

PGCPS Express

A NEWSLETTER FOR PGCPS EMPLOYEES

November 19, 2021

Top News

U.S. Secretary of Education Visits School Vaccine Clinic



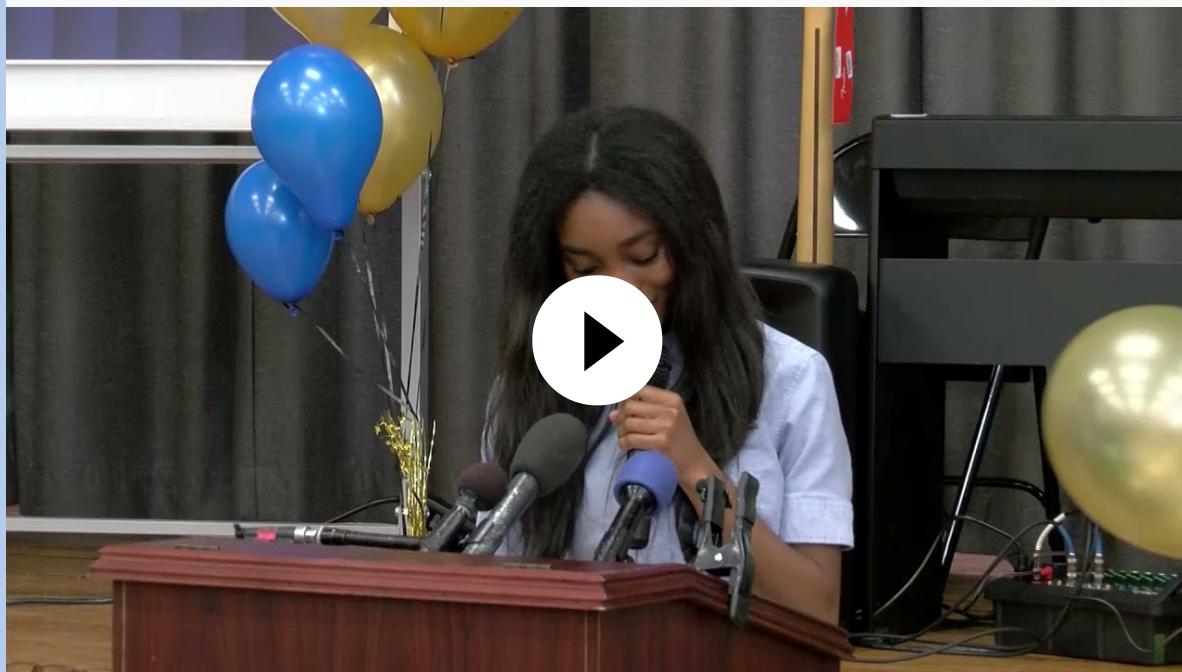
U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visited the COVID-19 student vaccine clinic at Capitol Heights Elementary School, kicking off his nationwide tour of vaccination clinics for children 5-11 year old! The Prince George's County Health Department will continue vaccination clinics for children ages five and older at more than 50 schools.

[Learn More](#)

#PGCPSProud at International High School Langley Park



"My job in the classroom is to really empower my students and to give them a voice," said teacher Keishia Thorpe at a celebration hosted this week at International High School at Langley Park. Thorpe recently received the \$1 million 2021 [Global Teacher Prize](#), rising above 8,000 nominees from 121 countries around the world!



Season of Giving: PGCPS Partners Provide Meals for Families



Community partners are showing special support for our schools ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday! At Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School, Wegmans, WUSA9 and volunteers partnered to donate and pack 1,000 meals for families including a \$5,000 food donation from nonprofit Invisible Hands.

At Mount Rainier Elementary School, local business Red Dirt Studio hosted a holiday food drive to support weekly food distributions after the holiday.

At Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School, Chores4Charities is donating 300 prepared meals from Nando's for families!

Calendar Updates



The Prince George's County Board of Education approved multiple changes to the 2021-22 school year calendar including:

- Changing a full day of instruction to a three-hour early dismissal on Thursday, December 23;

- Changing Tuesday, February 22 from a two-hour delayed opening to a full-day closure for students, providing a half-day for parent-teacher conferences and a three-hour early dismissal for all 10- and 11-month employees; and
- Offering three-hour early dismissal days on Friday, January 21; Friday, March 4 and Friday, May 13 for all 10- and 11-month employees.

#TeachWithUs: Help us Spread the Word!



Do you know someone with a conferred bachelor's degree who may be interested in a teaching career with PGCPS? Please share our upcoming recruitment, networking and hiring event on Saturday, December 11!

[Register](#)

In the Spotlight

Maya Angelou French Immersion Honored for Excellence

Members of the Maya Angelou French Immersion School staff and community were honored for their impact in the lives of students as part of the national **Possibilities in Action Partner** program sponsored by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

Congratulations to **Madame Pamela Jameson** (Principal's Administrative Assistant), **Madame Blessing Mbang** (2nd Grade Gifted Teacher), **Officer David Sanders** (Security), **Madame Nanci Staley** (Instrumental Music Teacher), **Dr. Stephanie Stubblefield** (Professional School Counselor), **Madame Olga Tapsoba** (Special Education Chair), and **Monsieur Gerrod Tyler** (PTSA President).

Health Educators Honored by SHAPE America

The [Society of Health and Physical Educators](#) (SHAPE Maryland) recently honored team members for their outstanding contributions to the health education profession including: Crossland High School health education teacher **Jossolyn Edwards**, Gwynn Park High School health education teacher **Karon Johnson**, Cesar Chavez Elementary School physical education teacher **Teresita Rolon** and Francis Scott Key Elementary School adapted physical education teacher **William Safford** received the Simon McNeely Award.

Whitehall ES Supports Jeans for Troops



Whitehall Elementary School gave a monetary donation to Jeans for Troops to support military vets with employment, healthcare, and housing.

Announcements & Professional Development

Thanksgiving Holiday Closure



PGCPS will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 24-Friday, Nov. 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

No Stress Allowed this Holiday Season

The holidays are approaching, and stress levels can begin to climb. We may not even realize how stressed we have become. Gratitude is one way to help combat stress in a very busy season. Grateful people tend to be more optimistic, take better care of themselves and research is beginning to show that feelings of thankfulness can positively impact people's ability to cope with daily stressors. Include these easy ways to help cultivate gratitude.

- Make a list of what you are grateful for and post it somewhere you can regularly see it
- Keep a journal
- Focus on positive self-talk

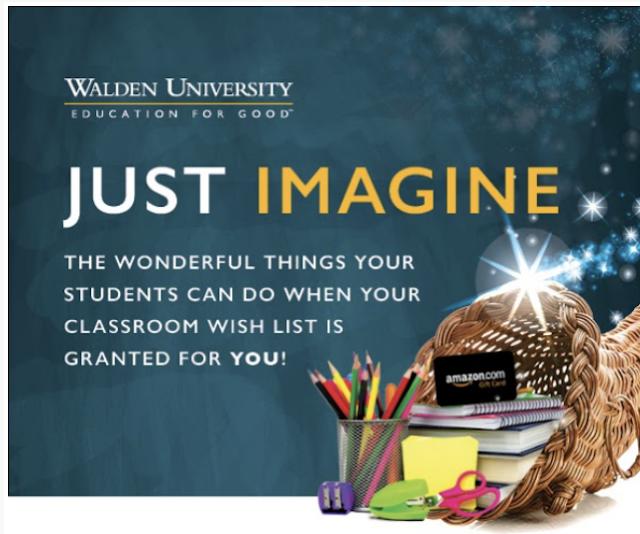
- Take time to reflect on situations before reacting to them

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Oracle E-Business Suite Outage Nov. 25-29

Reminder: the Oracle E-Business Suite will not be available from midnight on Thursday, Nov. 25 through 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 29, due to scheduled maintenance. During this outage, the Information Technology team will upgrade the Oracle EBS Application database.

Walden University Wants Your Wish List!



Walden University is thankful for the commitment of PGCPS employees who make wishes and dreams come true every day. To say thank you, Walden will give away a \$125 Amazon gift card to a lucky winner to celebrate the holiday season. Entries will be accepted through Dec. 15.

[Enter Now](#)

#TeamPGCPS Paparazzi



Riverdale Elementary RES

@PGCPS_RES

...

This week was American Education week. We ended it with celebrating our support in the building. @pgcps
SCHOOL LUNCH MATTERS



Dr. Sandra Bunns

@dr_bunns · 11/12/21

...

Judge Sylvania Woods ES staff showing off their Tiger Pride and Kindness. We love our school. Finally got a photo with our building supervisor Mr. Stewart.

@pgcps





Principal McKenna Lewis

@PrincipalJHHES · 6d

...

So excited to see a PGCPS scholar being recognized as a Martin Jenkins Scholar at the National Association of Gifted Children Conference in Denver. Congratulations Shelemiah, continue to make us proud! [@PGCPSTAG](#) [@CHFlowersHigh](#) [@pgcps](#) [@drmonicaceo](#)



Reminders

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