

The Pine Grove Press

Quarter 3, 2022-2023

Important Dates

March 17

Glow Party (6-9 PM)

March 20

Early Release Day (Parent Conferences)

April 10 -- 14

Spring Break

April 20

3rd Nine Weeks Awards Day

April 21

Talent Show (6-7:30 PM)

April 28

Early Release Day
Poetry Slam (6-7 PM)

May 2

SC READY Writing

May 3

SC READY Reading

May 5

Fun Run

May 9

SC READY Math

May 11

SC PASS Science

May 23

Pre-K Promotion Ceremony

May 24

Kindergarten Promotion

May 25

5th Grade Promotion

May 26

Last Day of School



From the Principal's Desk

Greetings Pine Grove Family,

The faculty, staff and students have enjoyed several events during the February and March months. Pine Grove community participated in Muffins in the Morning with Moms, Real Men Read, and Read Across America. These were exciting and fun events. Upcoming events include Pancakes with Pops, Glow Party-the Spring Dance, and Parent University. The PTA will be holding a few more events to end our school year so be on the lookout for that information.

Please make sure that your child is well-rested and prepared for the upcoming District Benchmark testing, March 20-28.

Spring Break is April 10th – 14th. When we return from Spring Break, we will be counting down the days until SC READY and SC PASS testing. We know our 3rd-5th grade students will do extremely well on the test this year. Your assistance is needed by making sure that students are reading each night for 20-30 minutes and practicing math skills daily. Please contact your child's teacher to find out what skills your child need extra assistance with. Third grade students who do not pass the reading test could be in danger of being retained in third grade next year. Parents, please make sure you are contacting your child's teacher or Dr. Williams if you have questions regarding third grade retention.

Remember to encourage your child to come to school each day and do their very best, listen and follow directions and be kind to others.

As the end of the school year approaches, I would like to thank you all for your support and assistance this school year. All accomplishments, programs, and events could not have happened without your assistance. As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year, please note that any request for specific teachers will need to be submitted in writing by April 17, 2023. Also, request will be taken into consideration only. Not all request will be able to be approved.

Thank you, Dr. Pickett





From Dr. Riley

Our students will be taking a “State Practice Test” between the dates of March 20th - 28th. The subjects tested will be ELA and Math for grades 2nd through 5th. Fourth grade students will take ELA, Math and Science. These tests are purposeful to our teachers for two very important reasons:

1. The data gathered allows teachers to share and celebrate what they have learned up to this point in the school year.
2. The data also allows teachers to plan accurately to help each individual student moving forward.

Testing will begin at 8:30AM each morning. Please read the helpful hints below. It is very important for students to be here on time each day, rested and ready to work hard.

Tips for Parents:

- Please encourage them to take the test seriously and to put forth their best effort. (avoid any conservation that will make them upset before testing)
- Please ensure that your child eats a wholesome, nutritious breakfast each day.
- Please ensure that your child is well rested and ready to do his/her best work. Try not to schedule many activities after school.

Tips for Students:

- Work hard and DO YOUR BEST
- BE ON TIME for testing
- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a good breakfast



Schedule for Grade 2

Monday, March 20: ELA Part 2/TDA
Tuesday, March 21: ELA Part 1
Wednesday, March 22: ELA Part 1
Thursday, March 23: Math
Friday, March 24: Math
Monday, March 27: Makeups
Tuesday, March 28: Makeups

Schedule for Grades 3-5

Tuesday, March 21: ELA Part 2/TDA
Wednesday, March 22: ELA Part 1
Thursday, March 23: Math
Friday, March 24: Science and ELA/Math Makeups
Monday, March 27: Makeups
Tuesday, March 28: Makeups

Happy testing! Dr. Riley



School Zoning



Have you moved lately?

If so, please provide school staff with updated contact information as soon as possible. If you have moved, you have 45 days to request to remain at the current school.

Per School Board Policy, any parent who moved in- or out-of-district may request to complete the school year at the student's current school.

If the parent wants to move to the new zone, the student needs to be withdrawn; however, if the parent wants the student(s) to complete the school year at the current school of attendance, the parent needs to visit the Transfer Application portal.

Students are required to attend their zoned school; however, there are circumstances that will allow them to transfer to a school outside of their zoned area. If the applicant qualifies for one of the transfer types listed below, the applicant must complete the Transfers & Educational Rights Application through the online portal for consideration beginning March 1, 2023:

- Childcare
- Administrative
- Severe hardship
- High school senior transfer
- Programs and unique offerings (high school)
- Employee option
- Sibling exception
- Out of District Release
- Remainder of the School Year

For questions or comments please email alexis.brown2@richlandone.org or angela.conyers@richlandone.org.



From Dr. Williams



We have made it to the 4th Quarter of our school year! 3rd-5th Graders are beginning to prepare for State Testing! Our students will do well, because they have been working extremely hard. Our teachers and staff have given their best effort!! Our expectation is SUCCESS!

As we approach the testing season, our PRIMARY focus is TEACHING and LEARNING. We do not have time, or space for anything that disrupts the learning environment. Up until this point, we have spent time teaching our students the proper way to behave and make the learning environment as productive as possible. Our counselors have done an incredible job of guiding our students in creating a positive culture. At this point, we EXPECT our students to make the right decisions, so that everyone can be prepared to show what they know in May! How can you help us?? I am glad you asked!!!

1. Build your child up with positive Energy and Affirmations every day!!!
2. Join us in the work! Let your child know what we expect at school and reinforce this at home. Our students are here to LEARN!! No student deserves to have their learning disrupted.
3. Continue to be a great parent/guardian and guide! Let us know how we can help you!

School Library Updates

Read Across America Week Recap:

We had a great time during Read Across America week! Our 3rd through 5th grade classes were invited to sign up to attend a "book tasting" activity where students had an opportunity to explore a variety of books in the library collection. Our Pre-K through 2nd grade classes read Jon Klassen's *I Want My Hat Back* and made their own hats.

4th Quarter Book Checkout and Return:

As we move into the last nine weeks of the school year, please work with your child to look for any lost or missing library books!

The last week for book checkout will be May 8th -- May 12th. After May 12th, we will be doing book returns only.





Pre-Kindergarten

Creativity: PreK, Harold, and The Purple Crayon

Harold, is a curious 4-year-old boy with his purple crayon, just like our Pine Grove PreK students. Our student's enjoyed the read-aloud: Harold and The Purple Crayon. They participated in a creative activity with purple and other colors in which they used their power to create a world of their own through drawings.



Kindergarten

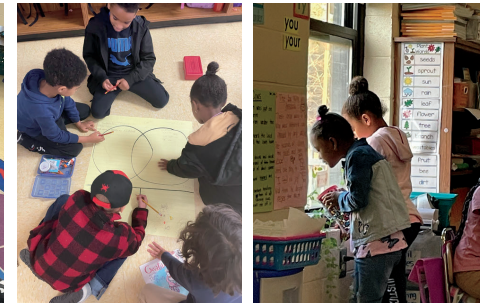
We are so proud of how far all of our kindergarten classes have come thus far, since the beginning of the school year! We are currently teaching our students addition and subtraction, beginning and ending sounds, and the importance of plant life! As we count down to our kindergarten promotion day, we are reviewing and preparing our students for first grade! Coming up on March 15th, 2023 we will be going to the Riverbanks Zoo to learn about all plants and animals. On May 5th, 2023 we will be going to Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle, SC to explore sea animals and plant life. The Kindergarten team is looking forward to having a great rest of the year!



First Grade



First graders have been working and growing as readers and mathematicians! We have been working on All About Writing and How To Writing. They have been publishing their books and sharing them with classmates. They loved getting to dress up as their favorite characters for Read Across America week. Students have also been learning about plants and what they need to grow. In math students have been learning all about place value!



Title One

Title I began with the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, which provided federal funding for high-poverty schools to help students who are behind academically and at risk of falling behind. The intent of Title I is to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging State academic content and performance standards.

Title One Funding at Pine Grove:

- Parent and Family Engagement Opportunities
- Field Experiences (Field Trips)
- Kindergarten-4th Grade Tutors
- Behavioral Interventionist
- 2nd/3rd Grade Instructional Assistant
- PBIS Incentives
- AVID Membership
- Student Instructional Supplies



Are you interested in serving on the 2023-24 Title One Committee?



Contact Mrs. Mack-Whaley at 803-214-2380 or camilla.mack-whaley@richlandone.org



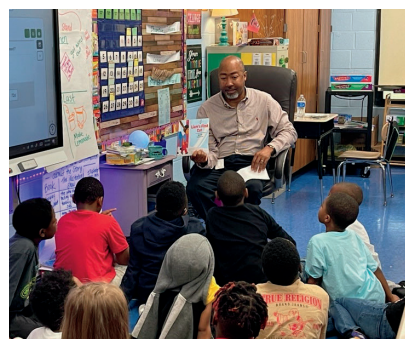
Second Grade



The Second Grade Pandas went on a fun scavenger adventure at Saluda Shoals. We were able to see lots of animal and plant life while at Saluda Shoals. The 3Q was also filled with lots of fun school events: Book fair, Reading Night, Award’s Day, Author’s Visits, Real Men Read and a Glow Party. So many great opportunities to connect our learning from school to home.

Upcoming Events in Q4: Times and Dates are subject to change

- PIE in the Face the end of March sponsored by PBIS
- Grade level Egg hunt in April sponsored by PBIS
- School Wide STAR Testing April 2023 (dates will come at a later time)
- (Get a goodnight rest, arrive to school on time and eat breakfast...We can’t wait to see how much growth you’ve made!!)
- EdVenture Field Trip in May!!



Third Grade

As we begin to gear up for Quarter 4 our focus will be test prep. We will begin preparing students for their first State testing. This year third grade students will be tested in Math and English Language Arts. We will work diligently to make sure our students are prepared for testing. We may also send review packets home and test prep questions; we ask that you review these skills and information with your child.

We have two field trips planned for Fourth Quarter. One will be to the South Carolina Aquarium on March 31st and our final one will be to Riverbank Zoo on April 7th, 2023. If you would like to be a chaperone on either field trips, please make sure to have all necessary documents completed with the District Office.

As we are approaching the end of the school year, we would like to also say we have truly enjoyed each of our third graders and truly enjoyed watching them grow over the year. We know each of them has something special inside of them!



It's been a pleasure to serve!
Mr. Bell, Ms. Brannum, Mrs. Cain, and Mrs. Drummond

Follow us!



@pgespanda

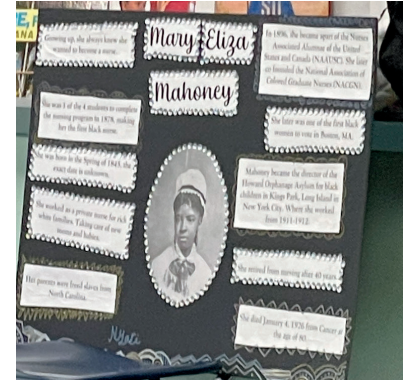


Did you know that a honey bee can fly up to 15 miles per hour?

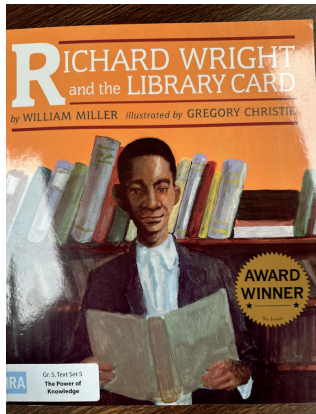
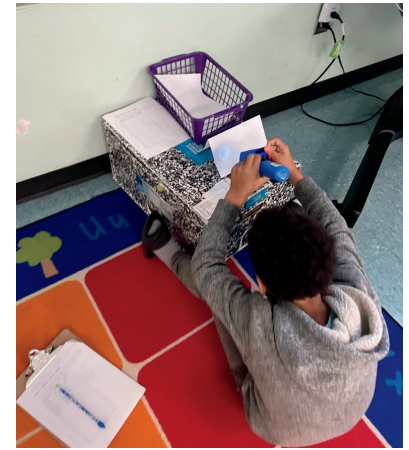


Fourth Grade

This has been a great third quarter in fourth grade! We started this year with our students researching and writing essays on inspiring African Americans who have made great contributions to our world. Our students were able to gain a wealth of knowledge from their researches. We are also excited about our upcoming field trips! This spring our students will have the opportunity to visit the SC State Museum where they will explore the planetarium, and also engage in a stimulating lights show. They will also visit the Robert Mills House and participate in the Augusta Baker Storytelling Festival.



As we approach the next quarter we are preparing our students for district and statewide assessments. Please assure that students are getting an ample amount of sleep, and continue to encourage your students to put forth their best efforts every day! Also, continue to remind them to exemplify their best behaviors as we finish out this school year. Continue to communicate and stay connected with your child's teacher. We are looking forward to a great rest of the year!



Fifth Grade

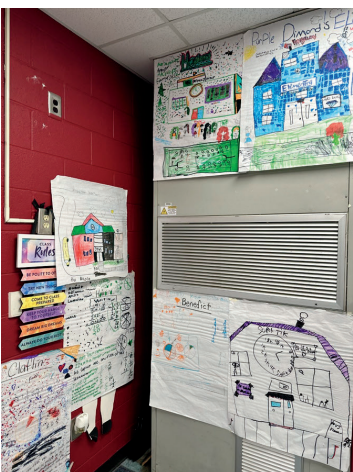
The countdown to the last day of elementary school has begun! In just a few weeks, Pine Grove's 5th grade students will be walking across the stage at Columbia High school to graduate. More info on graduation will be released soon! In the meantime, here is a spotlight for the 5th Grade Scholars of Moore-Gives Academy!



Interactive Read Aloud for Black History Month 2023

During the Interactive Read Aloud block, we explored written works by African American authors. On text we read was "Richard Wright and the Library Card", written by Richard Wright. They enjoy going to the school library so much that they could not imagine the trickery Richard had to conjure up just to go to the library to check out books. The extending assignment associated with the book was to create a college including the hours, teachers, cafeteria food selection, etc. The scholars collaborated well and enjoyed the project (please see the creative anchor charts).

The scholars learned new vocabulary words that Mrs. Ragoonath refers to as "salsa words"; they feel successful when they can interject "salsa words" in their writing. They are also fond of "figurative language", which is significant to the poem "Mother to Son".





Special Ed. Corner

As we slide into the 4th quarter of the school year, the Special Services Department would like to say that this has been an exciting year!!! However, before you take out your sunglasses and flip-flops let's remember that our last day to conduct Annual Reviews will be April 30th, 2023. So our Special Services Team will be reaching out to you diligently in order to schedule any remaining Annuals Reviews. In addition, we will not have our spring Special Services Information session, but if you have any questions concerning the Individual Education Plan process feel free to reach out to me at 803-214-2380 or james.walker@richlandone.org. Thanks for your support and remember, that you are a vital part of the decision making process.

Sincerely

James M. Walker, MA, CCC-SLP



Related Arts

Mrs. Shinn:

PE is going great! My students have just finished their soccer unit. 5th grade finished their post Fitnessgram test and scores will be coming home. We are getting ready to work on basketball skills and striking skills. Make sure students are dressed with the proper shoes for movement.

Mr. Gonzalez:

Hola! In Spanish we've been making comics. Students have been writing sentences to describe characters like heroes and villains and then making the strip at Pixton.



Reading with Mrs. Ragoonath

As we enter the month of March, we can reflect back on all that we have accomplished this school year and all the fun activities and learning opportunities that await us. It's spring in South Carolina and we are looking ahead to many fun days. We are participating in the Superintendent's and Fireflies Book Club. So, read, read, read!!! The kids and I are about to begin our gardening in the plant boxes outside the library. We will accept donations of seedlings and soil. We have blueberry bushes, roses, and other flowering plants. It's testing season! Students in grades 3-5 will be assessed with SC Ready in May. You can help your students daily by reading with them and talking about the book. Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How questions will help our students understand more about what they are reading. Please feel free to reach out for support. We are here to help you as you work to help your kids.

Mrs. Ragoonath, Reading Coach





School Counseling

On March 10, 2023, School Counselors celebrated National Social Emotional Learning Day (SEL) at Pine Grove Elementary. Students were able to go to the different stations (glitter, beads, coloring, sealing) to make a Sensory Calming Bottle. Sensory bottles are a visual and physical tool for calming and relaxing the body. A child (or adult!) can use a sensory bottle when they feel anxious, overwhelmed, "wound-up", or overstimulated. Students can shake the sensory bottle and watch the contents shift.



Did you know that the first day of spring this year is March 20th? It is called the Vernal Equinox, and there will be 12 hours of sun and 12 hours of darkness!



Intervention Team

What can you do at home to help your child with math and reading?



Reading Strategies:

- Read with or to your child daily.
- After reading, ask your child questions about what they have read. See if they can tell you important parts of the story.
- When traveling, have your child look for words they know on billboards and signs.
- If your child has a younger sibling, encourage them to read to their sibling at home.

Math Strategies:

- Allow your child to cook with you. Measuring out ingredients for a recipe is a math strategy.
- When unloading groceries, have your child count how many groceries you bought that day.
- Play math games at home:
 - Monopoly- Money skills
 - Prime Climb- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing skills
 - Danger Noodle!- Adding and subtracting skills
 - Rack-O- Number order skills



As always, we are here to support you and your child on their intervention journey. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Mrs. Reeder-Math Intervention (laura.reeder@richlandone.org), Mrs. Rutherford-Math Intervention (tia.rutherford@richlandone.org), Mrs. Dunagan- Reading Intervention (coleen.dunagan@richlandone.org) and Mrs. Walls- Reading Intervention (shelley.walls@richlandone.org).

