

September 5th, 2014

Issue 1

The Panther Pride

Princess Anne Middle School

Street Address

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Virginia Beach, VA 23453

Phone Numbers

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Mark Your Calendars

Sept 9th
Open House
All Grades
6pm

Sept 16th
PAMS PTA Meeting
Library
5:30pm

September 25th:
Rachel's Challenge
Assembly

Distributed by the Princess Anne Middle School PTA

"Success comes when we all pull together"

Principal's Corner – September 2014

Dear Parents:

This year we opened our doors to approximately 1460 students including 480 sixth graders. We were certainly excited to welcome our new Panthers as they began their middle school journey, and excited to welcome back our returning students another year wiser. The energy the students bring to the school is a wonder to behold, and it is precisely the reason why I am excited to come to work every day.

As we begin our first year in our new location, we are looking forward to a "normal" school year without the challenges of a location change, and to making the most of the new facility. Even as our students continue to achieve at high levels, we are committed to continuing to evolve how we undertake the business of education. One key addition this year will be the implementation of weekly after school academic detention. Because we believe the penalty for not doing work should be that you have to do the work, we will utilize this non-disciplinary detention to get work from students. Students will be assigned the detention for the week following the week their work was due. They will then have the week to submit the missing work in order to avoid detention. Those who do not will be required to complete the work in the detention. Additional details are forthcoming, and we will expect your support as we commit to truly holding students accountable for their work.

As always, I encourage you to take an active role in your child's education. ***Make sure your child knows that his or her academic progress is important to you.*** On a daily basis, engage in conversation with your child regarding what was learned in school each day (Do not accept "nothing" for an answer. Continue to probe with questions regarding each subject area ... here are some other approaches you might take:

<http://www.simplesimonandco.com/2014/08/25-ways-ask-kids-school-today-without-asking-school-today.html>). Know when each grade reporting time occurs, and if you do not see progress reports or report cards, contact the school without delay. Ensure you are registered to access Parent Portal. Parent Portal will give you access to your child's grades and absences 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. To register for Parent Portal, go to www.princessannems.vbschools.com and click on the Parent Portal link on the upper left hand corner.

Be available to help and guide. Examine your child's planner. Your child should keep a daily record of homework assignments. Review your child's homework and ensure that your child is completing his or her A-day homework on A-day and B-day homework on B-day (keeping this consistent pattern will prevent your child from falling behind on

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER - CONTINUED

assignments). Set aside a regularly scheduled time and a quiet study area at home and monitor your child as he or she studies, providing assistance as needed. Don't give more help than is wanted. Keep in mind it is your child's responsibility to be organized, to get homework done, and to prepare for tests. Ensure that the telephone, television, and other distractions are eliminated during study time. Also, examine the planner passes located on each week of the planner. This will provide you with a record of your child's time out of the classroom. Of course, it is important that time out of the classroom be minimized.

Maintain regular communications with teachers through written communication (notes or email), phone calls, and/or conferences. Progress reports will be issued on Friday, October 10, 2014. If your child is experiencing difficulty in his or her academics, contact your child's guidance counselor to arrange a conference. You will find an email link for all of our teachers, counselors, and administrators on Princess Anne Middle's website www.princessannems.vbschools.com. You may also wish to contact Mrs. Bell, School Improvement Specialist, to discuss opportunities for additional assistance through our recovery programs. Our before and after school tutoring programs begin in October, and our AM Homework Center has already begun. Send your child a message that learning is not an option.

To keep open communication between home and school, Princess Anne is continuing with our weekly electronic mail service (My School Mail) for our parents. This service provides parents, via email, school specific information such as announcements of important dates, special events, and volunteer opportunities. Please subscribe to this service so we can keep you up-to-date. Subscription directions are available on our school website at www.princessannems.vbschools.com.

I appreciate all of your support this year as we establish expectations for student behavior and dress in order to support a powerful learning environment. Please read through the dress code and code of conduct in the student planner, and review key items with your child.

Please call on any member of the administrative team or me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

D. Alex Bergren
Principal



Search for
Princess Anne Middle
School PTA



PTA Back to School Dance Friday Sept. 19th 6:30-8:30 pm

Tickets will be \$5 and be on sale Wednesday-Friday the 17th-19th during all lunches.

Permission slips must accompany payment.

We will have permission slips available on Tuesday the 16th at lunch.



SPIRIT NIGHT Tuesday Sept. 9th 5:00-9:00 pm

**Proceeds will benefit
Chorus**



PAMS BUSINESS-RECYCLING CLUB

The Business-Recycling Club collects throughout the school year the following items:

- Cell phones • Printer cartridges • GPS devices • iPods and other MP3 players • Digital cameras • E-readers • Tablet computers • Eye glasses •

All items can either be dropped off at the front desk or brought to room 308A. Please note: we do not take batteries, printers, laptop or desktop computers

COMMUNITY HERO EVENT

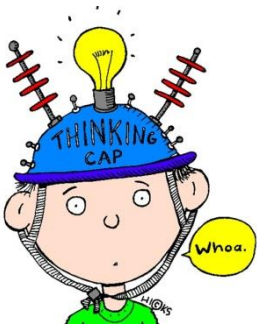
On Thursday, September 11th **Chick-fil-A at General Booth Blvd** will be hosting a Community Hero Event from 6-8pm!



General Booth Blvd.

Join us to say **THANK YOU** to our brave local heroes! Members from Local and State Police, the Fire Department, and EMS will be onsite with their vehicles. Hang out with the Cow!! Spin the Wheel... Win a prize!!!!

GIFTED PROGRAM INFORMATION



Virginia Beach City Public Schools has a comprehensive gifted education program K-12 that serves the needs of intellectually gifted students in home schools and in full-time magnet schools. Home schools use a cluster resource model in which the gifted resource teacher works with the regular classroom teacher to design and implement curriculum and instructional strategies to specifically meet the needs of the high-end learner. Princess Anne Middle School's Gifted Resource Teacher is Ms. Cathy Peterson. If you have questions about the gifted program, please contact her at Cathy.Peterson@vbschools.com or 648-4950 x59137. To see what happens in cluster classes and to receive information about enrichment opportunities, parent workshops, and helpful details about the life of a middle schooler, please subscribe to Ms. Peterson's blog:

<http://blogs.vbschools.com/pamiddlegifted/>

Assessment for intellectually gifted identification will take place on the following dates at PAMS by a testing specialist:

- November 18, 2014
- February 19, 2015 (Kemps Landing Magnet applicants) May 14, 2015

If you feel your child is a good candidate for the gifted program, please contact Ms. Peterson in order to initiate the referral process. There are several forms that need to be completed and teachers must have time to write their observations/recommendations.

Students interested in the one-day-a-week pull-out program for dance at Old Donation Center or the full-time visual arts program at Virginia Beach Middle School should contact Ms. Peterson in October for information about the audition/assessment process. Applications for both arts programs are due to Ms. Peterson by February 2, 2015.



**Chorus will be
selling
entertainment
books next
week!**

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



Service learning projects are an ideal way for middle school learners to combine their intellectual need for complexity and their affective need to make a difference in the world. Many students in the eighthth grade are members of the **National Junior Honor Society** and will be instrumental in the success of the group's activities during the school year: a collection drive for personal products for Samaritan House; peer-tutoring; "Souper" Bowl of Caring to benefit the FoodBank of Southeastern Virginia; and sponsorship of the Eighth Grade Semi-Formal Dance in June.

Students help to organize and lead the projects to improve their own leadership skills.

Many sixth and seventh grade students have expressed interest in joining the NJHS. Here's the scoop on the application process:

- **Seventh and eighth grade students** may apply by invitation-only **after the third quarter grades are posted**.
- A **3.5 grade point average** for the **current** school year is required to be invited to apply.
- A complete application with teacher recommendations must be submitted by the due date in May.
- A selection committee composed of teachers and school counselors reviews the applications and makes the decision whether to extend an invitation to join the society. **Through the application process, applicants must show evidence of outstanding citizenship, character, leadership, and service to school and community. The advisors do not have a vote in the process.**

If students have any questions about NJHS, they may ask Mrs. Solheim or Ms. Peterson (NJHS advisors). Eighth grade students new to PAMS who were inducted into the NJHS chapter at their former school should see the PAMS advisors for information about joining the group now! The first general meeting for eighth graders inducted last spring is September 17.

DONATIONS!!! DONATIONS!!! DONATIONS!!!



One of the biggest money savers for the PAMS PTA is generous donations! We need Pepsi products for our concessions stands! We would also like to have two or three picnic benches donated so that our staff can enjoy time outside during their lunch. Do you think you can help? All donations can be dropped off in the front lobby. We appreciate all the help you can give!

COMING SOON.....

When you sign up for the PAMS PTA - and we are eagerly striving for 100% this year - and give us

your e-mail, we will make sure that you stay in the loop on everything that is happening at the school. First up.... we need for your voice to be heard! Be on the lookout in a few weeks for a Survey Monkey on the proposed state legislation items. There are only two this year so the survey will be quick and easy. But we would like for everyone to participate! Together we can make huge changes to support our children!



Princess Anne Middle School FCJ Club

**Rachel's
Challenge
Assembly will be
held on
September 25th.**

WE TAKE CREDIT CARDS!

This year we are happy to take your stress free and membership payments by credit card! Makes like a little easier doesn't it???



WHY JOIN THE PAMS PTA?



You are always asked to join the PTA at every school your child attends. We want to tell you why it is beneficial for you to join.

First off, with your \$5 membership \$3.25 of it is sent to the state and national PTA. That means PAMS only keeps \$1.75. Not a lot, but with 1500 potential memberships that is \$2625 to our bottom line. This is why the \$20 Stress Free donation is important. Selling wrapping paper or chocolate only nets us maybe 20% of the total sales. \$20 per child in the school is WAY better and we don't have to deal with selling, hitting up our family and neighbors and delivering. So with 1500 students in the school at \$20 per child that is \$30K that goes right to our bottom line! And what do we use it for? EVERYONE! We make it a point to make sure we spread our (YOUR) money to all grade levels. The biggest chunk goes to teacher grants. Any teacher is eligible to apply for a grant. They submit a proposal, it is reviewed by a committee (let us know if you want to be on this committee!) and we usually approve the grant.

Last year we bought the **entire 6th grade** a math program that they used on electronic devices to hone their skills and give the teachers real time results on where they needed to revisit lessons that the kids didn't understand. We bought the **7th grade science classes'** baby oysters to grow. We also got them owl poop - ok, they called them owl pellets but it was really poop! We bought the **chorus** uniforms to start their in house uniform collection - this is ongoing and they are asking for more this year. We bought the **8th social studies classes'** atlases.....yes.....they still use books! And we bought our **Computer Resource Specialists** a pocket projector with accessories that is available for any teacher to use with their students.

And that was not all. We spent close to \$9000 on Teacher grants and we feel this is money WELL spent. We want you to be confident in where your membership and stress free money goes. We want you to know that we, as a PTA, are not wasting your money.



Please consider participating. **IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS.**

PAMS SPIRIT WEAR

The PTA will be selling spirit wear every Friday and will begin September 12th during lunch so all throughout lunch. We have the last year's design in tee-shirts, long and short, crew neck sweat shirts, hoodies and zippered hoodies, sweat pants, soffee shorts and string bags. We also have a tee-shirts and zippered hoodies in a new design. All of last year's design is fifty percent off and the new design is from \$15 to \$30. Come out and get your spirit wear during lunch and also during the Open House on Tuesday, September 9th.



Princess Anne Middle PTA Membership Form

Please remember that the Stress-Free Fundraiser option eliminates product sales with 100% of your donation going directly to the PTA so that we may bring great programs to our school for all students. Further the Stress Free donation is tax-deductible. We appreciate your support of the Princess Anne Middle PTA.

Member Only

Stress Free
w/Membership (\$5.00/ea.)
(\$25.00/ea.)

Parent's Name _____ M ___ F ___

Parent's Name _____ M ___ F ___

Parent's Phone # (____) ____ - _____

Grand Total:

Parent's Email _____

\$ _____

Student Name _____ M ___ F ___

Grade ____ Teacher _____

Student Name _____ M ___ F ___

Grade ____ Teacher _____

Student Name _____ M ___ F ___

Grade ____ Teacher _____

Three ways to join: Cash, Check or Credit Card via PayPal!

Credit Card: You can pay in person at Open House on Sept 9th!

Membership with Stress Free: <http://tinyurl.com/PAMSPTACombo>

Membership Only: <http://tinyurl.com/PAMSPTAmembershiponly>

By check or cash:

Please make your check payable to: Princess Anne Middle PTA

Cash _____ Check# _____

You can drop this form at the school or mail it to: PTA at 2323 Holland Road, Virginia Beach 23453



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!

Visit Princess Anne Middle School PTA's new website for PTA News: www.pamsptavb.com



LABELS FOR EDUCATION & FARM FRESH

We are collecting "Labels for Education" and Farm Fresh receipts!!! This program helps the school to purchase additional supplies that are used to help further the learning process of all students at Princess Anne Middle School.



Please make sure to save these items and send them to the office. Every receipt and label helps!

Thank you!



If you would like to volunteer in various areas of our school throughout the year and have not signed up yet, please send an e-mail to JoElla Beavers (Volunteer Coordinator) at jobeavers@coastalcreations.hrcoxmail.com



**Stop SHOUTING your news!!
SHARE it in the PTA Newsletter!**

Send your info to Tiffany Jones at jonesfamilyfour@live.com

**Next due date is:
September 26th!**



"Like" our page at: www.facebook.com/PAMSPTA or search for *Princess Anne Middle School PTA*

Princess Anne Middle School PTA

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