

2019 Panther Press for Parents

MWES Monthly Parent Newsletter - January



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you had an exciting Winter Break, and that you were able to spend time with those you care about most. As school staff, we took this opportunity to rest, rejuvenate, spend time with our loved ones, and re-energize for the second half of the school year. Bring on 2019!



Attendance Matters!

To stay on track in school, students need to be present every day. Missing 18 or more days of school in a year puts a child's high school graduation at risk, according to AbsencesAddUp.org, a national chronic absenteeism prevention campaign. Being absent for just two days every month of the school year can put a child behind academically. Students with regular attendance are more likely to read well by third grade and score higher on tests. They also tend to be more engaged in school and feel better about themselves. Put your child on the path to success with these attendance strategies.

- **Make school a priority.**
- **Make a plan.** *If your schedule or transportation situation makes getting your child to school a challenge, ask for assistance. Make a carpool or transportation plan with other parents or family members.*
- **Report In.** *Know the school's attendance policies. If an absence or early dismissal is unavoidable, call the front office.*
- **Carefully weigh sick days.** *If your child is sick, talk with your health care provider to determine whether (s)he should stay home from school.*
- **Schedule wisely.** *Know the school calendar, and arrange doctor and dentist appointments after school, on weekends, or during holiday breaks, if possible. Resist the urge to schedule vacations when students will miss school. This gives students the impression that school is not a priority.*
- **Help students complete assignments.** *When your child has to miss school, make arrangements with teachers to pick up a packet of make-up work. Ensure that your child follows through, and be available to explain concepts or monitor his/her work.*



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



#schooleveryday

Looking for questions to ask your child about his/her school day? Try these.....

Questions a kid will answer at the end of a long school day:



1. What did you eat for lunch?
2. Did you catch anyone doing something funny?
3. What games did you play at recess?
4. What was the funniest thing that happened today?
5. Did anyone do anything super nice for you?
6. What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
7. Who made you smile today?
8. Which one of your teachers would survive a zombie apocalypse? Why?
9. What new fact did you learn today?
10. Who brought the best food in their lunch today? What was it?



January School Happenings!

01/02/19 - School reopens after Winter Break.

01/02/19 - 01/30/19 . PALS Testing for all new and identified students in grades K-3

01/03/19 - 5th Grade Field Trip to the Eagles Center (Grogan, Valentini, Raton)

01/04/19 - 5th Grade Field Trip to the Eagles Center (Hall, Hinson, Wagner)

01/08/19 - PTO Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

01/09/19 - Yearbook Club Pictures throughout the day

01/09/19 - Girl Scouts Sampler Program, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

01/11/19 - Lockdown Drill

01/16/19 - Fire Drill; Girl Scouts Sampler Program, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

01/21/19 - MLK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED

01/22/19 - 01/25/19 - Mid-Year Language Arts Benchmark Testing (K-5)

01/22/19 - 3rd Grade Field Trip to GMU Center for Performing Arts

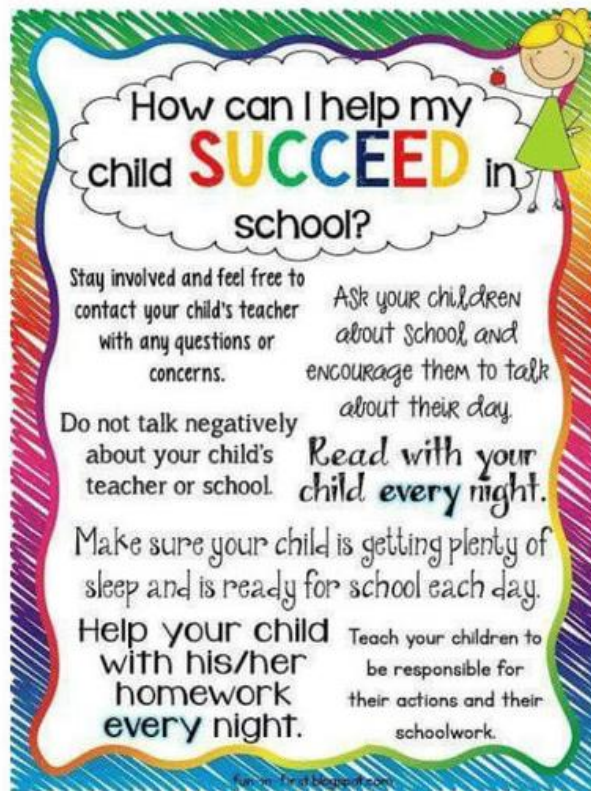
01/23/19 - Girl Scouts Sampler Program, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

01/25/19 - End of 2nd grading period/1st semester; Early Release - Parent/Teacher Conferences

01/28/19 - Teacher Workday - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS; 1st Grade Academic Night, 6:00 pm

01/29/19 - PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm

01/30/19 - Girl Scouts Sampler Program, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.





Students who are involved in extracurricular activities—from chess club to cheerleading to chorus—tend to have higher self-esteem and stronger connections to school. But an overloaded schedule with too many activities can have the opposite effect, leaving your child—and you!—stressed. Aim for 3 activities. Though every child is different, psychologists often suggest involving a child in no more than three activities at a time: one social activity (like Boys' Club or a church group); one physical activity (like gymnastics, swimming, or basketball); and one artistic activity, such as an art class or music lessons.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

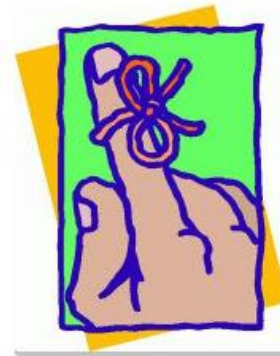
*Please make sure you keep the school office notified of any changes in your contact information.

*As winter has finally set in, all kids should dress appropriately for the weather. If you need assistance with obtaining a winter coat, please contact the school counselors, Ms. Brown or Ms. Myers.

*Students will not be dismissed from the front office after 3:00 p.m. except in emergency situations. Please send in a note or call the school office if your child requires early dismissal.

*Please call the school attendance line at (703) 445-8379 to inform the school if your child will be absent. Send a note regarding the reason for the absence when your child returns to school.

*The My PWCS mobile app gives you the tools you need to keep you up to date while you are on the move. Notifications and emergency alerts keep you aware of breaking news—including those sought after inclement weather messages. The app is your go-to source for information about PWCS. Select the schools that interest you to create customized web and social media feeds. All new is a direct link to the SLMS for parents, making checking on homework easier than ever. Links to contact directories, lunch menus, bus schedules, and other important resources remain available. Search "PWCS" in the [iTunes App Store](#) and [Google Play](#) store. The app is a great way to stay connected to your schools and to get information quickly when rough weather hits.



10 What Questions
to Develop a Growth Mindset
in Children

1. What did you do today that made you think hard?
2. What happened today that made you keep on going?
3. What can you learn from this?
4. What mistake did you make that taught you something?
5. What did you try hard at today?
6. What strategy are you going to try now?
7. What will you do to challenge yourself today?
8. What will you do to improve your work?
9. What will you do to improve your talent?
10. What will you do to solve this problem?

'BEST THING WE CAN DO FOR KIDS... INSTEAD OF TEACHING THEM TO BE SUCCESSFUL... TEACH THEM HOW TO RESPOND WHEN THEY ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL!'

PRINCIPAL EL

Miss Quire

EVERY KID IS ONE CARING ADULT AWAY FROM BEING A SUCCESS STORY.

#PWCSD
www.pwcsd.net/office

	fixed	growth
goals	look smart	learn
what others		
looking up		
achieving		
what others		

Growth Mindset vs Fix...

ed.ted.com

This lesson introduces the ideas of the fixed and growth mindsets to students. What are the benefits of a growth mindset? Watch to find out!






ABOUT US

 Facebook  @MaryWilliamsES

Mary F. Williams was born on August 21, 1932. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Winston-Salem State University and her master's degree in education from Columbia University. Before coming to Prince William County Schools, she taught in New York, New Jersey, and Germany.

Ms. Williams was a teacher at Dale City Elementary School from 1978 until her retirement in 1997. She primarily taught first and fourth grade. During her time there, she served as chairman of the multicultural committee, grade-level chair for first grade, and textbook selection committee representative.

After her retirement, Ms. Williams remained active in education, serving as a volunteer reading tutor at Neabsco Elementary School. She was elected to the Prince William County School Board to represent the Neabsco District and served as a school board member from Nov 1999 until her death on September 16, 2002. During her time on the school board, Ms. Williams established a reputation for dedication, perseverance, and commitment to the education of the young people of Prince William County.

 3100 Panther Pride Drive, Wood...  johnsdb@pwcs.edu
 (703) 445-8376  williamses.pwcs.edu/

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