



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Quick Links:

- [2023-2024 School Calendar](#)
- [2023-2024 Monthly Calendar](#)
- [Family Engagement Webpage](#)
- [Weather Delays & Closure Info](#)

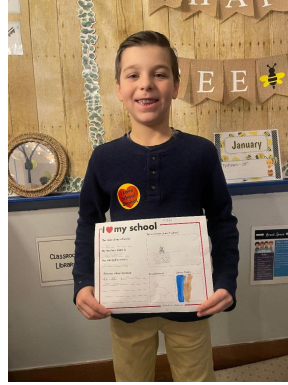
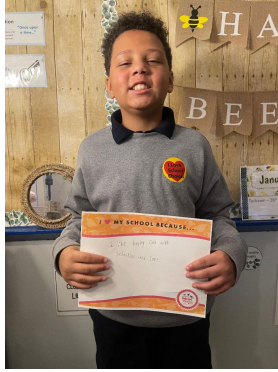
PCS is thrilled to announce our partnership with [LUCA.ai](https://pcs.luca.ai), bringing cutting-edge reading technology, developed in Pittsburgh through collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, directly to our students and families. This is your chance to give your child access to a revolutionary tool that can significantly enhance their reading skills. Be one of the first 100 families to sign up here: <https://pcs.luca.ai/home> using promo code PCSFRIENDS, and enjoy a 6-month LUCA subscription for free. Embrace this unique opportunity crafted specifically for the PCS community!

Each year PCS holds an annual Title 1 meeting to solicit input from families about how our school can best use federal funds through Title I, II, and IV. Please join us at the next Parent Group virtual meeting (March 13, 2024 at 7:00pm) to hear more about these federal funds.

We are in the midst of open enrollment for the 2024-25 school year. Please complete your "Intent to Return" Form (sent by Julie Ewing) and *please* share our school and our/your story with your contacts.

-Mrs. Maria Paluselli, CEO

Principal's Post



Dear Families,

The last few weeks have been filled with many exciting activities. The end of January brought us National School Choice Week where students created posters about why they love PCS. The beginning of February brought us **National School Counseling Week** where we celebrated Mr. Greg Pacoe for all he does at our school!

We also held family/teacher conferences. Thank you to all the families that joined us. It was wonderful getting to see families throughout our building. If you have not already done so please complete this [Conference Evaluation Form](#).

It's **Black History Month** and we aim to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Black history and its significance in shaping our world today. Teachers and students are competing in a school-wide hallway decorating contest that represents Black History. Fourth grade students have been looking closely at Black music influencers through the decades. They will be researching and writing biographies about these musicians. Sixth grade students are studying the art and artists of West Africa by analyzing images and documents related to West African Culture and tying it in with their writing. Students in grades 7 and 8 will discuss the rise of abolitionists, unique elements of Black Culture, and the expansion of the rights of African Americans. Be sure to ask your child what they learned during Black History Month.

February also kicked off our new monthly **homeroom attendance incentive**. The homeroom that has the highest average attendance percentage in each grade will earn a reward. Additionally, the homeroom with the highest attendance percentage in grades 2-8 will earn an additional incentive. Teachers of each winning homeroom will also earn a reward for their positive classroom environments and encouragement of our students to come to school. This incentive will reset on the first of each month through the end of the school year excluding June.

Our **individual attendance incentive** also continues. Any student who misses one or less days of school in February will earn an invite to a pizza party. Absences include all excused and unexcused absences and we will speak with parents regarding food allergies and restrictions.

We will round out February with our Scholastic Book Fair which will be held from **February 26 - March 1**. Students choosing their own books is a milestone opportunity for them to identify and express their own voice while enjoying a good book!

Speaking of milestones, our 3rd grader students created **their very own book** as a final component of their unit on frogs. For students who have historically struggled in reading and writing this is a huge accomplishment and demonstration of perseverance. Students will be reading their books to families at our very first Frog Festival on Thursday, Feb. 15th!!!

While we have many exciting and engaging events happening at PCS, we feel it's an appropriate time to remind families of the impact social media has on our youth. Social media continues to be more and more a part of everyone's lives and at younger ages. While social media has benefits, it also has brought on a number of challenges and problems. Social media is often an antecedent to discipline problems in schools, and as you know, when students make decisions on social media they can have long-term consequences. **So what can you do?**

- One of the best approaches to helping protect children from making poor decisions online is parental awareness and continual discussions at home. Teaching your child how to behave online is one of the most important steps to creating successful digital citizenship.
- If something online makes your child upset or uncomfortable, encourage them to tell you or another trusted adult.
- Be sure you understand how to report inappropriate content and/or block users. Let your child know that by doing this they are keeping the game safe and fun for all users.

The more invested you are in your child's digital activity, the less of a risk it poses to your child and family. Thank you for continuing to partner with us to support your children in school and at home.

-Mrs. Kristy Yonushonis, PCSC Principal

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

We love celebrating our students' successes, so in honor of Valentine's Day we would love to hear one of your feel-good stories!

Fill out this form and share a time when a teacher, staff member, activity, etc. made your child feel happy, successful or special.



CURRICULUM CORNER

Benchmark Assessments

This year Provident Charter School is piloting customized math benchmark assessments across all grades. These benchmark assessments are **fully aligned** with our curriculum framework and are developed in collaboration with our teachers. These benchmark assessments are intended to serve four purposes:

- communicate expectations for learning to all students;
- support planning for instruction;
- monitor and evaluate current instructional program effectiveness; and
- predict future performance on grade level standards.



In the early fall, students participated in our first math benchmark assessment which

focused on evaluating student performance on the most important learning standards from the previous grade level. Student performance data on this assessment helped our teachers and curriculum department create homogenous Tier 2 intervention groups during our WIN (“What I Need”) time to focus on remediating gaps that directly impact future **grade level math performance**. In early December, our students participated in our second benchmark math assessment which measured the impact of our remediation on these targeted previous grade level standards and provided the curriculum department with important insight into what students may benefit from Tier 3 math intervention. We also assessed concepts that were taught during our Trimester 1 core math instruction to ensure that our students were not only retaining grade level concepts, but also were able to **apply those concepts** in novel ways. This important information helps us to evaluate the effectiveness of our current programming.

In just a few short weeks, our students will participate in our third benchmark math assessment. Our students have **shown a significant amount of growth** between Benchmark 1 and Benchmark 2 and that is truly something to celebrate! As we continue to shift the focus of these assessments from previous priority standards to grade level concepts associated with core instruction, it is not unusual for students to fluctuate in their overall performance scores. We are working with our data teams to develop family reports that provide insight into student performance on individual domains and standards as this paints a much clearer picture of overall student growth.

-Mrs. Shannon Iachini, Dir. of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday February 15th - Part 2 of our OCD/Anxiety Mini Series

Register - [Here!](#)



PROVIDENT
CHARTER SCHOOL



The Center for
OCD and Anxiety
Pittsburgh, PA

FEB.
15
6 TO
7:30PM

Are excited to present the OCD/Anxiety Mini Series Part Two

Our initial session delved into various manifestations of anxiety, while this upcoming session is designed to impart fundamental knowledge about Exposure and Response Prevention (ERP), an evidence-based treatment model for OCD and various anxiety diagnoses. Participants will gain insights into applying this approach, along with other family-focused interventions, to alleviate the challenges posed by anxiety and OCD.

Erin Harding and Amanda Meredith from The Center for OCD and Anxiety will again share resources for further support.



QR CODE TO
REGISTER:



March 3rd - SpongeBob Musical Youth Edition

Tickets can be purchased at - showtix4u.com/event-details/80178



FAMILY RESOURCE - PBIDA

PA Branch of the International Dyslexia Association - PBIDA

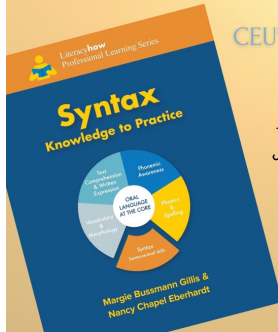
We are fortunate to have a local organization that raises awareness about dyslexia and provides resources for families and professionals. Be sure to take a look at the [PBIDA website](#) where you can:

- sign up for their newsletters
- see upcoming events
- virtual support group for families of children with dyslexia
- virtual support group adults with dyslexia



PBIDA SUMMER BOOK STUDY

Syntax: Knowledge to Practice
by Margie Gillis & Nancy Eberhardt



CEU's will be available!

*Sessions in
June & July*

Registration Opens March

International
DYSLEXIA
Association
Pennsylvania

Leveraging Assistive Technology for Student Success



WITH NANCI SHEPARDSON

Director of Accessibility and Assistive Technology
Solutions at Wilson Language Training

OPEN TO:

TEACHERS
AND
TUTORS
CEU's offered

PARENTS

STUDENTS

APRIL 13 2024

with a virtual follow up session
on May 15

Allegheny Intermediate Unit
475 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120

More information coming soon!

www.pbida.org

-Mrs. Maria Paluselli, CEO & PBIDA Board Member



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