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PGCPS Express: School Construction, Hall of Fame Gala, Distance Learning Stars

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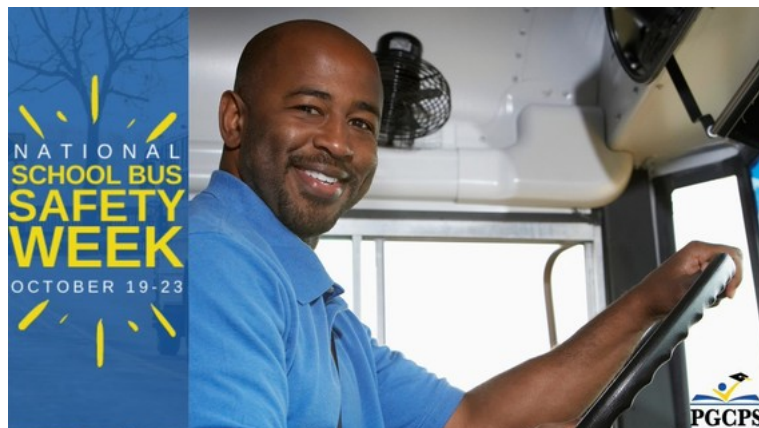
October 23, 2020

Get the Scoop

Moving Forward with School Construction

This week, the Prince George's County Board of Education [voted to approve](#) Prince George's County Education & Community Partners as the preferred builder for the Alternative Construction Finance (ACF) plan to build **six new schools**. This decision follows the recommendation of CEO Dr. Monica Goldson to select the developer as the next step in addressing the school system's aging school buildings through an innovative construction program.

Thanks to Our Bus Drivers!



National School Bus Safety Week is a reminder to keep safety at the forefront! Thanks to our bus drivers for keeping the focus on safety — and for delivering meals across our communities during distance learning. You are appreciated!

Virtual PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala: November 6



The Excellence in Education Foundation will host a virtual [PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala](#) Friday, Nov. 6 on WJLA 24 Hour News at 7 p.m. The event will re-air on Sunday, Nov. 8 on ABC7 at noon.

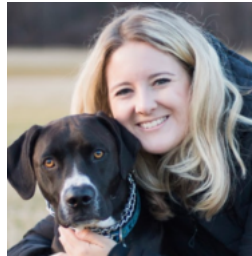
The virtual gala will feature PGCPS alum, on-air personality and author **Cayman Kelly**. Inductees include **Congressman Steny Hoyer** and actor-comedian **Martin Lawrence**.



Top Photo: Employees show off their orange, purple and pink attire to celebrate October commemorations (bullying, domestic violence and breast cancer awareness). [View more photos.](#)

In the Spotlight

PGCPS Pride



Hollywood Elementary School teacher Jacqueline Sank is a standout employee according to her colleagues. Sank, known as the technology guru extraordinaire, has helped students and staff by creating tutorial videos and working one-on-one with staff to address their individual needs. Not to mention, she is still able to provide engaging lessons to her third-grade students.



Friendly High School teacher Dr. Troy Niskey continues to work hard while showing dedication and patience during distance learning. Sterling and Maxine Jones applaud him for motivating their daughter to do her best and for his willingness to try new things to reach his students from a distance.

Media Specialists Share Resources to Support Distance Learning

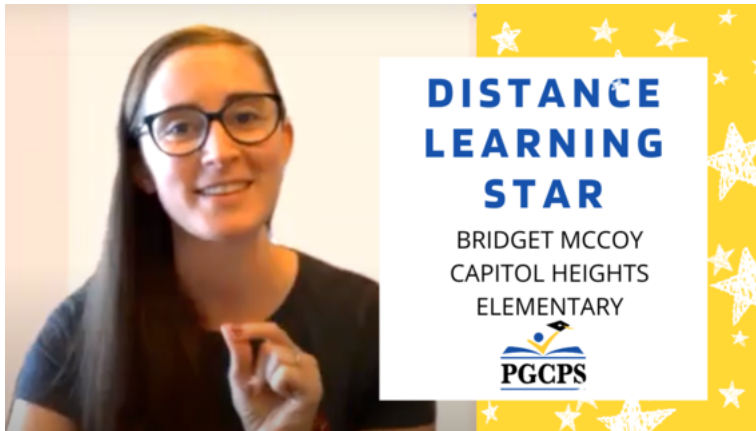


Library Media Specialists Verleta Taylor, Catherine Francoeur and Coquette Petrella recently participated in [Community Conversations](#) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. They shared information on virtual learning and how media specialists are available to help staff, students and parents with resources to support distance learning, including free tutoring and ebooks.

#TeacherTuesday: Sharing Distance Learning Tips



Accokeek Academy teacher Yolanda Body discusses [making learning fun through innovation](#).



Capitol Heights Elementary School teacher Bridget McCoy offers advice on [using your Zoom background to post important information](#).

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. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity or grammar.

Benefits Services: Our Focus Is You

#HealthyPGCPS: October Activities

Fall into good health! Take advantage of a wellness webinar, online weight loss challenge or join the "[Walkober](#)" [social media challenge](#). All activities are available through the Benefits Office and hosted virtually. Classes are open to all employees.

Details are available on the [Employee Wellness Program](#) webpage. For more information, please contact wellness.benefits@pgcps.org.

Announcements

Red Ribbon Week



Red Ribbon Week is observed Oct. 23-31. The purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to increase student, parent and staff awareness of the dangers and consequences associated with illegal drug use.

Share how your school or office marked this special occasion by sending photos to communications@pgcps.org.

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

New Grading Tool

The new GradeMAX tool provides teachers with a spreadsheet like view of students and assignments on one page. Teachers will be able to create an assignment, score an

assignment, and use other features to manage assignment data. [Learn more about GradeMAX](#). Please note that the GradeMAX section starts on slide 24.

MRSPA Mini-Grants Available

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, through its MRSPA Fund, is offering six mini-grants to classroom teachers for special projects or activities not funded through the school system or parent-teacher organization. The deadline to apply is Sunday, Nov. 1. Winners will be notified by January. [Apply now!](#)

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