



EXPRESS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PGCPS EMPLOYEES

Top News

Ribbon Cutting at Cherokee Lane Elementary School



An official [ribbon cutting](#) ceremony this week featured student performances and remarks from special guests! Cherokee Lane is the first of 10 PGCPS schools that will open over the next four years and is the first public school in Maryland to be constructed using a hybrid off-site/on-site construction model.





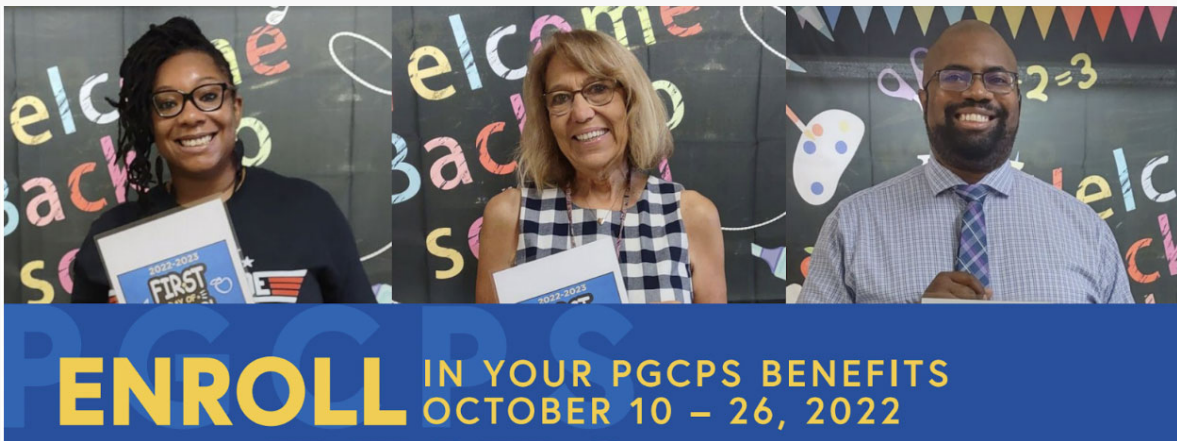
Learning Together for a Supportive & Inclusive PGCPS



Next Friday, Sept. 30, staff will participate in a systemic professional learning on making our schools more welcoming and inclusive. Specifically, we will focus on ways to prevent and disrupt discrimination and microaggressions students, families and peers may experience based on their identities connected to national origin, languages spoken and cultural practices.

The goal of the training is to enhance our work supporting newcomer and immigrant communities, including unaccompanied minors, who are a growing population of our students.

Save the Date: Benefits Open Enrollment Starts Oct. 10



The open enrollment period for calendar year 2023 will be held from October 10-26. This is your opportunity to update benefit elections for next year.

[Learn More](#)

Science Bowl Returns for 37th Season



[The Science Bowl](#), a weekly game show in which elementary and middle school teams compete to test their science IQ, is back for its 37th season!

“We’re excited to have an upgraded studio and two schools — Apple Grove Elementary and Andrew Jackson Academy — who are returning to the Bowl after 15 years away,” said PGCPS Television Specialist and host Dave Zahren. “We also welcome the return of in-person competition after almost three years on Zoom!”

Canvas Drop-In Support Sessions



Have questions about building a course or specific features in Canvas? Attend a drop-in session next week to have your questions answered. Staff can drop-in anytime during a session.

Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 9am - 5pm | [Join](#)

Friday, Sept. 30, from 8am - 4pm | [Join](#)

Note: This is not a training on the basics of Canvas. These are “office hours” sessions for those with specific questions about how to expand their use of Canvas or specific features that they want to learn more about.

[View the schedule](#) of upcoming live, after school instructional classes.

View [on-demand Canvas resources](#).

Spotlights

Call of Duty: Families Supporting Our Schools



Mother and son duo Faith and Orion Hunter both became educators to make a lasting impact on the lives of students and society at large. Faith is a second grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary School who is in her 29th year as an educator. Orion is a second-year Spanish teacher at Benjamin Tasker Middle School.



Nicholas Orem Middle School Principal Michelle Towles-Monroe's mother Diane Towles is a former PGCPs and DC Public Schools teacher of more than 40 years. To help with the teacher shortage, Towles came out of retirement this year and is serving as a long-term substitute teacher at Barack Obama Elementary School.

"She desperately missed the classroom and saw the need this year," said Towles-Monroe. "My kids attended Barack Obama Elementary with Principal Dr. Megan Ashworth, and Dr. Ashworth and I taught together. So this was a win-win for all parties!"

Transformative Moments for Teachers



Through the Alice Ferguson Foundation Summer Teacher Institute, teachers experienced a 10-day environmental/watershed training immersed in integrated curriculum!

[Learn More](#)

#TeamPGCPS to Discuss Family Engagement



Director of Family and School Partnerships Dr. Sheila Jackson and Robert R. Gray Elementary School Principal Dr. Cheryl Franklin will share their expertise in school and community engagement during a Sept. 30 National Association for Family webinar!

[More Information](#)

PG13 Season 7, Episode 2





This week, undefeated teams collide to determine who will get an early leg up in playoff positioning while in the classroom, coaches and teachers focus on developing scholars.

Announcements and Professional Development

ACE-AFSCME Local 2250 Agreement

The posted Negotiated Agreement for ACE-AFSCME Local 2250 is now available on the [PGCPS website](#).

“Growing Green with Pride”

Schools are encouraged to participate in Prince George’s County’s annual Growing Green with Pride on Oct. 15 for a day of cleaning and beautification. Students can earn service learning hours for participation.



Register

Mini-Grants for Teachers

Mini-Grants to fund special projects or activities are available to teachers through [Maryland Retired School Personnel Association!](#) [Apply](#) by Nov.1. Six mini-grants of up to \$300 will be awarded directly to the winning teacher to be used in the current school year. more information visit.

Back-to-School Gift Card Giveaway



Now through Nov. 30, enter to win a \$50 Amazon gift card courtesy of American College of Education!

Enter to Win

MSDE Course: Supporting Students Impacted by Domestic Violence

Take a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course on supporting students impacted by domestic violence. This is an

online blended learning course comprised of 12 hours of live, virtual training via Zoom and 3 hours of asynchronous learning.

[More Information](#)

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Social and Emotional Learning Courses

Realizing Transformation:
Rebuild, Recharge, Reconnect
Social-Emotional Learning Institute

Join us for an institute, designed specifically for PGCPs, which gives busy educators an opportunity to increase their knowledge and leadership related to social and emotional wellness while earning six graduate level credits.

Valued at \$5000 per participant, the institute is FREE for PGCPs Educators!



PGCPs teacher-leaders are invited to attend an information session on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. to learn more about course offerings on social and emotional learning with Mount Holyoke College and the National Network State Teachers of the Year.

[More Information](#)

Telehealth Services for Students Coming Soon

A graphic with a dark blue background. On the left, the text "Here to help, here for health!" is written in white and yellow. Below the text is the Hazel logo, which consists of a stylized blue 'h' icon followed by the word "hazel" in white lowercase letters. On the right side of the graphic is a 4x3 grid of 12 circular portraits of diverse students of various ethnicities and ages, each with a different colored background.

PGCPs along with the Prince George's County Health Department are excited to announce

our new partnership with [Hazel Health](#) that will allow students to complete urgent medical care visits or therapy sessions virtually! Beginning in October, Hazel's doctors and therapists will be available to see students while they are at home or at school. Services will be available at *no cost* to every student, regardless of their family's insurance or financial situation.

Become an Ally Partner for Local Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The McKinney Vento Program is seeking community partners and trusted adults in schools to join the Ally Partners Program and become a trusted point of contact for students experiencing homelessness in Prince George's County. Workshop pay may be available for some staff. Training will held via Zoom on:
Sept. 28 and Oct. 25 at 4:30 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

[More Information](#)

Save the Date: PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala



[The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS](#) will host its annual PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala on Friday, Oct. 28 at the MGM National Harbor. The gala showcases students and schools, highlights notable alumni through a Hall of Fame induction and raises critical funds to expand educational experiences for students.

#TeamPGCPS Paparazzi

Maya Angelou French Immersion IB World School showed their appreciation to school bus drivers. Merci beaucoup!



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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org