

November 3rd, 2014
Issue 3

The Panther Pride

Princess Anne Middle School

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Mark Your Calendars

November 4th:
Staff Day
No School

November 10th:
Report Cards Issued

November 11th:
Veteran's Day
No School

November 26th:
Adjusted Dismissal
November 27th – 28th:
No School

Distributed by the Princess Anne Middle School PTA

"Success comes when we all pull together"

Principal's Corner – November 2014

Dear Parents:

As we move toward completion of the first quarter of the school year and I reflect on the first two months of our academic year, I am invariably drawn to the myriad signs of continuous growth and accomplishment from our school and our school community. In and out of the classroom, staff, parents, and students are making Princess Anne Middle a better place.

I continue to be impressed by our improvement in student conduct. A comparison of data for September and October from this year to last shows a decrease in the number of disciplinary incidents at PAMS. We have implemented a number of action steps to reduce student discipline including initiating a variety of projects designed to place a focus on good citizenship, respect, and kindness.

Parents, too, are contributing to our success. Parent volunteers can be seen helping in our offices, assisting teachers with administrative responsibilities, and serving on boards and councils, and even working with teachers and students on classroom projects. Please contact our PTA Volunteer Coordinator, JoElla Beavers (jbeavers4@cox.net), if you are able to volunteer for a few hours a day, a week, or even a few hours a year. Additionally, we are once again enjoying the support of a highly effective PTA that consistently supports teachers and students throughout the year. Even if you don't have time to give, your membership is a wonderful way to support your child in school through the PTA. We are once again looking for 100% membership, and this year racing to beat the Great Neck MS PTA, who has challenged in a race to 100%.

We are proud to host a visiting team on November 13, 2014, from the Virginia Middle School Association (VMSA) who will be evaluating PAMS for consideration as an Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) National School to Watch. Only a handful of schools in Virginia have received this designation, and currently there are none in Virginia Beach. The visiting team will be examining the whole school program from academics to parent involvement, from out of school programs to community partnerships, and from leadership to citizenship and beyond. We are looking forward to showing the visiting team all that is wonderful about PAMS, and to hearing the feedback they will provide us on how we can become even better. I will let you know the outcome.

While we have seen improvement in several areas, it is important for us to work for continuous improvement. To this end, will you continue to reinforce with your child the importance of regular attendance? Nothing replaces the value of direct instruction,



MIX IT UP DAY

The Rachel's Challenge Club and the PTA teamed up for another wonderful Mix-it up Day at Lunch on Tuesday 10/28/14. It offered students the opportunity to meet new friends and interact.



PAMS One Act Play Performing

The One-Act-Play team will be in action on Saturday November 8th. PAMS will go on at 2:10.

The festival will be held at PAMS. Tickets will be sold at \$4 for adults and \$2 for students. Come out and support your Panthers.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER - CONTINUED

and our data clearly illustrates that students who are in school on a regular basis achieve higher than those with absences. May I also request that you take a moment to discuss the dress code once again with your child? Over the past two months, parents have been contacted to bring appropriate clothing to school for their child. The majority of infractions involve our young ladies who violate the dress code by wearing shirts which expose straps and/or undergarments. Spaghetti straps are not acceptable at school. When parents are unable to bring a change of clothing, students miss valuable instructional time as violators must remain in ISS for the remainder of the day.

As we prepare to select our 2016 Teacher of the Year, it is appropriate once again to congratulate our 2015 Teacher of the Year, Janet Marx, who is currently teaching 7th grade math and algebra. Mrs. Marx was selected by her peers for her ability to inspire a love of learning in all students and her commitment to the total school program. Mrs. Marx was honored at a division-wide banquet on the evening of October 16, 2014.

For your planning purposes, know that November 4 is a staff work day and November 11 is a holiday; students will not report. In addition, to assist families with holiday travel, on Wednesday November 26, 2014, students at the middle school will be released at 1:20 PM.

I look forward to continued success as we embark upon the second quarter. As always, do not hesitate to contact me or any staff member if we are able to provide additional assistance.

Sincerely,

D. Alex Bergren
Principal



**Search for
Princess Anne Middle
School PTA**

PAMS BUSINESS-RECYCLING CLUB



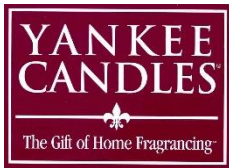
The Business-Recycling Club collects throughout the school year the following items:

- 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

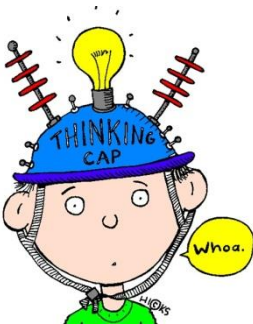
YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER



The SCA is sponsoring a Yankee Candle Fundraiser October 1-November 21, 2014 - Tax Exempt and if you place your orders online you will receive them faster.

Go to: <http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com> Enter Group Code: 99005268

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 school student, 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.

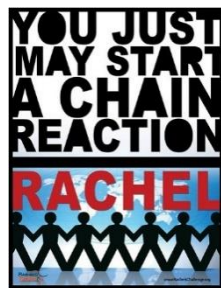
ACADEMY APPLICATIONS

Academy applications are available in guidance or on-line at <http://www.vbschools.com/curriculum/academyprog/appprocess.asp> Completed applications must be received in guidance by **Monday February 2, 2015**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Academy and Advanced Academic Programs Open House Schedule

<p>November 18, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Visual and Performing Arts Academy @ Salem High School</p>	<p>December 9, 2014 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Legal Studies Academy @ First Colonial High School</p>	<p>December 10, 2014 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Mathematics and Science Academy @ Ocean Lakes High School</p>
<p>December 16, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Global Studies and World Languages Academy @ Tallwood High School</p>	<p>January 13, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Governor's STEM Academy and Technology Academy @ Landstown High School</p>	<p>January 14, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. International Baccalaureate Program @ Princess Anne High School</p>
<p>January 15, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Health Sciences Academy @ Bayside High School</p>		

THE FRIENDS OF RACHEL CLUB



The Friends of Rachel club will again be honoring veterans this year. As an act of kindness, we are asking students and staff to write a letter, poem, and card or even draw a picture expressing thanks to those who have served our country. Bring work to guidance by Wednesday November 5th. We thank you for taking the time to extend compassion to these men and women who have sacrificed so much to keep our country safe.

RACHEL CHALLENGE MEETING

The next Rachel's Challenge meeting will be Thursday November 6th during grade level PAMS/lunch bells in room 551. Students are to report directly to 551 during either PAMS or their lunch bell, whichever comes first. Purple permission slips are available in guidance for these bi-monthly lunch-bunch meetings. We do encourage bag lunches, but lunches can be purchased in the cafeteria if needed. Please contact Mrs. Burchett in guidance at 648-4964 with any questions.

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE GIRLS

Applications for Beach Girl's Rock Summits are available in guidance and are attached to this newsletter. The topic for November 15th session is "Your Rights! You're Responsibilities" and it will be held at First Colonial High School from 8am-12pm. Please see your guidance counselor with any questions.



"Your Rights! Your Responsibilities!"

First Colonial High School
Saturday, November 15, 2014



Schedule of Events

Registration & Welcome Breakfast	8:00 – 8:25
Keynote Speaker	8:30 – 9:00
Breakout Session I	9:05 – 9:35
Who Done it? A Forensic Scavenger Hunt	9:40 – 10:20
Snack Break	10:25-10:35
Legal Career/Education Panel Discussion	10:40 – 11:10
Breakout Session II	11:15 – 11:45
Closing Session	11:50 – 12:00

Student Breakout Sessions

Got Law? Examine Your Rights and Responsibilities!
A Civil Action: Negotiating the Friend Zone in School
Law Suits & Ties: Dressing for Success
Justice for All: An Analysis of Legal Issues in the Media
Hospitality Law: Why the Customer is NOT always right!

Parent Breakout Sessions

Social Media Hazards
Career and College Awareness



Beach Girls Rock Summit Registration Form
"Your Rights! Your Responsibilities!"



Directions: Please print the required information and return to the guidance department **no later than Friday, November 7, 2014**. Remember the summit is Saturday, November 15, 2014, at First Colonial High School.

Registration package pick-up begins at 8:00a.m. Summit hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Student Name: (Print) _____ Grade: _____

Student ID/Perm Number: _____ School Currently Attending: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Numbers: (home) _____ (cell) _____

An Overview of Student Sessions

Students please select the top five sessions you would like to attend.

Please rank them in order of interest.

_____ Got Law? Examine Your Rights and Responsibilities!

_____ A Civil Action: Negotiating the Friend Zone in School

_____ Law Suits & Ties: Dressing for Success

_____ Justice for All: An Analysis of Legal Issues in the Media

_____ Hospitality Law: Why the Customer is NOT always right!

{Teachers and guidance counselors will be conducting parent sessions on site}



Schools are asked to return completed registration forms to:
angelique.phillips@vbschools.com

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.

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!

PTA UPDATE!

We have had a great week with the memberships coming in! Thank you to those who have joined! We are 34 closer to our goal but still need 295 to get to 100%. Seems like a lot but it really isn't when we are THIS close!!!! Remember, you can pay on line by credit card! Let's get this done! Thanks again for all of your support!

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.



Zippered and Hoodie Sweatshirts!!
On Sale next Friday during all lunches!!
Get yours right away!!

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 jbeavers4@cox.net



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

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

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

Princess Anne Middle School PTA

Principal
D. Alex Bergren
DAlex.Bergren@vbschools.com

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Ways and Means
TBD

2nd Vice President Programs
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School PTA**