6:15.
- The media center will host the annual Science Fair in mid-November, and we look forward to a good reception for all the research and hard work students are doing in their science classes.
- Our World Book online is accessible through Classlink to all students at school and at home. It is a great resource for all kinds of research, including a special Science section and daily current events. Check it out with your student.



Please follow us on twitter @ PGMS_MediaCenter and encourage your child to visit the media center.

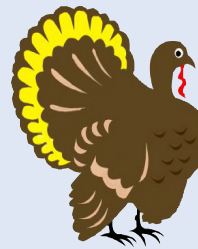
Calendar of Events

October

- 1-4 Book Fair, Media Center
- 3 Basketball game, PGM @ Murdock Middle, 5:30pm/6:30pm
- 10 Basketball game, LA Ainger @ PGM, 5:30pm/6:30pm
- 15 End of Quarter 1
- 17 Basketball game, Port Charlotte Middle @ PGM, 5:30pm/6:30pm
- 18 Teacher Work Day, no school for students
- 19 Basketball All County Playoffs @ Port Charlotte High School, 9am



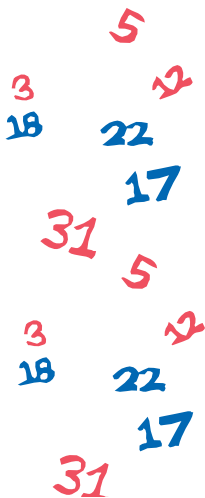
November



- 14 Volleyball game, LA Ainger @ PGM, 5:30pm
- 21 Volleyball game, Murdock Middle @ PGM, 5:30
- 27-29 Thanksgiving break, no school for students

December

- 3 Volleyball game, Babcock Neighborhood School @ PGM, 5:30
- 5 Volleyball game, PGM @ LA Ainger, 5:30
- 12 Volleyball game, Port Charlotte Middle @ PGM, 5:30
- 17-20 Semester 1 Exams
- 20 End of Quarter 2



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Bahamas Collection

Mrs. Rusch's students were discussing the effects of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, and they wanted to do something to help. Students put up flyers around the school, and Ms. Rusch coordinated with Harpoon Harry's to collect and send supplies.

Overall, students and teachers at PGMS donated over 120 items, including non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, pet food, and diapers. Madilyn Cummings, her stepfather Robert Amick, and her mother, Michelle Ezell donated 47 tarps! The items will be shipped to the Bahamas with the support of Harpoon Harry's and Cheney Brothers.



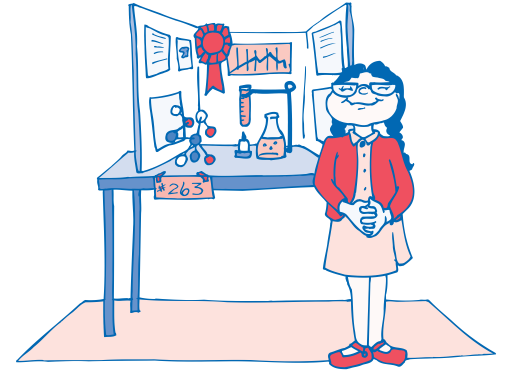
Mrs. Rusch's students worked with area businesses to collect and ship supplies to residents of the Bahamas.



PGM student Madilyn Cummings and her parents donated 47 tarps for Bahamians dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

PGMS Science Fair

November 13th - Judging will be periods 1-4
Open to the community from 5-6 pm



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1445 Education Way
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052
Issue #4

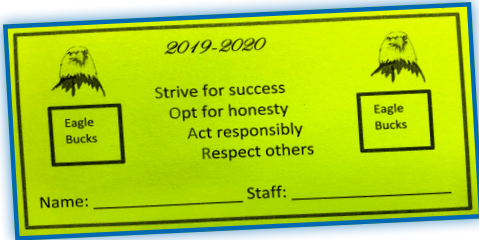
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PBiS Rewards Positive Behaviors At PGM

PBiS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) at PGMS encourages and teaches students about behavior just as they would any other school subject. It is a way for our school to encourage good behavior in all areas. The focus of PBiS is prevention, not punishment. As reward recognition, students can earn Eagle Bucks from any staff member on campus, including bus drivers, and “spend” them by choosing an item from our Eagle Buck Menu. Students will be able to use Eagle Bucks to gain free entry into some school events and also to participate in “Prize Patrol” during their lunch.



Our PBiS team consists of teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, secretaries, and counselors. Please help us encourage positive behaviors at school. If you would like to make a donation to our PBiS team effort, that would benefit our school, please contact Summer Nicklas, Christina Hall, or Allison Portwood.

Fortify Florida: Reporting Suspicious Activities or Threats

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to our schools. Any suspicious activity or threat should be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- The FortifyFL Reporting APP or to the Crimestoppers Tipline (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1



FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

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Mr. Wolfahrt's Drama Department Announces

Improv Night

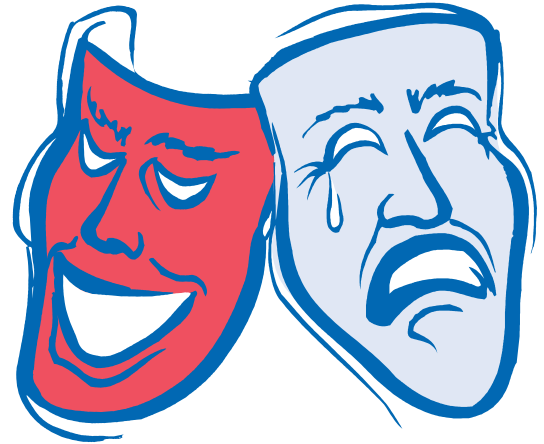
- **October 1** for 8th Grade drama students
- **October 2** for 7th grade drama students

One Act Night

November 19 and 20



All performances are at 7:00 PM
Tickets are \$5.00





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Spirit Week Memories

Color Wars Day: 6th/Red, 7th/Blue, 8th/Pink



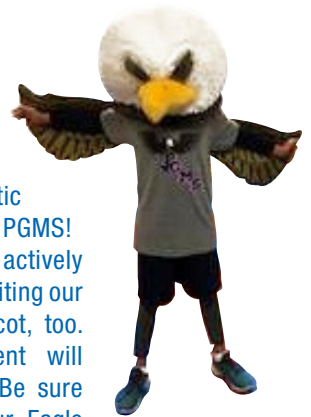
Buy A Yearbook Before The Price Increases!

See the school website to purchase a yearbook online for just \$40 until October 31st. The price goes up in November. Please contact Christina.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net to advertise in the yearbook. Business card size ads are just \$35!



Eagle Pep & Eagle Tech Boost School Spirit

Eagle Pep Club and Eagle Tech had a large turnout for their first meeting in September. Members enjoyed snacks and drinks and merged their ideas and creativity together to plan exciting things for future athletic events at PGMS! Members are actively working on recruiting our next Eagle mascot, too. An announcement will be made soon. Be sure to check out our Eagle mascot in action at all home games. Our t-shirt cannon is sure to be a "hit," too! Eagles wear a school shirt or blue and red on Thursday's to show their school spirit. Go Eagles! See Mrs. Nicklas or Mr. Jesse for more information.



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**THANK
YOU**



Girls Weightlifting Kicks Off Intramural Season

The first of three sessions of Girls Weightlifting began in September. Participants are setting goals, learning about muscle development, and learning how to warm up and cool down appropriately in the PGM weight room. Coach Combs encourages the girls to do their best and help one another, emphasizing that safety is very important in weight training. Girls interested in having fun and feeling great about themselves are invited to get a consent form to Coach Combs before the next session starts.



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2019/20 Eagle Basketball Team Rosters Announced

Boys Team

- # 24 - Chris Cornish
- # 10 -Hayden Anthony
- # 12 - Brady Hall
- # 1 - Ryan Kane
- # 11 - Jordan Attia
- # 23 - Jordan Taylor
- # 22 - Rocket Robbins
- # 20 - David Thelusma
- # 21 - Gino Dibene
- # 4 - Jayden Santiago
- # 30 - Evan Armstrong
- # 5 - Bonaamuse Fulton
- # 2 - Connor Crouse
- # 33 - Trenton Curliss
- # 3 - JIanny Reyes-Sanchez

Girls Team

- Annie Babler
- Madilynn Cummings
- Julia Damico
- Arianna Espino
- Ceianaa Fulton
- Jade Grier
- Ava Hall
- Hanna Hall
- Jaiden Halvorsen
- Chrissi Jamison
- Alyson Larrabee
- Cianna Pullen
- Brandi Trzeciak
- Abigail Willis

Practice Squad

- Joel Damico
- Aaron Hurley
- Devon Moats
- Corbin Sifrit
- Michael DeJesus

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 for sponsoring our basketball teams this year!



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www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School

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



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@what1st.com or 941-639-3842 ext 221.

A few spots are left!



We need you!

Advertise in the Eagle Times

This is a wonderful way for your company to get community recognition and exposure, and at the same time help support your local schools!

Rindi Welton

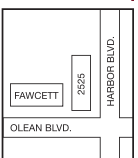
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Important Message From Drug-Free Punta Gorda: Middle School Parent Survival Guide

So, it happened, you blinked. Last night your precious bundle of love was learning to walk and talk and suddenly this morning you're dropping them off at Middle School! Or, maybe you've been anxiously awaiting this time where your child is more independent. Either way, there is no doubt this time in their journey through childhood is going to bring many changes for you both. These changes may mean some things have gotten easier, and maybe some of them make you want to pull your hair out. As a parent of a pre/teen and a teen myself I have painfully learned how to navigate through some of those pull your hair out moments and here are three things that I've learned that might help you and your kiddo survive...and maybe even thrive these years of change:

1. Always be the eye of the storm. Yes, everyone knows that teenagers are working through the new experience of hormones, but in addition to that they have some amazing brain development going on! This means that they are gaining knowledge about how to make decisions better, but it also means that they don't yet have the best decision-making abilities. They are going to undoubtedly make some less than perfect, not so great, and completely wrong decisions at some point... maybe even often. When that happens, their lives may resemble a hurricane: they may be moody, get in trouble, or act like the world around them is falling apart. Even though on the outside it may seem that they are over-reacting or not dealing with things in a way that seems logical to you, just remember, they are doing the best with the brain ability they have. That being said, they really NEED you to be the eye of the storm, right in the middle with them, the calm. They're hot, you're cold. They're loud, you're quiet. They're all over the place, you're.... you get the point.

2. Never give up. Yes, you did actually just tell them how to do something for the 10th time, and yes, they did just act like it was the first time, and yes, they may have just rolled their eyes at you. Rest assured, this is normal. Remember their brains are still developing, and they still need you to tell and show them things regularly. Part of this is continuing a dialog about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, AND what your expectations and rules are about them, AND helping them to formulate a plan on how they will say no.
3. Take a break. Even parents need a break sometimes. If you need to walk away and re-visit something later, DO IT. Yelling back and forth will accomplish nothing but stress, hurt feelings, and guilt. It is NOT selfish to take some time to be alone, or to work on a hobby, or do whatever type of self-care you need. You've heard that saying: "put your own oxygen mask on first." There is a reason for that. Not to mention that when you take care of you, you are modeling that behavior for your child so they learn that they need to take care of themselves also.

Parenting is tough, rewarding, fun, scary, all of the things! If you need additional resources, please visit us online at www.drugfreecharlottecounty.org, or on social media: facebook: Drug Free Charlotte County, Instagram: [drugfreecharlottecounty](https://www.instagram.com/drugfreecharlottecounty), Twitter: [@DFCCTweets](https://twitter.com/DFCCTweets)

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