

# JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## **PINEY RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



John Code, Principal  
Morgan Pratt, Asst.  
Principal and 504/ADA  
Bld. Coordinator

6315 Freedom Ave  
Sykesville, MD 21784  
(410)751-3535 (410)751-  
3539 Fax  
[www.carrollk12.org/pre](http://www.carrollk12.org/pre)  
Hours: 9:15 – 3:45

### **WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE**

Pg 2 Letter from the Office  
Pg 3 Important Dates/Important  
Snow Info  
Pg 4 Transportation Changes,  
Nurse Nook  
Pg 5 Counselor's Corner

---

### **NOTICE OF NON- DISCRIMINATION**

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not engage in discrimination that is unlawful or contrary to Maryland State Department of Education guidance on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The Board of Education of Carroll County is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons by providing an environment that supports optimal academic achievement and productive work and is free from any form of unlawful discrimination, including access to school facilities, educational programs, and extracurricular activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources 125 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157 (410) 751-3070.



# A Message from the Office



Dear Piney Ridge Families,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a safe and healthy winter break. It's hard to believe that we're almost halfway through the school year with the second marking period ending on January 25th. Report Cards will be distributed on February 1st. During the month of January, students will participate in CCPS mid-year assessments in ELA and Math.

Students in second grade will participate in the CogAT Test in early February. This Cognitive Abilities (thinking skills) Test is given to all 2nd grade students as part of the universal screening for gifted and talented identification. The purpose of the test is to provide school personnel and parents with information related to their child's cognitive abilities compared to other children of the same age group. Parents of second grade students will receive more information about this test in the coming days.

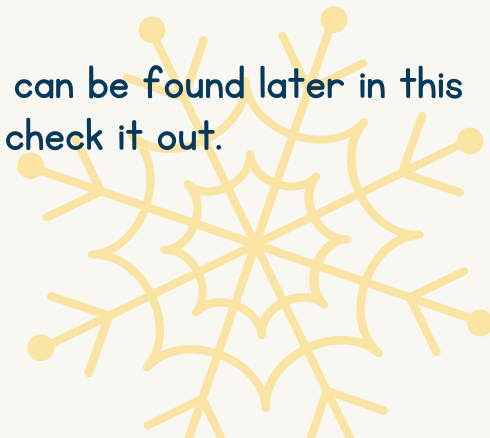
We have a few reminders as we enter the longer stretch of the colder months. Students will have outdoor recess when the temperature is 32 degrees or above (with windchill in consideration) and clear skies. It is very important that students come to school dressed appropriately. We encourage students to bring coats, hats, and gloves. It's helpful when these items are labeled with your child's name. If your child is missing their coat, please remind them to check the lost and found located in the cafeteria.

Additionally, last month, we sent out information related to virtual snow days. After CCPS has utilized the allotted (5) inclement weather days, CCPS will hold virtual school days for any remaining days that we are closed for inclement weather. More information about this process can be found in this month's newsletter. When there is a possibility of inclement weather and there is a potential impact on schools, information will be communicated through the CCPS website, School Messenger emails and/or calls, and local radio or television stations.

Finally, there is a special message from Ms. Snively that can be found later in this month's newsletter. Please make sure you check it out.

Happy 2024!

*John Code, Principal  
Morgan Pratt, Asst. Principal*



# Important Dates

- January 1st: Schools and Offices Closed
- January 2nd: School Reopens from Holiday Break
- January 10th: Candid and Group Yearbook Photos, PTA Meeting (7:00 pm), Board of Education Meeting (5:00 pm)
- January 15th: School and Offices Closed
- January 25th: Second Marking Period Ends
- January 26th: Schools Closed
- January 29th- Third Marking Period Begins

## VIRTUAL SNOW DAY IMPORTANT INFO

Piney Ridge Elementary School Virtual Snow Days 2023-2024 Piney Ridge Families After CCPS utilizes the allotted (5) inclement weather days, CCPS will hold virtual school days for any remaining days that we are closed for inclement weather. Below is an outline of what to expect on these virtual snow days.

- PRE will follow a 2-hour delay schedule. The schedule below shows the school-wide lunch and special area times. Our virtual snow days will begin at 11:15.
  - Students in grades K-5 will have access to virtual instruction through Schoology.
  - Class and grade-level specific schedules can be found in your child's Schoology classroom.
- Instruction will be provided through Schoology, with synchronous instruction being provided through Microsoft Teams (teachers will provide a link for students).
- Activity packets will be provided to Pre-k students, as well as any students who are unable to access the internet. \*Pre-K students will not have specials on virtual snow days. These packets should be returned to your child's teacher on the following school day in order to count the student present for the virtual snow day.
  - Pre-K students will be able to access their teacher on Schoology, if needed.
  - The school counselor can be accessed through email and google voice number. Attendance
    - Students in 2nd grade will have lunch at 11:15, so they will login to their homeroom class at 11:45. • Attendance will be taken at the beginning of your child's first homeroom instructional block of the day (11:15 for students in grades K, 1, 3, 4, and 5 and 11:45 for students in grade 2).
  - If students aren't able to access their instruction unexpectedly on the virtual snow day, make-up work will be provided and accepted for attendance. Parents should contact their child's teacher for any missed work. Special Education and Related Services
- Services will be provided to the greatest extent possible. Service providers will establish a time and send a Microsoft Teams link directly to parents for services.
- IEP Meetings will be held (based on the delayed schedule), using Microsoft Teams. Additional Information
  - For any anticipated weather events, student laptops (K-5) will be sent home with student, but only if a Student Laptop Agreement has been signed. Students can also access Schoology on home devices, if preferred. If you need a Student Laptop Agreement, please email your child's teacher.

| Special Areas Schedule |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9:20-9:50              | Grade 3                      |
| 9:50-10:20             | Grade 4                      |
| 10:20-10:50            | Grade 5                      |
| 10:50-11:20            | Special Areas Planning/Lunch |
| 11:20-11:50            | Grade 2                      |
| 11:50-12:20            | Grade 1 & PreK*              |
| 12:20-12:50            | Kindergarten                 |

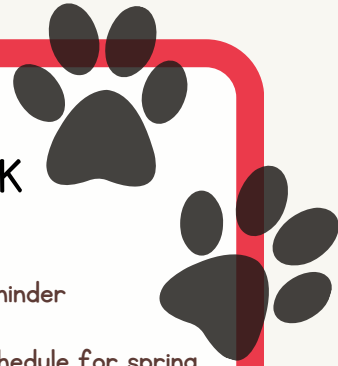
| Lunch Schedule |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 9:55-10:25     | Grade 2        |
| 10:25-10:55    | Grade 1 & PreK |
| 10:55-11:25    | Kindergarten   |
| 11:25-11:55    | Grade 3        |
| 11:55-12:25    | Grade 4        |
| 12:25-12:55    | Grade 5        |

## Transportation and Attendance Changes

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE OR CHANGE IN TRANSPORTION, GO TO  
[PREATTENDANCE@CARROLLK12.ORG](mailto:PREATTENDANCE@CARROLLK12.ORG)  
OR



## NURSE'S NOOK



### New Year Reminder

Now is a good time to schedule for spring wellness checkups.

Well Visits-It is extremely important to maintain regular Well Visit appointments and vaccinations for children. Preventable illness from not seeking medical attention can turn into chronic health problems down the road.

Eye Exams-Students may experience an increase in eyestrain or vision changes due to the increase in screen time.

Dental Exams- Dental cavities may become a bigger issue if left untreated.

Please call your providers to schedule these appointments for a healthier child.

If you are without Health insurance, please contact the Nurse to connect with the local Health Department.

## Substitutes Needed!

Piney Ridge Elementary is in search of daily and permanent substitute teachers. For information about pay rates, how to apply, and more, go to [CLICK HERE!](#)



# A Fond Farewell to Piney Ridge!

Hello Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you well after the holidays and that the time off spent with family and friends was a joyful and relaxing one!

Although this might come as a surprise to some of you, I have been a School Counselor at Piney Ridge for almost 30 years! Prior to my arrival at Piney Ridge in 1994, I was a classroom teacher in Frederick County for 8 years. This means that I have been working in education within the state of Maryland for 38 years! I had the privilege of all 3 of my (now) adult children attending Piney Ridge, which gave them a strong start in their education and all 3 I am proud to say are college graduates, working, and two of the three are now married. In fact, we have many current parents who were Piney Ridge students themselves and now their children are attending Piney Ridge too! It really is a family place.

As they say, "for everything there is a season" and I am entering the season of my life where I would like to have flexibility in my schedule to travel, see my children who live out of state, and spend time with my husband, without the constraints and responsibilities of the school and the school day. Over the years, Piney Ridge has had between 500 and 600 students in our building each year and as the full-time school-based mental health provider on site, it has been a huge task in helping staff, students, and families navigate the educational process while also being cognizant of varying personal and family stressors, trauma, and mental health diagnoses. Although my contract says that I am a "ten and a half month" employee, I have worked many evenings, weekends and summer days to meet the continuous demands of our students and their families. As many of you know, you have been able to reach me all the time by email or by texting my Google voice number, even in the summer and on weekends!

I am excited to let you all know that my last day will be Wednesday, January 31st, 2024. My replacement will begin full time on Thursday, February 1st, so continuity will not be lost and a full time Certified School Counselor (Master's Degree in School Counseling) will be available to you and our students! She has a plan to introduce herself and meet you all, so stay tuned for more information coming your way.

I will be teaching classes for the month of January (their usual classroom counseling lessons), but will be meeting with each grade level to do a special story called *The Invisible Web* which helps kids understand that even when someone leaves, we are all still connected by the invisible ties from our previous relationships of caring and love for each other.

It has truly been a gift and a pleasure to have worked with your families for so many years and it has been the mission of my life to teach and counsel children. It has truly been my calling.

Best Wishes to You All~

*Chris Snively*  
School Counselor



| MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>1</b><br>New Year's Day  | <b>2</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit  | <b>3</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit  | <b>4</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit  | <b>5</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit  |
| <b>8</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit  | <b>9</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit  | <b>10</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>11</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>12</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit |
| <b>15</b><br>Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday   | <b>16</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>17</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>18</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>19</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit |
| <b>22</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>23</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>24</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>25</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>26</b><br>Schools Closed   |
| <b>29</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>30</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>31</b><br>Hot Breakfast Entree<br>Variety of Breakfast Breads<br>Variety of Cereal<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Variety of Fruit | <b>Condiments:</b><br>• Syrup<br>• Cream Cheese<br>• Grape Jelly<br>• Margarine   | <b>Milk Choices:</b><br>• Nonfat Milk<br>• Low Fat Milk<br>• Nonfat Chocolate Milk  |

**Breakfast Entree Options:** Bacon Scramble Pizza , Mini Blueberry Pancakes , Mini Maple Pancakes , Pancake and Sausage on a Stick , Mini Blueberry Waffles , Mini Maple Waffles , Yogurt Smoothie - Peach , Yogurt Smoothie - Strawberry Banana

**Assorted Breakfast Cereals:** Apple Cinnamon Cheerios , Cheerios , Cinnamon Toast Crunch , Cocoa Puffs , Rice Chex , Trix

**All menus are subject to change.** We make it our priority to serve the menu as planned, but sometimes situations arise where we need to make substitutions. Recently, we have been affected by nationwide food supply chain disruptions which have resulted in last minute menu changes. We will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to meet these challenges.

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**1**

New Year's Day

**2**

- Entree Choices
- French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty
  - Mini Pizza Bagels
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Tater Tots
  - Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**3**

- Entree Choices
- Spaghetti with Meatsauce with Garlic Knot
  - Pizza Crunchers
  - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**4**

- Entree Choices
- Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce
  - Teriyaki Chicken over Rice with Dinner Roll
  - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**5**

- Entree Choices
- Cheese Pizza
  - Pepperoni Pizza
  - Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll
  - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Steamed Carrot Coins
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**8**

- Entree Choices
- Beef Chili with Beans ★ with Cornbread
  - Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Cornbread
  - Chicken Ceasar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Baked Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**9**

- Entree Choices
- Walking Taco
  - Deep Dish Cheese Pizza
  - Chicken Ceasar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**10**

- Entree Choices
- Chicken Sticks with Dinner Roll
  - Pretzel Bites & Cheese
  - Chicken Ceasar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Savory French Fries
  - Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**11**

- Entree Choices
- Macaroni and Cheese with Soft Pretzel Rod
  - Hot Dog
  - Corn Dog
  - Chicken Ceasar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**12**

- Entree Choices
- Cheese Pizza
  - Pepperoni Pizza
  - Shrimp Poppers with Dinner Roll
  - Chicken Ceasar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Steamed Carrot Coins
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**15**

Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday

**16**

- Entree Choices
- Nacho Grande
  - Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**17**

- Entree Choices
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich
  - Hamburger on a Roll
  - Cheeseburger on a Roll
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Curly Fries
  - Tomato Soup
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**18**

- Entree Choices
- Pizza Crunchers
  - Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo with Garlic Knot
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**19**

- Entree Choices
- Cheese Pizza
  - Pepperoni Pizza
  - Cheesesteak Sub
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**22**

- Entree Choices
- Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Whole Grain Biscuit
  - Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla
  - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Baked Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**23**

- Entree Choices
- French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty
  - Hot Ham and Cheese
  - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Tater Tots
  - Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**24**

- Entree Choices
- Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll
  - Sweet and Sour Chicken over Fried Rice
  - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**25**

- Entree Choices
- Chicken Nuggets with Garlic Knot
  - Lasagna with Garlic Knot
  - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**26**

Schools Closed

**29**

- Entree Choices
- Deep Dish Cheese Pizza
  - Popcorn Chicken with Whole Grain Biscuit
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Mashed Potatoes
  - with Gravy
  - Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**30**

- Entree Choices
- Chicken Sticks with Dinner Roll
  - Ranchero Pizza
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**31**

- Entree Choices
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich
  - Chicken Patty on a Roll
  - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Tomato Soup
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

- Milk Choices:**
- Nonfat Milk
  - Low Fat Milk
  - Nonfat Chocolate Milk

All menus are subject to change. We make it our priority to serve the menu as planned, but sometimes situations arise where we need to make substitutions. Recently, we have been affected by nationwide food supply chain disruptions which have resulted in last minute menu changes. We will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to meet these challenges.