

October 22, 2021

School Bus Safety Week Heroes!

National School Bus Safety Week



“The role bus drivers and attendants play in ensuring student safety cannot be overstated.” -Transportation Director Rudolph Saunders

For National School Bus Safety Week, we partnered with American College of Education (ACE) to [share safety tips](#) and celebrate our colleagues who help transport nearly 90,000 students to school each day for their integral role ensuring safety inside and outside of school buses.

Congratulations to the following drivers/attendants who were nominated this week for their service and selected to receive a \$50 Amazon gift card:

- **Wilma Ford**, Mullikin Bus Lot
- **Holly Richards**, Surrattsville Bus Lot
- **Dwayne Franklin**, Laurel Bus Lot
- **Krysti Shepard**, Cesar Chavez Dual Spanish Immersion School
- **Veronica Rogers**, Mullikin Bus Lot

All nominated bus drivers will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win \$1,000 this spring.

Transformation 2026: The Journey Begins!



PGCPS is on a journey towards transformation. Learn more about our [2021-2026 strategic plan](#) and how it aims to change your approach to teaching, learning, working and leading over the next five years.

Watch: Staff Share the Advantages of Bilingualism



“The opportunity to love another language expands students’ horizons on what this world has to offer.” That’s how Capitol Heights Elementary School Principal Nina Lattimore describes the benefits of learning another language. Hear more from Principal Lattimore and other teachers and leaders of our Spanish, French and Chinese language immersion programs across the school system!

Open Enrollment Closes Next Week

ENROLL FOR YOUR 2022 BENEFITS
OCTOBER 11 – 27, 2021

www.pgcps.org/open

Open Enrollment ends Wednesday, Oct. 27! If you do not make changes, your current benefits will remain the same in 2022. The only exception concerns Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), which require you to re-enroll annually.

Virtual Benefits Information Sessions

Attend an upcoming [virtual benefits information session](#) with healthcare providers! Two live sessions will be available on each date at noon and 5 p.m. Sessions will be recorded and available for viewing on demand.

Oct. 26: CVS/Caremark

Oct. 28: INOVA EAP

Hall of Fame Celebrates Past, Present and Future Stars



Tonight is the Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS' 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Gala hosted by Surrattsville High School alum and radio/TV personality Taylor Thomas and featuring musical performances by Kindred the Family Soul. Event proceeds will go towards student scholarships and academic program enhancements.

This year's inductees include:

Zerina Akers (Suitland High School '04): Emmy Award-winning costume designer and stylist for Beyoncé.

Laurie Robinson-Haden, Esq. (Oxon Hill High School '90): President and Chief Executive Officer of the nonprofit Corporate Counsel Women of Color.

David E. Talbert (Central High School '84) who wrote, directed and produced the award-winning Netflix film *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey*.

Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor (Frederick Douglass High School '56): retired educator and administrator, former Prince George's County Board of Education Chair, State Delegate and State Senator.

Monty Williams (Potomac High School '89) Phoenix Suns coach.

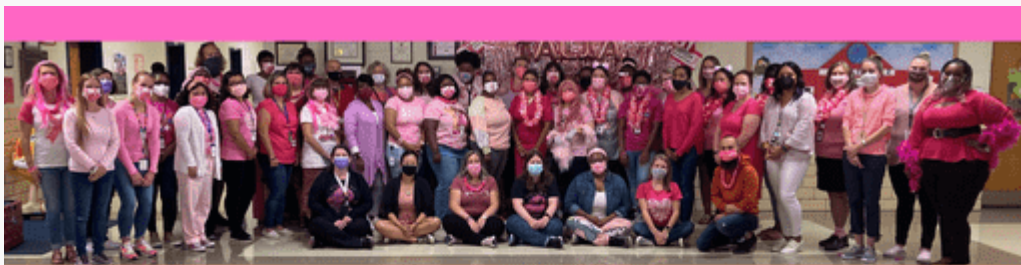
Kaiser Permanente and **Prince George's County Health Department** will jointly receive the CEO's Award of Excellence for partnering with the school system to protect employees, students and families against COVID-19.

Thank You, Sponsors!

The Hall of Fame Gala would not be possible without the contributions and commitment of many businesses, individuals and groups. [United Healthcare](#) is the Hall of Fame title sponsor. Additional sponsors include [Care First](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [G.S. Proctor and Associates, Inc.](#), [First Baptist Church of Glenarden](#) and [Lanier Electronics Group](#).

Pink, Orange & Purple for a Cause!

#TeamPGCPS schools and offices have been active this month drawing awareness to issues including breast cancer, bullying and domestic violence! [View photos](#).



In the News

CEO Goldson Honored for Leadership



The [National Center for Children and Families](#) honored CEO Dr. Monica Goldson with its award for Exceptional Superintendent Leadership for 30 years of service to PGCPSS!

Dr. Goldson also recently joined other school superintendents across the country to pen an *Education Week* article exploring the overdue case for competency-based education. Read [“Graduation Must Depend on Learning, Not Time”](#)

In the Spotlight

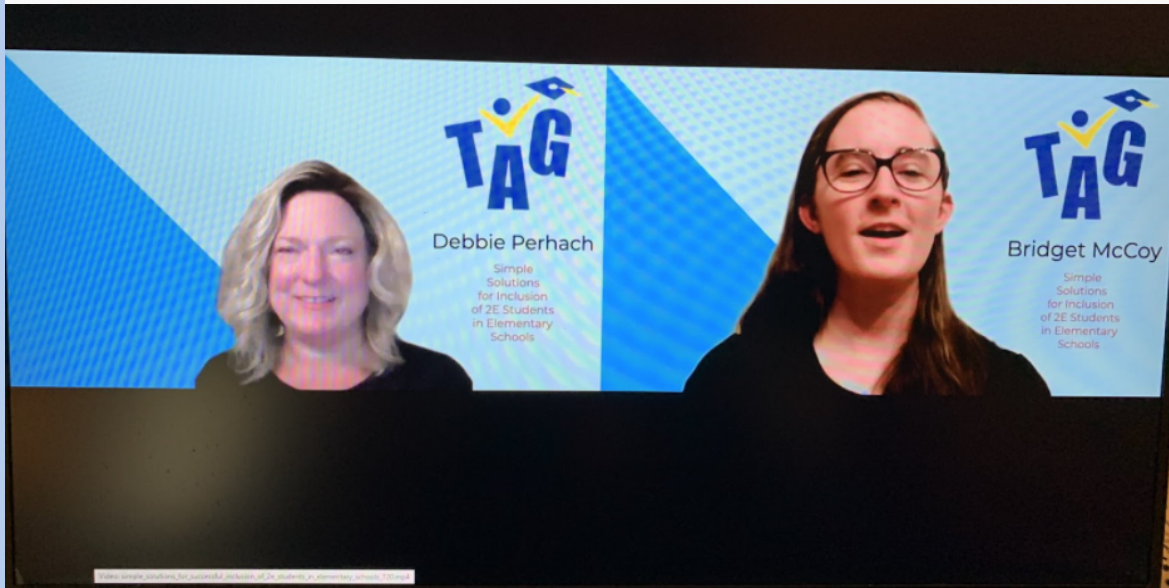
Yes, Chef!



More than a talented chef, Oxon Hill High School Culinary Arts Instructor Ian Barthley exemplifies kindness and goes above and beyond to care for his school community! His colleague, Student Advocate Hilda Cacciavillani, shares

that Barthley recently helped her organize a fundraiser to help a student in need and provide 30 families with food during the pandemic.

Talented and Gifted Teachers Share Expertise



Talented and gifted educators presented at the Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) Virtual Conference, sharing innovative instruction ideas with peers across the state! Presenting educators include: Dr. Marites Melad, Susan Graham, Carla Hunter, Chunhong Lin, Joshua Pleasant, Stephanie Gutscher, Lauren Cathell, Janet Viana Clarke-Green, Debbie Perhach, Bridget McCoy, Wendy Walton and Erica Bair.

Announcements & Professional Development

Sign up for a Free Flu Shot

PROTECT YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU.

Get the flu shot.

- No cost
- Available at your workplace
- Open to anyone 18 or older

The flu shot is a safe, effective way to help prevent the flu – and protect the people around you. Get yours at an on-site flu shot clinic, brought to you by Kaiser Permanente.

Beginning next week, receive a [free flu shot](#) from Kaiser Permanente at one of the following clinics:

- Oct. 26: **Sasscer Administration Building**
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27: **Green Valley Administrative Offices**
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 28: **Oxon Hill Staff Development Center**
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3: **Skyline Administrative Building**
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

REGISTER

Call for Nominations: *The Washington Post* Principal & Teacher of the Year Awards



TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS

The Washington Post

We are accepting nominations for *The Washington Post* 2021-22 principal and teacher of the year awards! **The deadline to nominate a teacher or principal is Wednesday, Dec. 15.** Completed application packets should be submitted to communications@pgcps.org. One teacher and one principal will be selected to represent PGCPS in the contest.

[Principal of the Year Nomination Packet](#)
[Teacher of the Year Nomination Packet](#)

Save the Date: Virtual Powering Up with Technology Conference



The Technology Training Team (T3) will host a full day of professional learning opportunities at its annual Powering Up with Technology Conference on Jan. 22, 2022.

Climate Action Survey

Take a [survey](#) to share your feedback on how the [Board of Education Climate Change Action Plan Focus Work Group](#) can provide healthier teaching, learning and working environments.

Continuing Education Opportunities

University of Maryland College Park

[Register](#) to attend a virtual information session on Nov. 16 at 5 p.m. to learn more about the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The ESOL Office has partnered with the University of Maryland College Park to offer a partial scholarship (80% of the tuition fees) for non-ESOL teachers, teacher leaders, and administrators who are interested in acquiring this [12-credit course certificate](#).

American University

Attend a free [virtual open house](#) and learn more about American University's degree programs. The open house will give interested candidates a full overview of the program, application requirements and more.

Washington Adventist University

The [Master of Education in School Counseling](#) degree at [Washington Adventist University](#) was developed to accommodate the needs of working professionals

by offering classes in convenient evening and Sunday classes accelerated formats offered through the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. For more information call 301-891-4086 or email mharris1@wau.edu.

Walden University

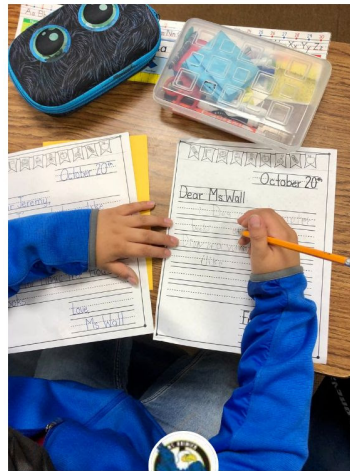
[Register](#) to attend an online information session and explore the more than 100 [degree and certificate programs](#) and tuition reduction opportunities that may be available to you as an employee of Prince George's County Public Schools. Starting Nov. 1, you can earn a Masters in Education (Accelerated Program) for only \$7,500.


#TeamPGCPS Paparazzi



 Danielle Carter 21 Oct 2021
[@SuperMrsCarter](#)


Stand up to bullying!
[#UnityDay2021](#)
[#BullyingPrevention](#)
[#PGCPSPrroud](#)
[#CareerTechEd](#)
[#WearOrange](#) [#OOTD](#)
[#PGCPSCTE](#)
<https://t.co/hzgGZZPm0u>



 MRES Eagles 20 Oct 2021
[@MRESeagles](#)

Celebrating
[#NationalDayOnWriting](#)
at our school across all
grade levels! Can you keep
track of all the writing you
do in a day?
[@PGCPSK5RELA](#) [@pgcps](#)
[#PGCPSPrroud](#)
<https://t.co/Mu9PpiatMZ>



 Dr. Richard Thoma... 16 Oct 2021
[@DrRTMJr](#)

Live at the Zombie Run!
[@HESPGCPS](#)
[#pgcpsproud](#)
<https://t.co/FLqEeTGfc>

We love to see the amazing things happening in your classrooms, offices and the community! Use the tag [#TeamPGCPS](#) on social media to share with peers.

Reminders

Mandatory SafeSchools Trainings

SafeSchools training modules are mandatory for all staff. The training modules are designed to ensure that every employee has the necessary information to establish and maintain a positive, respectful, safe, healthy and lawful culture in which staff share the responsibility for a safe and supportive school

environment that contributes to excellence in education. **Round 3 sessions are due by Wednesday, Nov 17.** [Start trainings now!](#)

Return to Work Guidelines

View [Back to Work Guidelines](#) available in the Staff Portal. Questions should be directed to your supervisor and division chief.

STAY CONNECTED

SOCIAL MEDIA [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

PGCPS LINKS [Main Website](#) | [Human Resources](#) | [Payroll](#) | [Hotline](#)

COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org