

# Piney Ridge Elementary School

November 2024 Newsletter



Dear Piney Ridge Families,

We are approaching the end of the first quarter on November 6th. Parents of students in grades 3 through 5 may check Home Access Center to see up-to-date grades at any time. Be on the lookout for report cards to come home with students on November 13th. That will be an ideal time to discuss your child's progress during the first nine weeks and to set goals for the rest of the year.

Some teachers still have a limited number of parent-teacher conference time slots available. If you have not done so, please sign up for a time to meet your child(ren)'s teachers. Our remaining conference evenings this Fall will be November 4th and November 20th. Links to the sign-up pages and other details can be found in this newsletter.

The week of November 18th - 22nd is American Education Week. Each year, this week honors the team of people who work with students in our schools. Parents are welcome to visit Piney Ridge Elementary that week to get a glimpse of a student's educational experience. If you visit, please sign in at the main office. In order to avoid disruptions, parents should refrain from bringing preschool aged children and taking photos or video during the visit.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy month of November!

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

## 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.

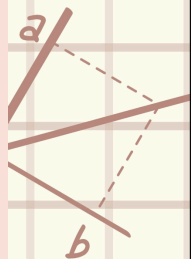
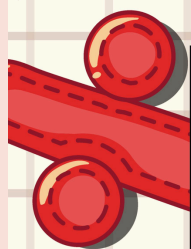
# IMPORTANT DATES

National Native American Heritage Month | November 11-18 National School Psychology Week | November 18-22 American Education Week

- November 3- Daylight Savings Ends
- November 4- Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 5- Election Day- No School
- November 6- Two Hour and Forty Five Minute Early Dismissal |First Marking Period Ends | PTA- Spirit Day at TaiChi Bubble Tea
- November 7- Second Marking Period Begins
- November 11- Veterans Day Event 9am-12pm (Veterans of Piney Ridge students are invited into multiple classrooms to share their stories and experiences while serving).
- November 12- PTA Meeting 7pm | Attend Virtually.
- November 22- PTA- FREE Family Paint Night!
- November 26- PTA- Spirit Day at Chick Fil-A
- November 27- Two Hour and Forty Five Minute Early Dismissal
- November 28&29- Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## Enrichment Thoughts from Mrs. Stump, Advanced Academics Specialist

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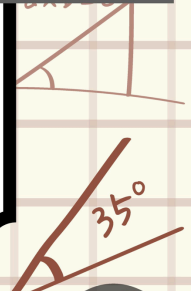
$$= 20T$$

Memorizing math facts is important. Whether it's addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, when students have these math facts memorized, it sets them up for success in more advanced math courses and math concepts down the road. Cognitive scientists agree that memorizing facts is important because it frees up brainpower or working memory so students can focus on more complex mathematical tasks like how to solve a multistep word problem, analyze and see connections in a data set, or understand the "language" of advanced math. It's harder for students to do those things when they're focusing their thoughts and brain power on basic math computations.

So, break out those flashcards, and play some fun games with math facts. Focus on improving the number of problems students get correct, or the speed with which they know the answers. Reward effort, make it fun, and be their cheerleader. If you need some fun math fact games to play, reach out. Classroom teachers and I have a bunch of fun game ideas!

Mrs. Stump- Advanced Academics Specialist

$$f(x) = x -$$
$$y = x -$$
$$x = x -$$
$$y +$$



# Nurse's Nook

- Hand washing is the single most important way we can reduce the spread of infectious diseases among children and adults. Remind children to wash their hands before eating or use hand wipes or sanitizer, after bathroom use and when sneezing/coughing into their hands.
- Please keep students home with fever 100.0 degrees or greater, vomiting or diarrhea. They must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- If your child is placed on an antibiotic for Strep or pinkeye or other contagious illness they must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Please remember to send a note to school or email attendance that your child was out sick and with what illness. The school nurse does track for illness each month.
- Students may bring cough drops to school with a note from the parent, please only send enough to get them through the day 3-4 drops.
- High Pollen days can be tough on kids, please remind them to wash their hands and even faces when they come back inside from recess, if needed. Please talk with your doctor if daily allergy medication is right for child to help with allergies.



# Conference Links

[Pre-K](#)  
[Kindergarten](#)  
[1st Grade](#)  
[2nd Grade](#)  
[3rd Grade](#)

[4th Grade](#)  
[5th Grade](#)  
[Special Areas](#)  
[Resource Staff](#)  
[Special Education](#)

## Piney Ridge Elementary School



*everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup>

Nextrex Recycling Program-  
Bring in your plastic bags and help Piney Ridge earn a free bench! We are over halfway to our goal of collecting 1000 lbs.

Lend a Paw- If you are interested in volunteering in any way (big or small) reach out to [preptapres@gmail.com](mailto:preptapres@gmail.com).

## [South Carroll Advocacy Group](#)

[Click](#) to view information regarding Carroll County Board of Education candidates in this year's election, as well as additional resources to help you become better informed.

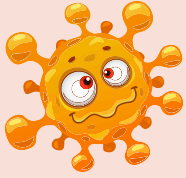
The upcoming Carroll County Board of Education election is on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024. The Carroll County Board of Education serves the school system in many ways, including approving curriculum, requesting funding from the County Commissioners, and approving the budget. The election outcome is critical to the future of our schools.

Please learn more about candidates here:  
[2024 Voters Guide \(carrollmediacenter.org\)](https://carrollmediacenter.org)

Thank you again to every family member, friend, and business who helped to support our largest fundraiser of the year, the Dalmatian Dash! As a team, we raised over \$40,000!! Your generosity helps to support the teachers, staff, and students at Piney Ridge with lots of fun (and free!) events, classroom enhancements, field trips, assemblies, educational programs, and so much more!!

LEARN MORE >>





## SPECIAL REQUEST FOR OUR SPECIALS TEACHERS



Our specials teachers (Media, Art, Music, Gym, Health) are in need of Tissue Donations with Cold and Flu season approaching. Donations can be brought to the front office. Thank you!



## INCLUSIVITY AT PRE

Did you know that PRE has been working hard to foster inclusive practices in our classrooms?

New this year.. our monthly newsletters will include a tip or trick to try at home to support learning and development.

Please see the [Monthly Language Calendar](#) for the Month of November.

Resources available in our community:

11/2 Westminster Branch Library- Read with a Furry Friend

11/9 Eldersburg Branch Library- Robot Pumpkin Smash

11/16 Westminster Branch Library- Cooking Together (\$)

## COLDER WEATHER

The cold weather has arrived and looks to be here to stay. With this change in the weather we are asking that you dress your children warmly for outdoor play.

Students will be outdoors for recess as long as the weather is above 32 degrees(including wind chill), or pouring rain/thunderstorms. Please dress your children appropriately for the colder weather. Children will participate in indoor recess time when it is not appropriate for students to be outside. Students are reminded to bring their jackets/sweatshirts with them to lunch to take outside.

Piney's lost and found is growing rapidly with many coats, sweatshirts, gloves and water bottles. Label your child's cold weather gear to avoid this. Please if visiting for lunch or here for afterschool activities, take a moment to check and see if anything of your child's is left behind.

