

PASA Information

READ PG 4 FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON THE
PASA



CHECK OUT OUR
ATTENDANCE BOWL
AS WE STRIVE FOR
95%!

Kindergarten Registration Information

READ PG 2 FOR
IMPORTANT INFO AND
DATES



DON'T MISS THIS
MONTH'S SCHOOL
CALENDAR

POLLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MR. DONTAE WILSON, PRINCIPAL

2875 WELSH ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19152 ~ (215) 400-3210

Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe we have passed the midpoint of the year but thanks to your help we have reached this important milestone. The first 1/2 of the year has been filled with great moments of pride and important events for the entire Pollock Community. During the month of January, we had the opportunity to add to the list of important events by hosting two important parent meetings, our Community Partnership Meeting and Winter Title One Parent Input Meeting. The Community Partnership Meeting brought together representatives for Youth Core/CORA (aftercare provide); COMHAR (mental health/behavioral health providers; Education Works (socialized recess support); and other members of the school community to discuss services for families, supports needed from the school, and ways to support the school's mission and vision. The Title One Parent Input Meeting gave parents an opportunity to discuss needs for students; ways to access available resources; and chances to brainstorm additional resources that are needed. Both meetings provided attendees with important information about the school's mission/vision, budget, and a forum for rich discussion. Please stay tuned for upcoming meetings about the 2018-2019 school budget and our next Community Partnership Meeting (Feb. 9).

Also during the month of January, students in Grade k-6 took part in the AIMSweb assessment for Reading and Math. While many students did quite well, it is important to know that students must make progress by the Spring test (May 2018). The targeted number of **words per minute** for each grade for the Spring are 53 (Grade 1); 92 (Grade 2); 119 (Grade 3); 136 (Grade 4); 143 (Grade 5); and 161 (Grade 6). For grade K, students need to score a 46 for Letter Name Fluency (number of letters named correctly); a 33 for Letter Sound Fluency (number of letter sounds said correctly); a 41 for Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (number of segments said correctly) and a 33 for Nonsense Word Fluency (number of letter sounds said correctly). For each of these test areas, reading in short bursts (1-3 minutes using a timer) each night can help. Teachers will share additional strategies and ways to support children reading at home during report card conferences.

Report Card Conferences are scheduled for Feb. 14-16 from 1:00 - 3:14 p.m. They are an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress and to inquire about specific areas of strengths and areas of needed improvement. Statements like "He is good at..." and "She does well in..." are not the most helpful. Our goal is to provide parents and families with detailed information about each child's academic progress as well as ways to accelerate student learning. Please ask about learning opportunities at home, appropriate websites for students with Internet access, or ways to determine if the book is on grade level.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us to improve the quality of education for all of our children.

"Preparing students to become global citizens, critical thinkers, and ethical leaders."

Message from the Assistant Principal

Ms. Lakisha Baxter, Assistant Principal

It's February! We made it through some tough weather in January with multiple snow days. Now we have to get back into the habit of full school days and full school weeks. For the month of February students will be getting report cards and we will continue to celebrate success. Look in our hallways for rising stars and help students track their progress on the STAR assessments. Benchmarks are back and as students prepare to take this assessment for the second time, many of them will be motivated to get an invitation to our 76ers club celebration. This time students could earn the chance to win tickets to the Sixers game in March. All students who score 76% or higher on the benchmark assessment will get invited to our 76ers club celebration. However, only students who have 76% or higher on all of the benchmark test so far will be eligible to win Sixers tickets.

As we return to our full time routines, let's remind our students to put first things first. Focus on and execute important goals. With each new month, week and day we should begin with the end in mind. Students should develop a solution-oriented mindset in every activity they engage in—homework, class assignments, projects, presentations, and at home task. Being proactive with in school and at home task is the way to go. Help your child by speaking the language of the 7 habits at home too.

Kindergarten registration! If you have a kindergarten-age child who still needs to get registered for the fall, please stop by the office and do so.

Kindergarten Registration Information

Kindergarten registration is open from **January 6, 2018 - May 31, 2018**.

Registration hours at Pollock are from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm daily

All children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2018

Register at your neighborhood school (to find your neighborhood school, go to <https://www.philasd.org/schoolfinder>)

Documents that Parents MUST Bring:

- Your child's up to date immunization record
- Parent/Legal Guardianship Identification: Current Drivers/Non-Drivers License, Federal/State/Municipal photo identification, or Passport
- Child's birth certificate (additional accepted documents can be found on the school district website)
- Two current proofs of address in the parent or guardian's name. (a list of accepted documents can be found on the school district website)

Important Dates

- Kindergarten Open House Day: March 6, 2018
- An additional Open House will be held the week of May 7th (date to be determined)

Reminders

- Register Early!
- Be sure to bring all documents required, to avoid delay in registration.
- Main office phone number is 215 400-3210 for any questions about registration at Pollock School

For more Kindergarten registration information, please visit:

<https://www.philasd.org/kregistration>

Dean of Students

Mr. Diggs, Dean of Students

Hello Pollock Leaders,

Can you believe that it is already the month of February, that means that spring is



just around the corner. February is a month that we celebrate the birthdays of two important leaders in our nation's history, Presidents Washington and Lincoln. They showed us the power of great leadership, and how that leadership can empower and unify a country. Pollock School is a school that is filled with many great leaders as well. This month is a great month to practice, share and teach all of our Leader in Me habits to all of our school community members. So the next time that you see one of our school community members putting our habits into practice, praise them for it. Our goal is to be the best leaders that we be because we know that there is a Leader in Me.



Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Wenzel, School Counselor grades K-3 — Ms. Bryant, School Counselor grades 4-6

February already! It seems like we just started the school year and here we are, halfway through the 2017-2018 school year!

With half the school year completed, we are fast approaching our second report card conferences, which will be held on February 14 - 16. I encourage all parents to "Be Proactive," when it comes to your child's academics. Review your child's report card and take the time now to discuss with your child's teachers any concerns that you may have about their progress. So often, parents have this conversation in May when there is little time left of the school year to put a plan into place. Let's "Put First Things First," and ensure that we are putting a strong emphasis on the importance of academics! There's still time in the school year for our children to set realistic goals and improve upon any areas that require more attention.

As always, I am resource for both you and your child. If your child is struggling academically or behaviorally, please feel free to contact me so that we may implement a plan to help support your child, both in the school and the community. Also, let me know if your child is receiving Behavioral Health services in school if you have not yet done so. I can be contacted at mrose2@philasd.org or 215-400-3210, ext. 1.

Let's make it a successful, productive, and Fabulous February!

Mrs. Wenzel

Hello leaders, families and friends! I hope your new year is off to a good start.

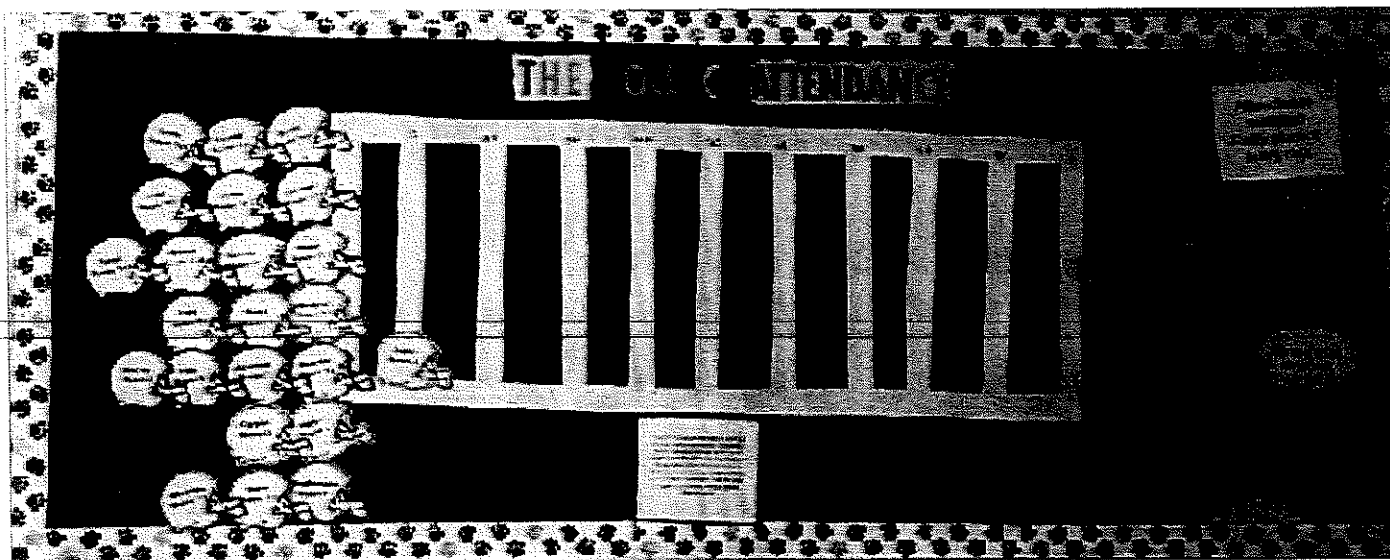
During the month of January, leaders have continued to work hard in our Social/Emotional learning and Career Exploration classes. Grades 3-6 have continued to learn and work through how to use problem-solving strategies when they feel impulsive. Leaders have applied what they have learned given different scenarios and have excelled in acting these out in our classroom. Our 5th and 6th grade leaders have also taken on the role of teacher and walked their classmates through the problem solving strategy.

We are also off to a great start with our attendance incentive mentioned in the previous newsletter. We ended 2017 with the Attendance Bowl pep rally with the help of the student pep rally committee. These students worked together to get the school excited for the 2018 Attendance Bowl. They did a wonderful job!! Since then we have introduced the Attendance Bowl, which can be seen outside of the counseling suite. Each time an entire class is at school and on time, they move up 10 yards. The first class to get a touchdown wins a football themed lunch. There are several classes moving their way down the field! Remember that it is important to be at school every day and on time! We want to celebrate this achievement.

Attendance fact: By sixth grade, a chronically absent student is shown to have a significantly higher chance of dropping out of high school.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns! I can be reached by email at cbryant@philasd.org or phone (215) 400-3210 x1.

Ms. Bryant



Love for Literacy

Mrs. Marchino, Literacy Lead

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the school year already! Students have been working hard in literacy! Our Literacy block consists of Guided Reading, Independent Work Centers, Shared Reading, Read Aloud, Writing, and Saxon Phonics for students in grade K-2.

Phonics is the first important step to learning to read. Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way, starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex, it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It is particularly helpful for children ages 5 to 7. Phonics instruction teaches children how to decode letters into sounds, a skill that is essential for them to read unfamiliar words by themselves. Having letter-sound knowledge will allow children to make the link between the unfamiliar print words to their spoken knowledge. Here are some free apps you can use at home to support phonics instruction:

1. ABC Mouse
2. Articulation Station
3. Sky Fish Phonics
4. Wonster Words

This Month in History: Black History Month

The month of February provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and recognize the contributions of African Americans throughout our nation's history. Carter G. Woodson started the tradition in 1926 as a week-long celebration that was changed to an entire month when then President Gerald Ford wanted the nation to "seize the opportunity to honor often neglected accomplishments". So whether it is Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Du Bois, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or former President Barack Obama, February is a perfect month to visit our friends at the Free Library of Philadelphia (Torresdale Branch) or internet sites such as <http://www.history.com/> to explore the contributions of African Americans and other groups to our nation's history. This month and in many ways every month, we should pause to give tribute to the benefits that America's diversity brings. We look forward to recognizing upcoming months with you.

Special Education Department

Mrs. McGrath, Special Education Liaison

PASA (Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment) Information

PASA (Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment) Testing will begin this month. All students who are eligible for PASA testing will complete the Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments by April 13, 2018. The PASA is a statewide alternate assessment designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Specifically, it is intended for those who are unable to participate meaningfully in the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) even with accommodations.

Health Room News

Ms. Gall, School Nurse

Dear Parents,

We often overlook the benefits of good sleeping habits when we think about overall health, but good sleep is just as important and eating well and exercising. Sleep helps keep our mind and body healthy. Most adults need 7-8 hours of sleep a night. Teens need 8-10 hours, and school-aged children need 9-12 hours of sleep per night according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Here are just some of the benefits of good quality sleep on a regular basis:

1. Get sick less often
2. Stay at a healthy weight
3. Lower your risk for serious health problems like diabetes and heart disease
4. Reduce stress and improve mood
5. Think more clearly and do better in school and at work
6. Get along better with others
7. Make good decisions and avoid injuries.

So let's get in the habit of having the whole family get a good quality night's sleep. You will be glad you did!

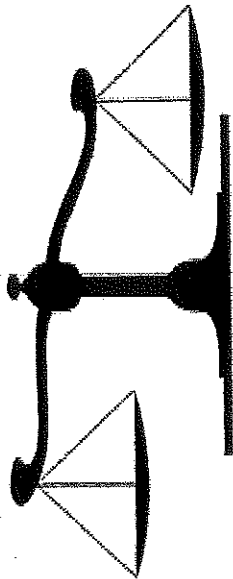
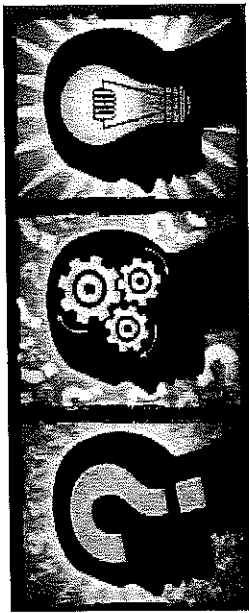
Respectfully,
Nurse Gall

One School, One Book

A New Book is Coming! A New Book is Coming!

We will be getting a new book for our One School, One Book soon! Below are the book selections. Log into your ClassDojo Account and click the link Ms. Baxter shared to cast your vote by February 5th!





Pollock Elementary School Parent and Student Calendar

PREPARING STUDENTS TO BECOME GLOBAL CITIZENS, CRITICAL THINKERS, AND ETHICAL LEADERS IN A CONNECTED SOCIETY

February 2018						March 2018 ▶	
◀ January 2018	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 DAY 1 Black History Month begins	2 DAY 2 Groundhog Day STAR Testing (Gr.1-6) Early Literacy Gr. K) Ends	3
4 Super Bowl		5 DAY 3 Benchmark Testing Gr. 3-6	6 DAY 4 Benchmark Testing Gr. 3-6 E.C. Clubs	7 DAY 1 Benchmark Testing Gr. 3-6 E.C. Clubs Community Based Outing/AS Grades 3-6	8 DAY 2 Benchmark Testing Gr. 3-6	9 DAY 3 Community Partnership Meeting	10 Saturday Academic Support Club Saturday E.C. Clubs Saturday Detention 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
11		12 DAY 4	13 DAY 1 E.C. Clubs	14 Valentine's Day Early Dismissal Report Card Conferences	15 Early Dismissal Report Card Conferences	16 Early Dismissal Report Card Conferences	17
18		19 Presidents Day - Schools and Administrative Offices Closed	20 DAY 2 PASA Testing begins E.C. Clubs	21 DAY 3 Community Based Outing/AS Grades 3-6	22 DAY 4 E.C. Clubs	23 DAY 1	24 Saturday Academic Support Club Saturday E.C. Clubs Saturday Detention 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
25		26 DAY 2 PASA Testing ends	27 DAY 3 E.C. Clubs	28 DAY 4	Notes: It is important for students to be in school every day, on time. Strive for 95% attendance or higher!		

