



**Whatever it takes, our  
children are worth it!**

Volume 1

October 2014



**Pungoteague Elementary  
School Paw Tracks  
October 2014**



**Scholastic  
Book Fair**

October 13- 16

7:30 am—4:30pm



**Your link to Late Breaking News at Pungoteague:**

**<http://www.pes.accomack.k12.va.us/public/>**

**Principal's Message...**

**Ms. Wandnetta McCray**

Welcome to another new and exciting year at Pungoteague Elementary School. I am looking forward to working with all teachers, parents, and community professionals to ensure the best education possible for our students! I am proud of the hard work, dedication, and commitment shown by the students, teachers, and staff of PES each day!

Please be aware that we are enforcing the new "Student Release Policy" in Accomack County Public Schools. This means that any adult coming to release a student from PES will be required to show photo identification. Students will not be released to any adult without showing his/ her photo identification. In addition, parents and guardians must complete an "Authorization for Pick Up" yellow form and submit it to our secretary in the front office. This form has to list the adults you deem have permission to pick up your child. If this form is not completed, then your child has to be transported home by his/her regular bus route. If you need to make a change to the form that you previously submitted, then you (parent/ guardian) will need to come to the school and complete another form. Please remember that there will be no verbal communication accepted as a bus pass, student pick up, or car rider. If you have any questions about this new policy, please contact me and I will be glad to further assist you.

All teachers and staff are here to help provide the best education possible for your child. In order to do this, we need your child in class each day. Please make every effort to have your child at school by 8:30 a.m. each day. Instruction starts promptly at 8:30 daily. When your child is tardy or late coming to school, he/ she is missing Reading or Math instruction. The more time he/ she misses from this instruction, the greater the chances that your child will fall behind in his/ her learning and have to "play catch up". Also, when your child is being picked up from school frequently in the afternoon, he/she is still missing valuable instructional time in Reading or Math. This will impact your child's education. Please stay mindful of this when scheduling doctor's appointments, etc. We value and invest in your child's education daily and we need him/her here during the whole day in order to ensure academic success.

Please continue to make sure your child reads at home each night. This will help him/her become better, fluent readers! Thank you for your continued support and please make sure you stay in frequent contact with your child's teacher regularly.

Again, I appreciate all of the hard work, support, and dedication you show to the students, teachers, and staff of PES!



**Two Hour Early  
Out**

**Parent Conferences**

**Oct, 3**

**1:30-3:30**

**October 6**

**Olweus Bullying  
Prevention Kickoff  
Assembly**

**Oct.10,**

**9:00 AM**

**PES**

**Proud Awards**

**October 16**

**6:00 pm**

**Grade 1 Program**

**Pre-K-2**

**Literacy Night**

**October 24**

**9:00 AM!**

**BETA Club**

**Induction**

**October 29**

**Picture Make-up**

**October 31**

**Eat Lunch with your  
child**

## **Kind Kindergarten! Ms. Marissa Gummo**

It is hard to believe the first month of school is already over. Kindergarten has been hard at work learning the letters of the alphabet along with the sound that each one makes. We have been practicing how to write our letters, names, and numbers. In Math, we have introduced shapes and will continue learning about 2-D and 3-D shapes. We have also been counting objects and writing numbers to fifteen. We will continue to work on number sense and positional words. Please keep in mind that the weather is changing. We will go to recess on a daily basis, so make sure your child dresses accordingly. Also, please make sure your child has a change of clothes and has their headphones for use in the computer lab. We encourage you to read nightly with your child. Thank you in advance for your support!!

## **Fabulous First Grade! Ms. Jessica Perkins**

First grade is off to a great year so far! We are currently studying addition in math. Please help your child count and write numbers by 1s, 5s, and 10s. In reading, it is very important that each child knows his or her letter names and sounds. We are reviewing word families and learning to read by a strategy called "chunking." If they know their letter sounds, they will be able to "chunk" easier. Also, if students still don't have headphones, please send them in!

## **Super Second Grade! Mrs. Sue Ingram**

Welcome to Second Grade! This is an exciting year of learning for our students. This is the year they become readers and critical thinkers. A home-school connection is essential for success. Students need to read nightly with an adult as part of their homework routine. Each student may borrow 2 library books a week to help with this task. This also benefits your child to complete the AR test requirement the homeroom teacher has set. During math we will be concentrating on memorizing addition facts, looking for patterns in a series of numbers, and understanding a value of a number with 3 digits. Take time to talk about books and numbers while you are cooking dinner, shopping or just sharing some quiet time together. Our Second Grade team is ready to assist you in any way we can.

## **Terrific Third Grade! Mrs. Julie Elliott**

Third grade students had a GREAT time on the Duncan Farm Field trip. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed learning about agriculture. Did you see the article in the Eastern Shore News? If you missed it, check out the link on the PES webpage. Students are also learning about our world and where the continents and oceans are located. In reading, the focus has been on finding the main idea and author's purpose after reading stories. How big is an inch? How do you measure length? What else do we measure and why is this important? Students are exploring the measurement of length, weight, time, temperature, and liquids in math class. Let your child help out in the kitchen so they can participate in measuring at home. The Third Grade team encourages all parents and guardians to read and listen to your child read each night at home.

## **Fantastic Fourth Grade! Ms. Grace Schutschkow**

Fourth graders are off to a fabulous start! We are going back 400 plus years and studying Virginia History. In math we are busy learning how to "show and tell" answers to multi-step problems. Please encourage your child to read each night at home. We are enjoying stories from our anthology and reading to earn Accelerated Reader points. Students are able to visit many of our interactive websites at home using their usernames and passwords for academic enrichment. Planners should be signed by parents nightly to confirm that students are completing their homework. Look for weekly papers and information in Monday folders. Please sign the front of envelope and return to school the following day.

## **Firm Fifth Grade! Mr. George Tucker**

The fifth grade is off to a great start to the new school year! We have been working very hard on being responsible "student leaders" for Pungoteague Elementary School. We are looking forward to the STAR News program starting shortly, where our fifth grade students will have a chance to shine on the morning news program once a week. As always, we are reading whenever possible in order to become more fluent readers. This is going to be a great year!

## **Bobcat Bookworms! Mrs. Debra Zager**

All Bobcats are reading! We start the "Book It! Read Your Heart Out " program October 1st. Students who meet the quota set by their teacher get a free personal pan pizza certificate each month. That amounts to six free pizzas just for reading!

The Book Fair is coming to PES this month. We will be open all day for four days, Monday, October 13- Thursday, October 16! Come and shop for great books. Bookfair will be open Thursday night so come to the show and buy some books.

October Reading Challenge for all Bobcat Bookworms will be a chance to win a gift certificate to the Book Fair. Ten readers will win ten dollars each to spend before the fair closes. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Book Fair. Please let me know if you can help!

Thank you!

**Pungoteague  
Elementary School**

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**Guidance Greeting from Ms. Fontaine**

Welcome back to another exciting year at Pungoteague Elementary School. For those of you who are new to our school, my name is Marlo Fontaine, and I am the school counselor.

Each month I will be doing classroom guidance lessons. During the month of September our classroom guidance lesson focused on Respect.

The Topics were "Getting To Know Your Guidance Counselor" and "Treating Others The Way You Want To Be Treated." Some of the topics that I will also be emphasizing are:

Prevention of Bullying

Drug Prevention

Making Good Choices

Social Skills

Conflict Resolution

Career Development

As school counselor, my goal is to help every student be the best student they can be.

Feel free to contact me if you have any question or concerns.

**Premier Pre-K! Mrs. Ida Nedab**

Pre-K and the ECSE students are very eager to learn new things this school year. Can you believe that we learned about shapes, colors, punctuation marks, compound words, syllables, uppercase and lowercase letters, counting 1-20, sorting by attributes and ordinal numbers since the beginning of September? We welcome Ms. Bowe and Ms. Ballard to our team and to Pungoteague Elementary School. Ms. Widgeon and Ms. Brown have joined our team from other grade levels. We are going to have an exciting school year. We are getting ready for our field trips for this school year.



**Assistant Principal's Message....Ms. Belinda Rippon**

For those of you who I haven't had the opportunity to meet, my name is Belinda Rippon, and I am your Proud Assistant Principal. To this position, I bring 20 years of experience in elementary education having served as a 5th grade teacher for 13 years, Instructional Consultation Team Facilitator for 3 years, and Data Coach and New Teacher Mentor for the last 4 years. I have lived in the Accomack County School District for the last 15 years and have three children attending schools in the system.

As I finish up my second full month as Assistant Principal of Pungoteague Elementary School, I am overjoyed to have talked to and met so many supportive parents. Pungoteague is truly a community school! It takes all of us working together to ensure that our Bobcats have the best education possible. I look forward to meeting more and more of the Pungoteague community as the weeks progress. Please contact me if I can assist you and your student in any way.