



# THE PIRATE PRESS

PORTER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, VOL. 1, ISSUE 2, NOVEMBER 2018

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Pirate Families,

Happy Fall! I wanted to send a huge shout out to all of our families that made it out to our Family STEAM Night! It was a huge success! It was fun and exciting to see our kids and parents learning together at this event! Our next big event is the Fall Festival which is November 2nd from 5-8 PM. It is a fun-filled night that you won't want to miss!



October brought our first opportunity to have student clubs during the school day! The first one was held on the Early Release Day. Students had the opportunity to participate in areas of interest such as rock painting, mindfulness activities, writing, board games, card making, and the list goes on! It was a huge hit with our students! Our next Club Day will be on November 20th.

As you know, school safety is an ongoing concern. I wanted to let you know of a few updates in this area for this school year. First of all, Officer Tiffany Hill is the new School Resource Officer who was assigned to our school in August. She has been a great asset to our building and loves working with students and staff. Secondly, we have a new video call system at the front entrance. The front door now remains locked during the school day and you will have to be buzzed in to enter the building. Also, please be certain you come with a valid photo i.d. when visiting the campus as you will be using the new check-in system to sign in as well. We are very pleased that we have these new safety measures in place in our elementary schools across UCPS this year.

On a final note, it has been a pleasure to see so many of you as you have visited for your parent conferences. If you have not scheduled a time to meet with your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible. Also as this month brings us a time of expressing thanks—I want to say that I am most thankful to serve the Porter Ridge community. I hope you all enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday later this month.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl L. Lawrence, Principal

## VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of volunteers at school! If you can help, we are glad to have you! Here's the link to the application to become an approved volunteer: <https://www.ucpsvolunteers.com/>

Some current needs we have at school are:  
Beautification—keeping the front of the school "weed free" and welcoming to others  
Book Room and Math/Science Room—Organizing materials and supplies  
Media Center—Reshelving Books  
Classrooms—Reading with first grade students—we are part of a campaign for all of our 1st grade students to have reading buddies

**These are just a few of our current needs! Come on out and lend a helping hand! Just call the school-704-289-1965, or tell your child's teacher!**

## NOVEMBER

- 11/2 PTO Fall Festival— 5 PM to 8 PM
- 11/6 Election Day
- 11/7 Site Based Meeting—3 PM
- 11/8 Veteran's Day Program-6:30 PM
- 11/12 Veteran's Day Holiday-NO School
- 11/15 PTO Spirit Night-Sweet Frog's Monroe
- 11/20 PTO Pie Day for staff
- 11/21-11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/27 End of 2nd Grading Period

## DECEMBER

- 12/4 Early Release Day-students leave at 11
- 12/5 Site Based Meeting—3 PM
- 12/6 Report Cards go home
- 12/10-14 Book Fair
- 12/13 3rd Grade Performance-6:30 PM

## STUDENT INFORMATION

It is important to keep your contact information current. If you move, please bring in two proofs of your new residence, so we can change your address in our system.

If your telephone number changes, let the school know. We need working phone numbers for our "Blackboard Connect" calls and in case your child gets sick at school. Please make sure we have your email address as well—we can send attachments with our messages!

Thank you for taking the time to write a note when your child's transportation changes. For your child's safety, we need transportation changes in writing!

Blackboard  
connect

## SICK GUIDELINES

It is that time of year again when sickness is on the rise. Please help us keep our teachers and students as healthy as possible. You can help by reminding your child of good handwashing habits. Also, if your child is running a fever, please know they should be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medications) for 24 hours before returning to school. We appreciate your help in ensuring we have a healthy school environment.



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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Social Media to get MORE school and PTO info:

<https://www.facebook.com/PorterRidgeES.NC/>

Twitter: @Porter Ridge ESNC



## EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Our next early release day is: **Tues., Dec. 4th.**

Once again, we will dismiss at 11:00 a.m. The remaining bank days are: Feb. 7 and Mar. 7. Please mark your calendars!

**Note:** Even though early release days are half days, your child must be in school from 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. to be counted present for the day. Early dismissals on bank days will result in your child being marked absent for the day.

## BUS RULES & BEHAVIOR

Please discuss proper bus behavior with your child. The bus rules and consequences are found in the Student Handbook in the front of the agenda.

Riding the bus is a privilege. When students misbehave on the bus and do not follow the rules, safety is an issue. Drivers cannot have their full attention on the road if they have to constantly address students for discipline issues. Students who have continuous misbehaviors will be in danger of being suspended from the school bus.

Our students can earn "Ready to Ride" bus tickets from the drivers. These tickets allow for the children to be recognized for good behavior on the bus.



## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW STAFF

We have many new staff members this year! So, each month we will spotlight our new Pirates!

### Introducing Mrs. Kelli Lowe: 2nd Grade Teacher

Ahoy Pirate families! My name is Kelli Lowe and I am so excited to be joining the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team at Porter Ridge Elementary School! I was born and



raised in Virginia and have wanted to be a teacher since I was in kindergarten. I fulfilled my dream and I am a graduate of Bluefield College and obtained my Master's Degree in Reading from Radford University. I have fifteen years of teaching experience and have worked across multiple grade levels.

I have been married for almost sixteen years to my wonderful husband and I have two amazing children ages fourteen and eight. I love spending time with my family, riding rollercoasters, swimming, and cooking.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth, and fun with my shipmates as we set sail in the 2018-2019 school year.

### Introducing Mrs. Jessica Santana-4th Grade Teacher

My name is Jessica Santana. This will be my 12th year teaching. I have spent 9 years in UCPS and 2 years in a charter school, I am so excited to be back in UCPS and at Porter Ridge Elementary. I have always wanted to be a teacher, which led me to studying at St. Joseph's College, earning my BA in Elementary and Special Education. I then continued my education earning two MA degrees in Early Childhood and Educational Leadership.



I moved to North Carolina 11 years ago from Long Island, NY. I have been married for 9 years and have two children, Brandon (7) and Cassidy (4). My husband, Dennis, is also a teacher in UCPS. I am excited to be a part of the PRES community!

### Introducing Ms. Hannah Overcash—5th Grade Teacher



My name is Hannah Overcash and I am a recent graduate of Wingate University! I enjoy reading, binge-watching TV shows, hanging out with friends, and doing crafty things in my spare time. I am super excited to begin my career with Porter Ridge and to be a part of the 5th grade team for the 2018-2019 school year!



# PTO NEWS



## Fall Festival! Friday, November 2, 2018

5 pm—8 pm

Tickets available at the door!

Other prizes include: Fall Wreath, Bouncy House certificate, Yeti cups, Photo Session Gift Card, Gift Baskets and more!

Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite book character!

Fall fun! Pizza! Candy! Games!

Pie a Principal or Pie a Teacher!

\$1.00 a throw! See you there!

One of our prizes! Scarecrow—Snowman



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BOXTOPS WINNERS



First Place— Mrs. Helms's 4th Grade

Second Place—Mrs. Caldwell's 2nd Grade

Third Place— Mrs. Park's 3rd Grade

Our First Place Class has won a Pizza Party, Second Place Class has won Donuts, and Third Place Class has won dessert coupons!

Keep sending in those BOXTOPS and dimes!

## ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK

Our PTO will be supporting the **ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK** project to begin after the first of the year. More information will be coming home about this wonderful event!

## CONTACT INFORMATION



Brooke Garrison  
pres.pto.nc@gmail.com

## BOOK FAIR—COMING SOON!

Save the Dates!  
December 10—14

Information will be coming home with times and dates for volunteers as well. Thank you for your support!

