

OCTOBER 2020 • ISSUE 4

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Phone: 941-575-5485

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, this year has been different in many ways but so far, it has gone well. The students and staff have done an excellent job following the protocols and keeping everyone safe. Hopefully it stays this way. As we move forward, we need everyone to stay diligent and keep up the great work.

Providing all students with a Chromebook to use at both home and school has helped move us forward in many ways. It has also opened many doors for some students requiring more guidance from you at home. Our district's security software is in place to monitor student web use but students are still able to access sites that may be inappropriate. We ask that you monitor your student when they are using their Chromebook at home and let us know if you find them on a website that allows them to see or do something they should not.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be the end of the marking period and report card time. 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 teacher's websites to see what they are doing in each of their classrooms and gain access to any resources they may have available at yourcharlotteschoools.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.

I'm looking forward to a different but good year working with your students. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Justina Dionisio

Mrs. Justina Dionisio,
Principal

Ms. Renee McLain,
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

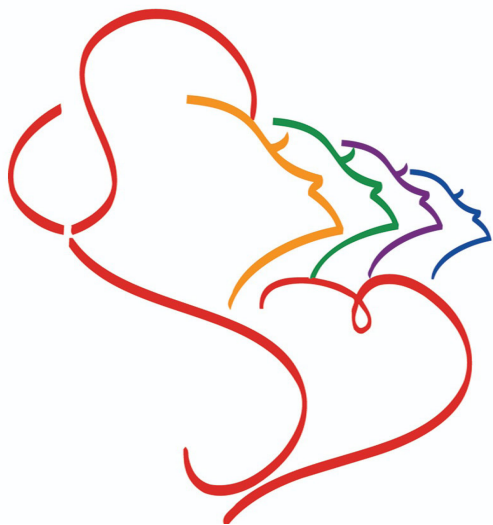
Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!

8th Grade Drama Class Presents...

Little Women, one act play Performance dates are Nov. 16, 17, 18 and 19. 7:00 PM. This is being performed by my 8th grade drama students. Rehearsals have been during class. Hope everyone can come out and support. We will be offering limited audience seating and socially distancing.

LITTLE WOMEN

the
broadway
musical



Calendar of Events

October

- 16 Fall Picture Day
- 21 SWAT meeting after school (1st meeting)
- 26 Volleyball Tryouts begin
- 30 End of Quarter 1

November

- 3 Students Off/Teacher Work Day
- 5 Volleyball Game, PGM @ PCM at 5:30
- 9-13 Spirit Week
- 12 Volleyball Game, LAA @ PGM at 5:30
- 19 Volleyball Game, MMS@PGM at 5:30
- 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Break, No School

December

- 3 Volleyball Game, PGM@LAA at 5:30
- 4 Make-Up Picture Day
- 10 Volleyball Game, PCM @PGM at 5:30
- 17 Volleyball Game, PGM@MMS at 5:30
- 19 Playoffs at LBHS at 9 am (Saturday)
- 24-31 No School Winter Break (students return 1/4/21)



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FortifyFL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

QUICKLY AND EASILY SUBMIT A TIP

By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

Anonymous or Non-Anonymous

You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.

Convenient

Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.

Include Photos and Video

You can also include photos or video with your tip report.

QUICKLY SEND TO AUTHORITIES

FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



Your School Officials
The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.

Local Law Enforcement
Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.

State-Level Officials
State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

#FORTIFYFL

GETFORTIFYFL.COM






'Eagle Times'
October 2020
Published Four Times Per Year
Charlotte County Public Schools
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Issue #4

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SWAT Club

SWAT - students working against tobacco It is an after-school club (meets from 4:30 to 5:30 in the art room). It is every other Wednesday with Ms. Paige and snacks will be provided. If anyone is interested in joining there are registration forms at the front office and the second floor house office.

Who Should I Contact?

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Michael Davey, Assistant Principal

Activities/Athletics/Facilities

Dr. Scott Nicklas, Assistant Principal

Discipline

Ms. Renee McLain, Assistant Principal

Ms. Kellie Anderson, Dean of Students

School Counselors

Mrs. Kerri Thibeault, Sixth grade

Mrs. Kalyn Wolff, Seventh grade

Mr. Barr, Eighth grade

Other Contacts

Joann Barr, ESE Liaison

Jena Williams, School Social Worker

Drop-off/Pick-up Procedures

AM Drop-Off

Once traffic has stopped, please have student(s) exit vehicle, and walk on the sidewalk beginning after the bike rack/yellow sign.

Waiting until the door to unload your student causes traffic to back up on Education Avenue and prevents our buses from getting to campus on time.

For safety reasons, students are not allowed to be dropped off in the parking lot.

PM Pick-Up

Immediately upon dismissal, students may load directly into their cars. After the first line of cars has been released, students must wait on the sidewalk until directed by staff that it is safe to load in their vehicle (please remind your student that this is for their safety).

If your student does not load up when directed and staff directs the car line to exit, you must follow the line and keep moving. Staff may tell you to re-enter parent pick up at the end of the line. This is for the safety of students as well as efficiency for the parent pick up process.

Do not pull into the staff parking lot to pick up your student. Students are not allowed to cross over the parent pick up line.



For the safety of all students, please keep your vehicle at a complete stop until staff releases the line.

Staying Safe & Healthy Is Now In Style!

PGMS students said they were more than willing to follow the mask requirements in order to be back at school!



8th graders, Jordan Attia, Ava Hall, Jacey Jozefiak and Lillian Harlan smile while also making a statement!





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Dress Code Information

No holes, rips, tears, or shreds above the Knees unless LEGGINGS are worn underneath the ripped jeans (Fabric, paper, or tape, to cover the holes is unacceptable). Also, a dress code slip will be sent home to be signed and you will receive lunch detention until it is returned. Also, both boys and girls must wear shorts that are within 1 inch to the knee.



PGMS Yearbook

PGMS YEARBOOK invites you to download the Yearbook Snap app, enter our school name, password is eagles and then upload pictures of your PGMS student to possibly be in the YEARBOOK!

PGMS YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW AT www.yearbookforever.com

This link is also on our school webpage! A yearbook is not guaranteed – you have to PRE-ORDER to make sure your child receives one and trust me, you will want to remember this year! What a memorable time it has been... definitely a book for the ages!



8th graders and Yearbook staffers, Abigail Willis, Hannah Pedigo and Keira Vasquez



Zoe Schwartz & Meghan Olby proudly wearing their PGMS Yearbook Staff sweatshirts.

S.T.E.M.

Mr. Jesse's 8th grade STEM class is learning about gardening and got some hands-on experience while in class.



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



Meets Sundays
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Dinner, games, social time
and worship.
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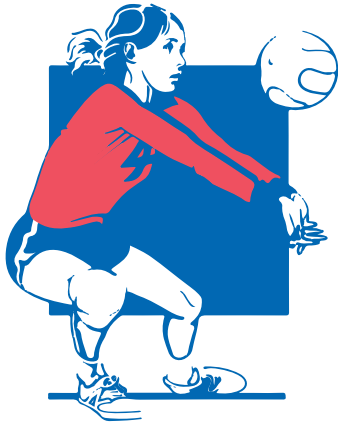
Meets Thursdays
from 4:10pm-5:15pm
in the PGMS cafeteria

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.



Volleyball Tryouts Info

Tryouts begin October 26th. In order to be able to tryout, all girls need:

- A current physical, consent and checklist paper. All paperwork is on the web page.
- 2.0 or higher is needed to tryout for the team!
- The first game will be November 5th at 5:30!

*Due to social distancing requirements, only family will be permitted to attend games (no students).

Computer Classes and Certifications

6th grade students have been working hard in their computer classes to certify in the ICT program (Information & Communications Technology) Digital Tool Certificates. There are 10 of them; Database Essentials, Gaming Essentials, Multimedia Essentials, Programming & Logic Essentials, Web Design Essentials, Communications Essentials, Cybersecurity, Spreadsheet Essentials and Word Processing essentials.

7th and 8th grade students have been working hard in their Computer classes to complete courses so they can test and earn a certification in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel, Word Expert, and Excel Expert. The students who complete the course successfully in class, will have the opportunity to sit with a proctor and test for a certification on the following dates this school year:

2020-2021 Certification Testing Dates:

- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 18
- Tuesday, December 15
- January 11-15 (During Mid Term Exams - Student opts to take the Certification Exam as their Mid Term)
- Wednesday, March 10
- Wednesday, April 28
- June 1-4 (During Final Exams - Student opts to take the Certification Exam as their Final Exam)

Microsoft Office Specialist Program Pathway

The Microsoft Office Specialist Program for Office 365 and Office 2019 will have multiple levels: Associate and Expert

ASSOCIATE	EXPERT
<p>Microsoft Office Specialist: Associate (Any 3)</p> <p>Excel Associate</p> <p>Word Associate</p> <p>Outlook Associate</p> <p>PowerPoint Associate</p>	<p>Microsoft Office Specialist: Expert (Any 2)</p> <p>Access Expert</p> <p>Word Expert</p> <p>Excel Expert</p>

Students still earn a certification for each exam they pass, however if a student earns any three of the four available associate certifications they will become a Microsoft Office Specialist - Associate and earn an additional certification for their accomplishment.

If students would like to advance even further and earn any two of the three available expert certifications they will become a Microsoft Office Specialist - Expert and achieve the highest certification within the Microsoft Office Specialist Program.

* For 2016 and 2019 Master Pathways, please visit www.certipoint.com/mos.

Microsoft Office Specialist Impact

Why are Microsoft Office Specialist certifications so valuable for students, teachers, and school systems?

For students, teachers, and administrators, it's about going the extra mile. It's about effort, achievement, and transformation. That's where Microsoft Office Specialist comes in:

- For students, Microsoft Office Specialist certifications boost academic performance, prepare them for the demands of college, and open doors to career opportunities.
- For educators who teach Microsoft Office Specialist courses, they enjoy a more engaged student body and courses provide targeted training and support every step of the way.
- For administrators who invest in the Microsoft Office Specialist program, they see lower numbers of dropouts and disciplinary cases, more diplomas & degrees, and higher GPAs.

Scan to see how the Microsoft Office Specialist Program can help open doors:

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Stop Bullying

Punta Gorda Middle School does not condone Bullying. We have many ways to report issues of bullying. Students or Parents can contact Teachers, Counselors, our Dean, or Administrators either by phone, email, or the school bully button.



Maura Stanchak, DDS, MS
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Student Council News and Spirit Week Information

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council officers for the 2020-2021 school year:

• **President:** Abby Moore • **Vice President:** Hanna Hall • **Secretary:** Abbie Willis • **Treasurer:** Ava Hall



Picture from left to right, Hanna Hall, Abby Moore, Ava Hall, Abbie Willis

Spirit Week

Student Council is proud to announce our annual Spirit Week is coming soon. This is a time for students to have some fun and show their school spirit.

Spirit Week will be November 9-13th. All students are encouraged to participate in the dress up days. But, remember, they must follow the school dress code. **Mark your calendar and start planning!**

Monday, November 9th: Character Day and Sports Day

Choose to dress up as your favorite character or show your pride for your favorite sports team.

Tuesday, November 10th: Twin Day/Camo Day

Pick a friend or two and dress alike or get decked out in camo attire.

Wednesday, November 11th: Dress for your Favorite Holiday

Whether it is Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, or the 4th of July, show us your favorite holiday gear!

Thursday, November 12th: School Spirit Day

Show your PGMS spirit by wearing our school colors. Cover yourself in red, white, and blue.

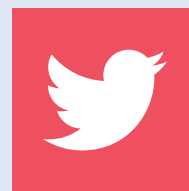
Friday, November 13th: Color Wars by grade level

Which grade has the most school spirit? Let's see! On this final day, each grade level is encouraged to go all out with their designated color:

• **6th grade:** RED • **7th grade:** BLUE • **8th grade:** BLACK

If you have any questions, contact Diane Combs at diane.combs@yourcharlotteschools.net.

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www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School

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8

Media Center

The Media Center is booming with activity. Chromebooks are distributed to students to promote our 1:1 technology. Of course, we are experiencing a few bumps, but nothing we cannot fix. We have an abundance of new books that awaited us since last March, and students are happy about that. We are observing COVID protocols in the media center in case you were wondering. It has not slowed the opportunities to learn, love, and laugh in the Media Center.



Isabella Costa sorts and returns books in the Media Center.

Our media aides for this year are amazing and work hard to understand how media works and they are already completing a first quarter project entitled, "The Reader in Me". Leadership classes have visited the workroom to receive the dos and don'ts of creating projects, posters, and more for the school.

All things considered, this is a great start to reclaim 2020 and our love of learning. Join our twitter page @PGMS_Media for updates and be a member of our literacy club.

Leadership Class

Mrs. Nicklas' Eagle Pep Club and Mrs. Cabana's Leadership Class worked together to encourage kindness at PGMS by creating this showcase!

