June 2015

A Message from the Principal...

Mrs. Jennifer Rule

It is amazing how quickly this school year has flown by. As we finish this school year I want to wish our rising 6th graders all the best. I know that all of you will do well as 6th graders at River Bend Middle School. To all our students please be safe, rest and relax and enjoy the summer.

As we end the school year I encourage parents to read the teachers’ newsletters and the school calendar on our webpage to close out the school year. We have some amazing activities and celebrations. Thank you to everyone in being a part of such a wonderful school community.

I wish a fond farewell to those students, families and especially staff members that are leaving Potowmack. Mrs. Elam - 2nd Grade Teacher, Mr. Caramanica-Music Teacher, and Mrs. Hynes and Mr. Havener Teacher Assistants will be departing. We wish you all the best on the next chapter of your lives.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our school community who has given their time to ensure that Potowmack Elementary School is a school of excellence. To our PTA board members that are departing, Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Love, I send a huge thank you. Your devotion to our school community will not be forgotten.

A huge thank you goes to all of our volunteers who have been diligent all year and have gone above and beyond expectations ensuring that our students have additional resources when needed. Our volunteers have provided our students, parents, staff, and community members’ opportunities to come together as a school community and enjoy each other’s company and celebrate our success.

I want to welcome Mrs. Buytenhuys, Mrs. Duley, Mrs. Wike, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Wilkins as our new/returning PTA Executive Board. I look forward to what the new school year will bring with you as we prepare for next year. I appreciate everyone’s efforts and all of your hard work. There is no way I can thank you all for all you do. Just please know that you are an integral part of our school community and your support is appreciated each day. Thank you for making Potowmack Elementary School such an excellent school with such strong family connections.

Congratulations to our very own Mr. Charlish who was nominated for the 2015 Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year. This is such a well-deserved recognition for Mr. Charlish.

Finally, we are already involved with our planning for next year. There are so many exciting things going on for next year. Next year we will have a combination of Half-day and All-day Kindergarten for the first time. We look forward to welcoming all our new students and are excited for what the new year will bring.

Regards, Jennifer Rule

If you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any of our school programs, please contact Jennifer Rule, principal at 571-434-3270 at least five working days prior to the activity.

We’re on the Web! http://www.lcps.org/potowmack
Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES
Cafeteria News: If you have an outstanding balance in the cafeteria we ask that you pay that balance before the end of the school year. We thank you for support in resolving this prior to summer so we will not have to ask families to interrupt their summer vacations and have to come in to the school to pay their remaining balance. Students will not be able to keep a negative balance on their account after June 2nd.

Summer Moves: If you know that you are moving this summer and your child will not be attending Potowmack Elementary in the fall, please call our office 571-434-3270 and talk to one of our secretaries. This information is helpful when we plan for classes for next year.

Lost and Found: The lost and found table inside the cafeteria has been getting smaller. If you get a chance, please stop by the tables inside the cafeteria to reclaim lost items. All items that are not claimed will be donated at the end of the school year.

SOL Testing: Thank you to all the parents for ensuring students were on time for school and for making sure students had plenty of rest for the test. SOL testing went well and overall students did well with all tests being online. 3rd, 4th and 5th grade spring SOL scores will be sent home in a separate mailing sometime in the middle of June.

Library News: The library is a very busy place in June. All library books that students have checked out this year are due back. If you cannot find a book, we ask that you pay for the missing book by writing a check to Potowmack Elementary or sending in cash so we can replace the missing copy.

If you are unable to pay for the book or feel that you have received an overdue message that is a mistake, please contact Michele.rzewskicopeland@lcps.org so we can come up with a solution.

The used book sale is currently going on. All items cost fifty cents. We will use the money from the used book sale to buy new books for the school library next year. The sale is open every day from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM from June 2nd – June 12th. We will also be open all day on June 5th until 7:00 for PTA Bingo night. We have books for people of all ages so stop by and get some great books for summer reading.

This summer, the library is running a reading incentive. Students who read for over 1000 minutes can earn a $5 gift certificate to our fall book fair. To earn the certificate, students must log their minutes on Biblionasium.com beginning June 17th, or students can maintain a paper reading log and turn it in when school starts on August 31st. We also hope that students will sign up for the summer reading program at the Cascades library and attend some of their wonderful programs on Monday afternoons.

Finally, the library at Potowmack will be open for fun activities and book check out on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 on the following dates: 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, and 7/22. Caregivers must remain on site with the children as they complete different STEAM activities with teachers. Watch for details to come home in an upcoming flyer.

Have a great summer and remember to fit in some time to read with your children every day!
Mark your calendar! Back To School Night (BTSN) - Kindergarten Orientation - Parents Only, Please!

Purpose - This evening is to provide parents with important procedural information in order to create a smooth / question free transition into the school year.

AM/PM Kindergarten Orientation - Wednesday, August 26, 2015 6:00 - 7:00 PM

BTSN - Thursday, August 27, 2015

First Session - 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.  ECSE Pre-School, First, Second Grade, and FUTURA

Second Session - 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.  Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade

*** The Potowmack Staff requests that only adults attend this informational session. ***

Open House!

Purpose - This day is to allow students a chance to meet their teacher, see the classroom and deliver supplies that can be stored in their desk ahead of time.

Date - Friday, August 28, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
CONGRATULATIONS! to the 2015 5th grade class as you venture into middle school. Remember the lessons you learned, and turn them into successes.

There is definitely no limit to what you can achieve. Continue to learn what you didn’t know you didn’t know.

We will miss you, but we are excited about the next chapter in your life. This is not the end of 5th grade but the beginning of a new experience. Life is full of beginnings.

Thank your parents who guide you along your way.

Rennea Butler
PTA President

PAReNTS SAY . . .

PTA MEETINGS
PTA Board

The next monthly PTA meeting is scheduled for June 10 at 4:15pm. PTA bylaws will be discussed. Join us if you want to include your input and suggestions. The minutes of upcoming meetings are posted a few days in advance at PTA Meeting Agenda.

We’re on the Web! http://www.lcps.org/potowmack
Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES
Fresh Fruit for Field Day!!

The PTA would like to extend a huge thank you to several of our local area grocers who donated generously so that our students could have fresh fruit for field day this year! Dulles Wegmans donated 5 cases of bananas -- wow!! Additionally, Sterling Park Safeway, Countryside Safeway, Ashburn Village Harris Teeter, and Cascades Giant provided gift cards that allowed us to purchase fresh fruit to provide to our students during this fun Potowmack event.

We also want to congratulate and thank Dominique in Mr. Charlish’s class for having the vision to make fresh fruit for field day a priority this year! Dominique sent a persuasive letter to the PTA in February, asking that we provide all of Potowmack’s students with a fresh fruit option during field day. Dominique’s letter was well-written, thoughtful, and very persuasive. As a result, the PTA voted unanimously during our February meeting to ask local grocery stores for donations in order to meet this important request! We shared Dominique’s letter with the store managers and they also felt this was a worthy cause and were eager to donate fresh fruit to our school for field day! Thanks to Dominique, Dulles Wegmans, Sterling Park Safeway, Countryside Safeway, Ashburn Village Harris Teeter, and Cascades Giant the PTA was able to secure enough bananas for each Potowmack student to fuel up with a healthy, potassium-rich snack during field day this year!

BEACH BINGO
Michele Duley
Allison Buytenhuys

Beach bingo is **Friday June 5**th. Doors open at 6:30 pm and games start at 7:00 pm. More information will be sent home as the date gets closer.

GROCERY STORE CARDS
Graciela Olivares

Don't forget to link or relink your grocery card savings cards to Potowmack. This is FREE money for our school for all the shopping we do there anyway!! Giant: School Code 00003 Safeway: School Code Target Red Card Holders: School Code 1487 Harris Teeter: School Code 7968

If you need additional information please see our PTA website with more detailed instructions on how to sign up or relink your cards online. If you have any questions, please contact Graciela Olivares at g.lucio@att.net
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
Adriana Radu
Linda Smith

Three exciting ASP summer camps - Two (2) STEM Camps for rising 3rd to 6 graders and one (1) Lego Lovers Camp for rising K-2nd graders. You don't have to be a Potowmack student to attend camp. Tell your family and friends!!! The STEM Camps are taught by our very own Mr. Charlish. The Lego Lovers camp is taught by Play Well TEKnologies. Cost - STEM Camp is $150; Lego Lovers is $130.

DATES: STEM Camps (June 22-26) and (July 6-10); Lego Lovers Camp (June 22-26)

All class times are - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Deadline for registration is May 31. Classes fill up quickly. Submit your registration form today.

AMAZON
Graciela Olivares

Did you know that Amazon gives back to schools between 4 and 6% of the total amount of your purchases? All you need to do is shop through the Amazon banner located on our PTA website at Amazon Potowmack Elementary! Bookmark it and share it with friends and family!! Continue to support our school and your students by shopping on Amazon.com. Click here Amazon Potowmack Elementary.

Angie Ignazzitto

The i-Ready Math Incentive Program has come to a close for this school year as of Friday, May 29th. Please remember to turn-in the Home Tracking Log in the PTA box in the front office by Wednesday, June 3rd. We are proud to announce that there was a lot of interest in this program, with a high level of participation in every grade level at Potowmack. Thank you for being a part of this new math incentive program.

Mrs. Rizalvo and I would sincerely appreciate your feedback about the program and kindly ask that you take a few minutes to respond to a short survey so that we can continue to improve this program for the upcoming school year. You can find the survey by going to Potowmack’s website. As you look across Potowmack’s home web page, you’ll notice ‘Resources’ – Please click on ‘Resources’ - then on ‘i-Ready Math Incentive Program’ – then click on ‘i-Ready Math Incentive Program Survey’ which can be found on the bottom left-hand side of the web page.
Thank you once again for participating in and supporting this new math incentive program. We hope that you’ll consider participating in the i-Ready Math Incentive Program during the 2015/2016 school year. If you have any questions with respect to this program, please contact Angie Ignazzitto at angie20165@yahoo.com / 703-431-4860.

**The Sweet Frog gift cards will be distributed Monday, June 8**

**th**

**Enjoy your free Sweet Frog yogurt – You earned it!**

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

* Maura Greenman

Odyssey of the Mind wrapped up the 2014-2015 season with a fine showing by our "Runaway Train" team of K-4th graders at the State tournament March 18th. The kids wowed the judges with their intricately engineered track and vehicle, outlandish and humorous performances, and wonderful teamwork. While a technical difficulty kept them from placing, they learned a lot and ready to try, try again next year!

Huge shouts of gratitude to all the families who made OM possible this year. Whether you coached (thank you, Hemanth Setty, Rupesh Vadrev, Bette Jo Gonzales, Rachna Argarwal, Amanda Moore and Jimmy Lewandowski), judged (Jeanne Peterson, Monika Lomba, Jace Greenman, Lorrie Greenman, Jennifer Connell), volunteered (Meredith Murray, Linda Gross) brought snacks, or simply enabled your child to experience this challenging, fun, and rewarding program, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

OM at Potowmack will continue next year with the leadership of the Setty family. Dad, Hemanth, and Mom, Monika, embrace the true spirit of OM: seeking the extraordinary in the ordinary; and facilitating learning through guiding their dedication, patience, and encouragement.

Keep your eyes and ears tuned for details about how YOU can get involved next year. It's been a great run, PMK. I'll see you around the 'bend...

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

* Rennea Butler

Thank you to those who have stepped up to volunteer in the 2015-2016 school year. While many of our volunteers are 5th grade parents who will be moving on to middle school with their student, there are a few positions left. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the positions listed below, please email Pmkpta@outlook.com.

Campbell's Soup Labels
Fund Raiser
Grocery Receipts
Reflections
Restaurant Nights
School Supply Kits
Skate Night
MSAAC
Linda Smith
Linda Ables

Recent meeting discussions centered around diversity among teachers. Questions were raised about retaining diversity. Survey why teachers stay and why they leave. Additional information is at the MSAAC website.

SEAC
Jackie Baker
Danielle Bischoff

The May SEAC meeting recognized those schools who received the Excellence in Special Education Award. To see the list go to recipients.

This recognition is an important way for the LCPS community to thank those who excel at helping LCPS students who are receiving special education to experience success.

LEAP
Denise Washington
Rennea Butler

LEAP met on May 13 and discussed safety for students. The primary topic was drug use. An officer from D.A.R.E. spoke about the program and its success. A slide show demonstrated the types of drugs that they find and where they come from (Mexico, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Colombia). They held election of the new LEAP officers for 2015-2016. New officers are:

President Rennea Butler
VP, Communications Phil Lo Presti
VP, Programs Eileen Altenburger
Secretary Melissa Ganz
Treasurer Juana Kazmierczak

DID YOU KNOW
Loudoun County Public Schools have an online parent resource center at Parent Resources. Information include SEAC meetings, workshop schedules, community events, and much more. The 2015 – 2016 school calendar has been approved. To see the year in advance, click on 2015-2016 school calendar.
Save your General Mills box tops. You can drop them off in the school office to be converted to cash. The money goes right back into your child’s school. Please send any ideas and suggestions to rennea.butler@outlook.com.

EVENTS
The Assembly team

Smithsonian TechQuest Game: Eye in the Sky
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
Jun 6, 2015
Jun 12, 2015
Jun 13, 2015
Jun 27, 2015

VHSA Hunter Horse Shows
Jun 21, 2015
Jul 25, 2015
Aug 2, 2015
Sep 19, 2015
Oct 11, 2015
Fox Chase Farm
23323 Foxchase Farm Lane
Middleburg, VA 20117

Spectacular Science Show* with Mad Science of Washington
Cascades Library
Monday, Jul. 20, 2:30 pm

Jun 5 Beach Bingo
Jun 9 Field Day
Jun 10 PTA meeting 4:15pm
Jun 16 5th Grade graduation
Jun 16 Last day of school

Jun 22 S.T.E.M. camp
    LEGO camp
July 4 Independence day
Jul 6 S.T.E.M. camp
Aug 26 AM/PM K orientation
Aug 27 BTSN
Aug 28 Open house
Aug 31 First day of school

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER

Click here
ASP SUMMER LEGO LOVERS CAMP

Dream it. Build it.
Wreck it. Repeat.
Kids are already naturally gifted creators. Then they get added inspiration from our specially trained instructors. They dive into our massive collections of LEGO®. And while they build elaborate objects, structures and vehicles, they explore fundamental principles of engineering and physics. They also learn to collaborate and create without fear of mistakes. The experience is joyful, the impact long-lasting.

Engineering with LEGO® Summer Camp at Potowmack Elementary
LEGO Lovers | June 22 - June 26 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Class Limit: 24 Students | Grades: K - 2 | Price: $130 | Please detach and return to PTA with payment. Make checks payable to Potowmack Elementary PTA.

Child’s Name______________________ Grade_____________ Parent/Guardian
Name____________________________
Cell Phone______________________ Work Phone__________________________
Email____________________________
Emergency Contact Name_________________________
Emergency Contact Number_______________________
Allergies/Medical Concerns (List on back of form): YES  NO
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - MAY 31.
Beach Bingo

Friday, June 5th

Doors open at 6:30pm Bingo begins at 7:00pm

Prepaid Order Form

It’s almost the end of the school year….can you believe it? Let’s celebrate the beginning of summer with a night of Beach Bingo. Come with your friends and family for one of the school year’s last events and have a fun night out!

Avoid lines at the door and pre-order your Bingo cards, raffle tickets, and daubers (ink stampers). The dauber color will be on a first come, first serve basis on Bingo night.

**NEW THIS BINGO – You can also pre-order using www.pay4schoolstuff.com (Note: there will be a small processing fee).**

Pizza from Dominos will be available for purchase by the slice or as a whole pizza at our concession table and we will be selling sub sandwiches from Jersey Mikes so come ready to have dinner! Drinks, snacks, and candy will also be on sale. The 5th graders will host a bake sale.

We will also have some fun raffle prizes. Each pre-order will receive 2 FREE raffle tickets. Additional raffle tickets may be pre-purchased using this form or purchased at the door.

We need volunteers to help with set up, to sell bingo cards at the door, to run the concessions, and to help with clean-up. Please use the check boxes at the bottom of this form to specify how you can help. Please email Michele Duley at michele_duley@yahoo.com with any questions or to offer your help for that night.

Please return this portion of the form with your payment NO LATER than Wednesday, June 3rd.

Student Name: ___________________________________________________________ (name used for pick-up)
Email address: ___________________________________________________________ (for confirmation)

Please specify the quantity below:

_____ x $5.00 large packet = 3 Bingo cards per game
_____ x $2.00 small packet = 1 Bingo game per card
_____ x $.50 for each extra raffle ticket
_____ x $1.50 dauber

$ _______________Total for Order

____ I can help set-up
____ I will volunteer to sell tickets at the door
____ I will help with concessions
____ I can help clean-up

Please make checks payable to Potowmack Elementary PTA.