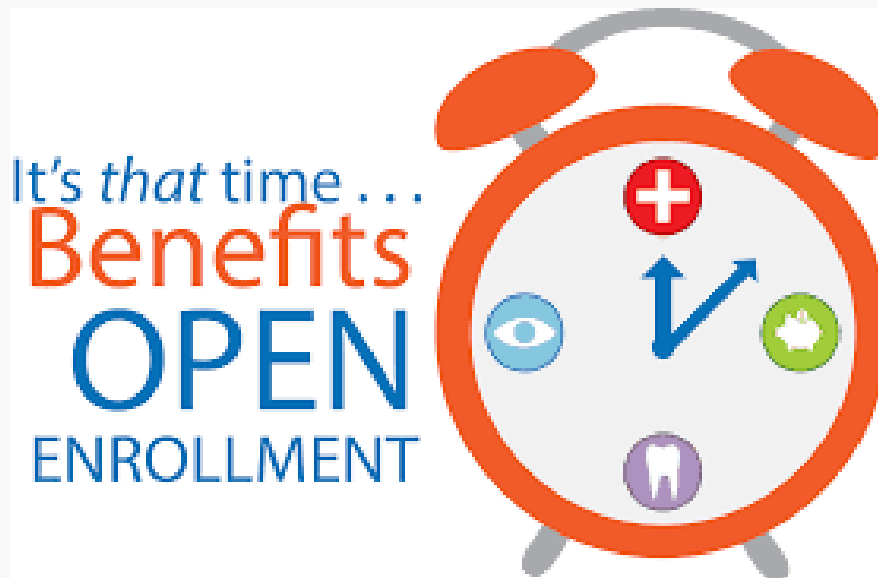


October 15, 2021

Top News

Open Enrollment is Underway!



2022 Open Enrollment Closes October 27. If you do not make changes, your current benefits will remain the same in 2022. The only exception concerns Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), which require you to re-enroll annually.

Virtual Benefits Information Sessions

Attend an upcoming virtual benefits information session with healthcare providers! Two live sessions will be available on each date at noon and 5 p.m. Sessions will be recorded and available for viewing on demand.

Oct. 19: MetLife Supplemental Life and Long Term Disability

Oct. 21: Health Equity/WageWorks FSA

Oct. 26: CVS/Caremark

Oct. 28: INOVA EAP

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Visits Riverdale Elementary for National School Lunch Week



“Food is a big deal for us here!” That’s how Principal Natiqua Riley sums up the importance of student meals for her community, where about 85 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. For [National School Lunch Week](#), U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack toured Riverdale as part of an all-hands-on-deck effort to support school meal programs facing challenges during the pandemic, including supply chain issues.

Nominate a Bus Driver Who Makes You #PGCPS Proud

National School Bus Safety Week



For National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 18 - 22, we have teamed up with the American College of Education to celebrate our colleagues who help transport nearly 90,000 students to school daily! Five drivers will be selected and awarded a \$50 gift card. All nominees will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a chance to win \$1,000 this spring.

[Nominate a Driver!](#)

Meet 2021 PGCPs Hall of Fame Gala Inductees



Next week, the Excellence in Education Foundation will induct five alums into the PGCPS Hall of Fame! This year's honorees include: **Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor**, Distinguished Educator; **David E. Talbert**, Distinguished Professional; **Monty Williams**, Distinguished Athlete; **Laurie Robinson-Haden, Esq.**, Distinguished Humanitarian; **Zerina Akers**, Distinguished Young Leader. **Kaiser Permanente** and the **Prince George's County Health Department** are the recipients of the CEO Award of Excellence. The Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to over 300 deserving students!

[Learn More](#)

Community & School Work to Reengage Students



Under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Program, Port Towns Elementary School has teamed up with the Latin American Youth Center/ Maryland Multicultural Youth Center in an effort to reconnect students struggling with absenteeism and provide wraparound resources to help families sustain regular attendance.

CEO Honored by Washingtonian Magazine



We are PGCPS Proud of CEO Dr. Monica Goldson for being named among the *Washingtonian's* "150 Most Influential Women" and her feature as a 2021 "Outstanding Woman!" Check out pages 45 and 58 of the October issue to learn more and view other honorees.

Next Week: CEO's Budget Listening Session

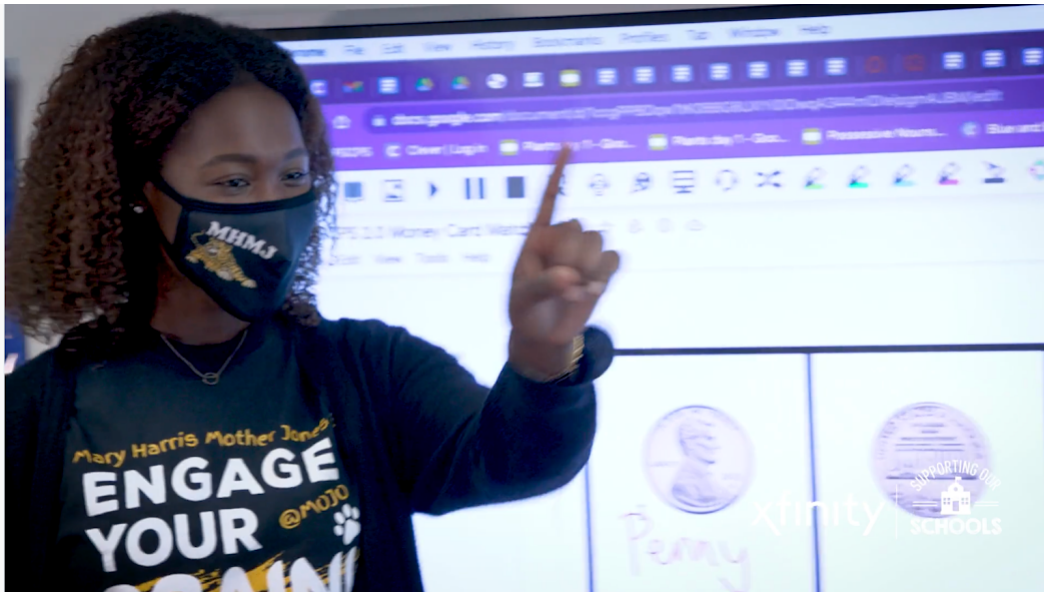
Attend Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson's virtual budget listening session on **Monday, October 18 at 6 p.m.** to offer input on spending priorities for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. To join the listening session: 844-734-8766
Spanish dial-in: 508-924-5155

Tech to Title I: Two Middle Schools Welcome Verizon Innovative Learning

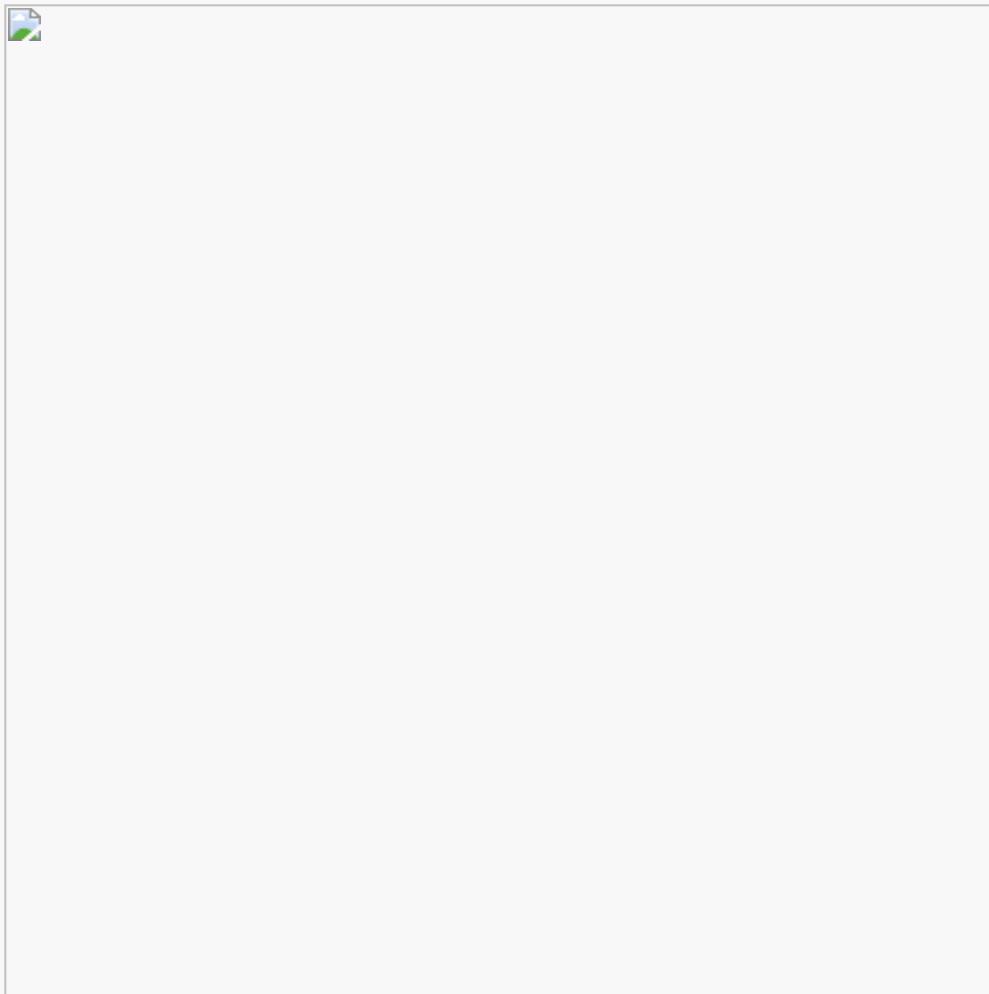


Nicholas Orem Middle School and Samuel P. Massie Academy are among 246 new schools nationwide joining Verizon Innovative Learning Schools for the 2021-22 school year. Verizon's award-winning education initiative addresses barriers to digital inclusion by connecting students with free devices, internet access and innovative learning programs.

Teachers Discuss "Meeting Students Where They Are"



Teachers at Mary Harris "Mother" Jones Elementary School discussed their success supporting students and families through the COVID-19 pandemic, including parent engagement, social emotional learning and rising to the occasion of virtual learning! (Click the images to watch)



Nominate a colleague who makes you #PGCPS Proud by sending their name, office/school, photo and a brief description (100 words or less) to communications@pgcps.org.

Announcements & Professional Development

Apply: Administrative Assistant and Secretary Academy



The Offices of Professional Learning and Leadership and Employee Performance are accepting applications for the inaugural Administrative Assistant and Secretary Academy.

Questions? Contact Nicole Wall in the Office of Professional Learning and Leadership (301-749-5238, x45515) or Dr. Michael Brooks in the Office of Employee Performance (301-952-6240, x41633). **The application deadline is Friday, Oct. 15.**


#TeamPGCPS Paparazzi

Vansville Elementary School
@VansvilleES
08 Oct




Our staff wore purple today to bring awareness to domestic violence. @TaskerAva #pgcpsproud @KasandraLassit4 @cgdingle @MatteisAP <https://t.co/RhFxPAWcOb>

Mary Harris Mother Jones
@MHMJES
02 Oct



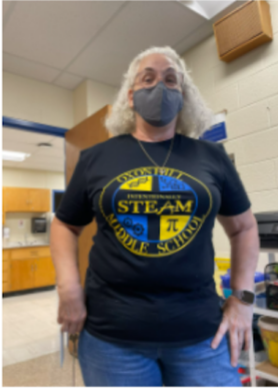
We are so proud of our custodial staff. They make @MHMJES feel like home, clean and safe (and fun) Happy National Custodial's Recognition Day! #TeamPGCPS @pgcps @Title1_PGCPS <https://t.co/5BYpis2vHt>

Mychael Dickerson
@DMDForward
15 Oct



So proud of our PGCPS colleagues Dr. Judy White, Dr. Helen Coley and Dr. Doug Strader. They gave an excellent in depth presentation on how @pgcps is addressing the instructional impact of the pandemic. #PGCPSproud

Oxon Hill Middle School
@oxonhillmiddle
13 Oct



Ms. Keith, Special Education Department Chair, showing off her new OHMS shirt! #PGCPSproud <https://t.co/BkFJecO4W3>

Share the amazing things happening in your classrooms, offices and the community by using the tag #TeamPGCPS on social media.

Hispanic Heritage at Phyllis E. Williams Elementary!



Left to right: First grade teachers Netxy Martinez and Maylin Vega; SPED teacher Wanda McDonald; first grade teacher Ybelices Gonzalez Lana; paraprofessional Aida Rodriguez.

Reminders

October Commemorations

Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Wear pink (Oct. 19)

Bullying Prevention Awareness Month – Wear orange (Oct. 20)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Wear purple (Oct. 21)

Show us how your school or office celebrates! Tag us on social media or share photos: communications@pgcps.org,

Mandatory SafeSchools Trainings

SafeSchools training modules are mandatory for all staff. The training modules are designed to ensure that every employee has the necessary information to establish and maintain a positive, respectful, safe, healthy and lawful culture in which staff share the responsibility for a safe and supportive school environment that contributes to excellence in education. **Round 2 sessions are due by Friday, Oct. 15.** Start trainings now!

Return to Work Guidelines

View Back to Work Guidelines available in the Staff Portal. Questions should be directed to your supervisor and division chief.

STAY CONNECTED

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