



Good evening PSPA Middle Grades Students and Parents,

Thank you to everyone who was able to come out and support our 6th Graders in their Motivational Madness presentations on Wednesday! They did such an amazing job, and we are looking forward to announcing the winners after the PBL Showcase this week.

And congratulations to our 8th Graders as they presented their NIMBL presentations on Thursday and Friday to members of our community from Seqirus, NC State, and Rovisys. They had to research and “create” a new vaccine or medication for a health condition, including manufacturing and defense of their product. That was incredible!

Lots of things are going on as we prepare for our EOG/EOC Assessments at the end of May. Remember that the last 10 days of school are reserved for testing and test prep. Once we have a finalized schedule, we will send it out.

Here are some updates for the week:

PBL SHOWCASE

Our 3rd Annual PBL Showcase will take place on **Tuesday, April 15**, from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the middle school gym. Students will be showing off all of the amazing projects from this past school year, along with some fun, interactive activities for you and your family to be a part of it. There is a rolling entry so you can come as you are able. We will have student ambassadors at each of the projects to explain what the goal was in answering our Driving Question. Please come out and bring along some friends!

One of the cool projects that students and families look forward to each year is the...

THE 6TH ANNUAL MARBLE GRAND PRIX IS HERE!

Get ready for an EPIC marble obstacle course designed by our 7th graders—where every grade K-8 gets to compete! Each grade has its own marble color, and the first to cross the finish line wins!

Want to boost your grade’s chances? For every \$5 donation, your team gets an extra marble in the race! More marbles = a better shot at victory and the GRAND PRIZE—a pizza party for the winning grade!

Payments can be made via **Optional Fees** on Infinite Campus!

Be part of the excitement and cheer on your grade LIVE at the PBL Showcase on 4/15!

Race #1 starts at 6:30 PM

Race #2 starts at 7:30 PM

Let's roll, race, and see which grade takes the crown!

*All remaining funds raised will support PBL initiatives at PSPA!

PARENT MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

From our School Counselors, Ms. Breslin and Mr. Windbush

We wanted to reach out and let you know that the Poe Center will be leading a parent meeting on **April 28th from 5:30pm-7:00pm**. We'll be splitting into two separate groups for that event, K-4 in the Elementary school gym and 5-8 in the middle school gym. Our goal is to equip families with skills for teaching their children about self-advocacy, mental health awareness, and resiliency. Here is a brief description:

#YouthCulture: Brain Development, Technology, and Coping Strategies

This program explores how adolescent brain development impacts decision-making and online behavior, particularly in relation to social media. Participants will learn about the latest research on risk and protective factors, and how to support youth in making healthy, empowered choices. The session also addresses the effects of stress on mental, physical, and emotional health, offering practical strategies to build resilience and promote wellness. Attendees will leave with tools and resources to support ongoing conversations with youth.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR TANZANIA

We're organizing a collection drive to provide support and essential school supplies for PSPA's partnership with St. Charles Milimani Pre & Primary School in Tanzania April 14-18.

Please drop off your donations to the drop-off boxes at:
Pine Springs Preparatory Middle School during carpool
OR
4704 Okeechobee Court, Fuquay-Varina

For more information:  **IMG_1410.PNG**

SUMMER BABYSITTING CLASS

Nurse Brothers will be offering babysitting classes in June. Students will learn CPR, basic first aid skills, fire safety, water safety, and learning about how to take care of a newborn up to school aged children. If you are interested in signing up your child, please refer to this [online intake form](#) for more details. The cost is \$65 per student (\$60 for multiple siblings discount). The class is open to rising 6th-9th graders. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact Nurse Brothers at lbrothers@pinespringsprep.org.

END OF YEAR EVENTS

As we are getting closer to the end of the year(!) I wanted to make sure you had some specific dates on your calendar for upcoming evening events.

April 15-PBL Showcase
April 22-Spring Music Concert
April 23-Athletics Recognition Night
April 25-PTO Spring Carnival (Rescheduled)
April 29-Spring Night of the Arts
May 1-NJHS Induction
May 2-8th Grade Semi-Formal
May 22-8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

Please keep an eye out for information about each of these events, including time and location.

ATHLETICS

We have a number of Soccer, Softball, and Baseball games this week. Please come out to cheer on our Pioneers!

<https://www.pspaathletics.org/>

FROM OUR PBL COACH-Updated as of 2/25

Please click on the [linked document](#) to view the current Project-Based Learning units our students are working on.

POSITIVITY PROJECT

This week, our school will focus on the character strength of **Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence**. This means noticing and valuing the world's beauty and people's skills and not taking things for granted.

Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence involves recognizing and enjoying what is admirable. Positive psychology identifies three types of goodness: physical beauty (like sunsets or music), exceptional skills or talents, and moral goodness (like character strengths). Appreciating beauty can inspire awe, skills can generate admiration, and moral goodness can elevate us. These feelings help us forget ourselves and find more joy and meaning in the world.

This strength helps individuals experience positive emotions and connect with the world around them. It is outward-facing, focusing on external beauty and excellence, often leading to deep absorption in awe or admiration, which can help alleviate anxieties. It is also linked to other strengths, such as gratitude, curiosity, love of learning, and purpose.

To practice and encourage this strength at home, please visit The Positivity Project's mobile-friendly P2 for Families (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)), where you will watch a video together and discuss a quote and three questions.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

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[8th Grade Plan Book](#)

[7th Grade Plan Book](#)

[6th Grade Plan Book](#)