

# Pulaski Road School

November 2024 - NewsReel

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## Principal's Letter

Dear Pulaski Families,

As December begins, we reflect on a wonderful November filled with meaningful activities. Thank you to our families, staff, and students for contributing to our vibrant school community!

### Performance Highlights

Students enjoyed inspiring performances this month. Northport High School's Powdered Wigs presented highlights from *Charlotte's Web*, sparking creativity and imagination. Our fourth graders shone in their delightful production of *Willy Wonka* on the Pulaski Stage!

### Fourth Grade Leadership Club

Officer Robert Jinks visited our Fourth Grade Leadership Club to teach flag etiquette. Students are now well-prepared to take on the important role of raising and lowering the flag with pride.

### Thanksgiving Traditions and Giving Back

In the spirit of the season, ENL students participated in a Thanksgiving luncheon to learn about holiday traditions. Meanwhile, PTA and SHARE students collaborated on a food drive, delivering much-needed donations to a local food pantry. Thank you for your contributions!

### Reaching for the Stars

Thanks to the PTA, students explored the wonders of space during an in-house field trip to the SkyDome Planetarium. This immersive experience captivated students and fostered a love for astronomy.

### Professional Growth for Staff

On Superintendent's Conference Day, teachers attended workshops on innovative strategies in technology, reading, and math instruction. These opportunities enhance collaboration and enrich our students' educational experiences.

### **Looking Ahead**

December will bring many opportunities to connect and celebrate. We look forward to the East Northport Tree Lighting on 12/3 and the Holiday Boutique during the week of 12/9, with evening shopping on 12/11. Parent-teacher conferences take place on 12/3 and 12/11 with early release of students at 11:55 am.

We wish your family a joyful start to the holiday season and look forward to a month filled with learning, celebration, and community!

Warm regards,  
Lori Beekman

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## **Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates:**

**Monday, 12/2** - Pulaski Coat Drive Begins

**Tuesday, 12/3** - Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Release - 11:55am); East Northport Tree Lighting at E.Northport Train Station (6pm)

**Thursday, 12/5** - Evening Conferences

**Friday, 12/6** - Grade 1 - Nutcracker Ballet Performance

**Wednesday, 12/11** - Early Release (11:55am); Holiday Boutique and Evening Shopping

**Thursday, 12/12** - Holiday Boutique; Evening Conferences; Board of Education Meeting at WJB 7pm

**Friday, 12/13** - Holiday Boutique

**Thursday, 12/19** - Student Holiday Sing-Along

**Monday, December 23 - January 1:** Schools Closed for Winter Holidays

**Tuesday, January 2** - School resumes

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# Spotlight on STEM Education!

This month, kindergarten students enjoyed exploratory lessons in STEM, while first graders worked on eye-hand coordination and problem-solving skills with Goobi Construction kits. They also learned about basic engineering, electronics and circuitry concepts with Snap Circuits. Fourth graders returned to the STEM lab to learn interesting concepts through hands-on building and coding activities, using Vex Go Kits, allowing them to explore engineering and robotics fundamentals in a fun and accessible way!

**Check out this month's happenings in the STEM Lab!**

**November STEM Video - [CLICK HERE](#)**

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# Spotlight on Academics!

Dear Pulaski Families,

We're *extra thankful* for a great November at Pulaski! 🍂 As we wrap up the month, our students have been working on building math fact fluency and deepening their understanding of numbers and operations. Through collaborative learning, they've discovered that there's often more than one way to solve a problem! Working together has helped students see new approaches, strengthening both their critical thinking and collaboration skills.

We're grateful for the hard work and teamwork our students have shown all month long. Here's to a *harvest* of learning as we head into December! 🍂🍁

Warmly,  
Kacey Wallace  
Elementary Instructional Coordinator

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# Spotlight on Social-Emotional Learning

**By Jim Durand, School Counselor**

This month, our third and fourth graders participated in an SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) survey. The results give us valuable baseline data to better understand their social-emotional strengths and areas for growth, guiding how we support our students.

During push-in lessons, third-grade students are learning about how to deal with frustration, character building, and strengthening self-regulation, as well as developing essential skills for learning. In second grade, we are launching lessons that help students build skills to make and keep friends while also focusing on emotional regulation. These lessons aim to foster meaningful connections and promote growth in social-emotional competencies.

We're excited to see our students grow and thrive as we continue prioritizing SEL!

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# Spotlight on Student Voices:

## Honoring the Flag with the Future Leader's Club

By Lucy Muller and Alexandra Olivo

On November 7, 2024 the Future Leaders Club had a visitor from the Suffolk County Police Department. The police officer's name is Officer Jinks. Officer Jinks is not only a School Resource Officer for the 2nd precinct, but he is also an army veteran. He has a lot of knowledge about our flag and he was happy to share what he knows with our club.

Officer Jinks took the time to teach us about Flag Day because we needed to learn information about how to properly handle the American Flag. He showed us a video which taught us some interesting facts that we did not know! We learned why we should not wear American Flag merchandise, never have it printed on plates for holiday celebrations and never purchase furniture or bedding with it printed on the material. We need to respect the flag because it is a symbol of our country and those are not ways to honor the flag. Officer Jinks showed us the right way to fold, store, and carry a flag. Finally, Officer Jinks took our entire club outside to show us how to raise and lower the flag.

Future Leader members were fascinated learning about the flag and the responsibilities that come with it. Since Officer Jinks' visit, the Future Leaders have the responsibility of leading the entire school in the Pledge of Allegiance each morning at our school.

## "Teacher Talk"

By Pulaski Press News Reporter, Magda Imbasciani

This month features new teachers: Mrs O'Donnell (Special Education - grades 1-3), and Ms.Betz (3rd grade teacher), and Mrs.Mannix (3rd grade teacher).

Mrs.Betz is new to the Northport-East Northport School District. She has been teaching for 4 years. She chose to be a teacher because she wants to be a person who can open opportunities for kids. She has 1 dog named Olive. She enjoys being outside, going on walks, and spending time with family. She thinks

that the best thing about being a teacher is creating a family away from home. Her hopes and dreams of teaching at Pulaski are to grow as an educator and create new relationships.

Mrs. Mannix is new to Pulaski. She used to teach at Norwood Avenue School. She has been teaching for 20 years. She has 2 kids Grady 9 and Colin 7. She also has 1 dog. She chose to be a teacher because she loves being around kids and helping them grow to their full potential. She enjoys pilates, walking her dog, and watching her kids play soccer. She thinks the best thing about being a teacher is helping kids learn new things, solve problems, and help them be themselves. Her hopes and dreams of teaching are that all students feel valued and that they believe in themselves to make a difference.

Ms. O'Donnell is new to Pulaski. She has been teaching for 3 years. She has 1 dog, Franklin. She chose to be a teacher because she loves helping kids and teaching them new skills. She enjoys trying new restaurants and traveling. She thinks the best thing about being a teacher is the lightbulb moments; when a student learns a new skill and how rewarding it is. Her hopes and dreams of teaching at Pulaski are to make a difference.

Pulaski is already buzzing with great teachers! We are lucky to have these wonderful new ones join us.

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## **Pulaski School Spirit Days for the 2024-2025 Calendar!**

*Pulaski's Future Leaders*  
**School Spirit Days**  
**2024-2025**

**Friday, December 20th** Pajama Day

**Friday, January 24th** Dress Like a Teacher/Student Day

**Friday, February 7th** Sports Day

**Friday, February 28th** Dress Like a Friend Day

**Monday, March 17th** Wear Green

**Friday, March 28th** Wear workout clothing and bring a healthy snack to school

**Friday, April 25th** Career Day (dress for the job you want)

**Friday, May 9th** Tie-Dye Day

**Friday, May 23rd** Wear Red, White and Blue

**Friday, June 13th** Hawaiian Day

**Friday, June 27th** Pulaski Pride Day

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