PGCPS Express: Vaccination Update, W-2 Forms, Employee Scholarship Program

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Get the Scoop

Vaccination Distribution Update

Prince George's County has started Phase 1B for COVID-19 vaccinations, which includes educators and support staff. Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente will facilitate a vaccination program for all employees, tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, Feb. 1, at three sites in the northern, southern and central parts of the county. More details will be released soon.

COVID-19 Vaccine Facts and Myths: Mythbuster vs. Facts Info

Continue to dispel common myths with your family, friends and colleagues with these quick informational videos from Kaiser Permanente. Please click the links below to view each common myth's video.

- mRNA & DNA
- Vaccines Give Covid
- Causes Autism
- Can't Get It Again
- Cause HIV
- Infertility
- Cut Corners on Science

#PGCPS Proud: In the Spotlight

#PGCPS Proud: The Inauguration Edition!

We could not have been more proud to see PGCPS alumni participating in this week's presidential inauguration festivities!

Central High School graduate Eugene Goodman, hailed as a hero for his actions as a Capitol Police officer, escorted Vice President Kamala Harris to the ceremony. Goodman was recently promoted to acting Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. Senate. Eleanor Roosevelt High School alum Paula Clarke was part of the Howard University Showtime Marching Band that escorted Vice President Harris to the White House after her swearing-in. Oxon Hill High School alum Ronnique Murray performed with Step Afrika during the inauguration celebration “We Are One.”

Did you see other alums featured in the festivities? Let us know!

PGCPS Pride
Catherine T. Reed Elementary School teacher Shamala Johnson is described as a shining star by colleague Dr. Rachel Wallace — eager to learn, self-motivated and always prepared for success.

Thomas Ammazzalorso, Social Studies Department Chair at Suitland High School, was selected as a University of Chicago Outstanding Educator. Ammazzalorso, who was nominated by a former student, was recognized for challenging his students intellectually and channeling their interests into paths for intellectual growth.

From PGCPS to Annapolis: Adapted PE Teacher in House of Delegates

Lisa Belcastro, Adapted Physical Education teacher with the Department of Special Education, has just started her term representing Maryland’s 11th District in the House of Delegates. She will return to Buck Lodge Middle School at the end of her three-month term in the Maryland General Assembly.

#TeacherTuesday: Sharing Distance Learning Tips

Capitol Heights Elementary teacher Christina Wren uses a student-led discussion and technology to empower students to think critically as budding historians & eyewitnesses to current events!

Looking for Distance Learning Pros!

Do you have advice on making the most of the distance learning experience with students? We are highlighting distance learning stars to discuss or demonstrate best practices for teachers and/or families on PGCPS social media for #TeacherTuesday. Videos should be no longer than one minute. Send submissions to communications@pgcps.org.

Nominate a colleague who makes you #PGCPSProud by sending their name, office/school, photo and a brief description (100 words or less) to communications@pgcps.org. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity or grammar.

Benefits Services: Our Focus Is You

PGCPS Goes Red on Feb. 5

February is American Heart Month, the perfect time to learn about your risk for heart disease and the steps you need to take now to help your heart. Join us on Friday, Feb. 5 for #PGCPSGoesRed and wear red in support of ending heart disease.
You can also participate in two webinars hosted by Wellness 360.

- **Feb. 3:** [Sodium and Your Diet](#) - There is no registration required for this webinar.
- **Feb. 17:** [Keeping a Healthy Heart](#) - Registration is required.

Both webinars begin at 4 p.m. Visit [Wellness360](#) for more information.

**Announcements and Professional Development**

**Thank You for Your Support!**

The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS wishes to thank all employees who have supported the foundation through giving. Your contributions have helped to close the digital divide, award scholarships to our graduating seniors and so much more!

In appreciation, the foundation has partnered with Kaiser Permanente to offer employees a free chair yoga and mindfulness session on Friday, Feb. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. [Registration](#) is required.

**2020 W-2 Form Distribution**

W-2 forms will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service to all employees by the end of the month. Employees with full access to Oracle will be able to view W-2s online by the end of the month. W-2s will be mailed to the address on record in Oracle as of December 31, 2020.

**PGCPS PDS Intern Learning Series**

The Office of Professional Learning and Leadership will host classes on building relationships, classroom management, and how to organize and engage students. Classes begin next week and are held from 4-5:15 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Family Survey on Internet Access**

PGCPS is partnering with Boston Consulting Group and Comcast to learn more about how students and families are accessing the internet during COVID-19. Answers will help families receive better internet services and support. Please encourage students and parents to [take the five-minute survey](#). Home internet service is not required to participate. All answers are confidential and will not be associated with individuals. Families who complete the survey will earn a $15 Visa gift card courtesy of BCG and Comcast.

**ICYMI: In Case You Missed It**

**Lifelong Learning: CEO Employee Scholarship Program**

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to further your education at Walden University! [Apply now](#) for the [CEO Employee Scholarship Program](#), created in partnership with Walden University. Scholarship opportunities are available to all employees, seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees. Applications are due [Monday, Feb. 15](#). Winners may use their scholarship for the start date best for them in a qualifying program from April 2021 through September 2021.

One full-tuition scholarship and one partial-tuition scholarship will be awarded at each level:

- **Bachelor’s Degree Program** (runner-up: $15,000 partial scholarship)
- **Master’s Degree Program** (runner-up: $12,000 partial scholarship)
- **Doctoral Degree Program** (runner-up: $10,000 partial scholarship)
- **Graduate Certificate Program** (runner-up: $6,000 partial scholarship)

For more information, call 1-855-628-3427 or visit [WaldenU.edu/PGCPS-CEO-Scholars](#).

**Reminder: Safe Schools Training**

The next round of mandatory [SafeSchools](#) training modules are due no later than Thursday, Jan. 28. Sessions include:

- Sexual Harassment
- Diversity Awareness
- Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Prevention
IRS Change in Standard Mileage Rate to $0.56
Effective Friday, Jan. 1, employees using their cars for official travel will be reimbursed at the rate of $0.56 per mile. The new rate will be applied to any requests for mileage reimbursement for travel occurring on or after Friday, Jan. 1.

Electronic Books Available Around-the-Clock
The Professional Library has a variety of new ebooks available just for you. For more information, contact cathe.francoeur@pgcps.org.

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