A Message from the Principal…
Ms. Jennifer Rule

Hello SOARing Eagles. Our teachers have been working very hard with parent teacher conferences and finalizing 1st quarter report cards. Please review the report card and feel free to contact your child’s teacher if you have questions.

We had a very busy October. Our Inaugural Walk a Thon was a huge success. This event raised $14,000 which will be used to purchase technology for the school. Potowmack was recognized as an Energy Star award recipient. This is our seventh year being recognized for our commitment to environmental education and stewardship through the Virginia Naturally program. We are The Virginia Naturally Recognized School for our commitment to environmental education and stewardship of Virginia’s natural resources for three years. The PTA hosted our costume BINGO. This event celebrates our community and brings our families into the school which is so appreciated. Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring such wonderful event.

In November we will be celebrating American Education Week. Classroom teachers will be notifying parents of the schedule of the events for the week and I imagine that most parents will be here more than once. We look forward to seeing everyone and showing you the special talents of our students. Don’t forget to stop by the book fair.

Thank you to our parents who continue to get our students here on time. It is great seeing everyone here on time and ready to learn.

I want to thank the Potomac Falls High School seniors who participated in a community service project at Potowmack Elementary. We had around 15 seniors volunteering all over the school.

If you need my assistance at any time please do not hesitate to contact me. As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches I hope you enjoy your family and friends that are dear. Each year I am thankful for working in such a wonderful community.

Jennifer Rule, principal
Potowmack Elementary
46465 Esterbrook Cir.
Sterling, VA 20165

Phone: (571)434-3270
Fax: (703)444-7526
E-mail: Jennifer.rule@lcps.org

We’re on the Web!
http://cmsweb2.lcps.org/potowmack/site/default.asp
Pursuit of Excellence—
Known for their strength in flight, bald eagles soar above the rest as one of the most majestic creatures in the sky. With power and balance they fly miles above the earth, catching warm air currents to lift them thousands of feet into the air. Keen vision gives the eagles the ability to see far-off challenges, soaring through each pursuit with great success. With you we soar to new heights.

Library News - Dr. Copeland
It is almost time for the Scholastic Book Fair! This year, our book fair will begin on Thursday November 13th and will run through Friday November 21st. We will be open daily from 7:30 AM until 3:00 PM (except the last day when we close at 1:00). We will be open early for Donuts for Dads on Friday November 14th and we will be open late until 8:00 for Stories Under the Stars on Monday November 17th. We hope you will stop by the book fair during these special events or when you come to visit your child’s classroom for American Education Week.

Stories Under the Stars will be very special this year. Some of our former staff members will be returning to read stories with us, and current staff are reading as well. Guest readers include the following: Mrs. Rule, Mr. Blubaugh, Mrs. Engelmann, Mrs. Nguyen, Mrs. Galvan, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Turman, and Officer Wilson. Readers will begin their presentations at 6:30, so come early to shop the book fair and visit with former teachers. Cookies and drinks will be served in the cafeteria at 7:30, so please plan to stay for the whole event. See you there!

A Message from the Assistant Principal...
Ms. Nahid Haidari
PBIS: The cafeteria incentive for October was to earn a Country and Western themed lunch. Classes that soared in the cafeteria for October will be announced on Wed. Nov. 5 and will earned the Country and Western Spirit Day for on Friday November 7. The class that wins for outstanding cafeteria behavior will be announced as the cafeteria class of the month in the cafeteria on the morning news show on Wednesday, October 5.

In the month of November students are trying to earn 250 tickets by show respect, responsibility and effort. If students earn 250 eagle tickets we will have an assembly on November 14th. The assembly will be a student/teacher Turkey Bowl “Football” Game.

We’re on the Web!
http://cmsweb2.lcps.org/potowmack/site/default.asp
First grade is finishing up their large leaf watercolor resist paintings. Students talked about the fall season and what happens during this time. We then took a look at some different leaves in Virginia and they were able to choose one to draw for their artwork. We then traced the leaf with a green crayon and painted our leaves with warm colored watercolors using the wet on wet painting technique. We then created a background using watercolors and the cool colors. When our background dried we cut out our leaves and glued them on. Afterwards, we will then talk about the primary colors and how to create a collage inspired by Eric Carle.

The second graders are finishing fall scene using black paper to make their silhouettes. We will also be starting our first clay project. Students will be asked to collect leaves from around where they live and bring them in to art in a plastic bag with their names on them. Please make sure the leaves are at least the size of their hand or bigger. We will be using the slab technique to roll the leaves out into the clay. After we have rolled out enough leaves we will be using them to create a bowl!

Third grade is working on a fall scene with pumpkins and oil pastels. We first took a look at still lives and how to create one of our own. Students observed realistic pumpkins in the classroom and created practice sketches. We then used these sketches to create our realistic landscape. Students were asked to draw at least 3 pumpkins in their piece, along with a horizon line, one pumpkin in the foreground and one in the background and two that overlap one another. We are now coloring them in with oil pastels. Keep checking out Artsonia site for updated pictures of student work!

The fourth graders are learning about Gargoyles. Students got to take a look back in time at where gargoyles began and how they have changed over the years up to today and the ones that are on the National Cathedral in DC. They then sketched their own idea of a gargoyle that we will be recreating out of clay during the next few weeks. Be sure to check out Artsonia for updated images of student work.

Fifth grade is creating a still life piece through observation. Students looked at some pumpkins in the classroom and created a drawing of them from real life. We will talked about Georgia O’Keeffe and her art and gather inspiration from her flower paintings for our piece. Students used glue to outline their drawings and oil pastels to complete it. We talked about color and how to choose different colors to blend them together. When we finished coloring the pumpkins students then used the complementary color to fill in the background. Be sure to check out our Artsonia page to see the finished works!

Please keep a look out for information on the Original Works program from the PTA and check out our school art on the Artsonia website:

https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=4128

I would also like to recognize Daniel in third grade and the effort our school made to move him up in the contest. He did come in second place! Congratulations Daniel!! If you see artwork that you enjoy please leave a comment and let that artist know!
Citizenship Awards for October

Congratulations To the following students who were recognized for outstanding citizenship for Respect, Responsibility or Effort!

Mrs. Mays
Catherine Brandenstein
Nathan Tung
Reagan Bischoff
Andrew Pawlowski
Kyle Hesson
Isabella Gallo

Ms. Gaudens
Gelena Argueta
Isabella Si
Rachel Aguilar

Mrs. Galvan
Brienne Ma
Kim Paz Parada
Parker Allman

Mrs. Kee
Sophia Flynn
Nicholas Pierson
Bishop Campbell

Mrs. DiCarlo
Anna Cummings
Andrea Quintanilla
Ventura
Ryan Copeland

Mrs. McDermott
Siona Srivastava
Matthew Cogbill
Ella Kane

Miss Rupard
Zaky Siddiqui
Nicole Babb
Caden Lesser

Miss Turman
Riyam Albaldawi
Max Scarlett
Jaqui Aguirre

Miss Elam
Munther Ahmed
Steven Gonzales
Kevin Weltens

Miss Stanford
Sebastian Hyde
Ashley Lainez Chavez
Michael Strange

Ms. Richardson
Johnny Opiola
Charlotte Adam-Easkold
Michael Masini

Miss Chrisman
Ian Ibsen
Molly Buytenhuys
Makenna Dadlani

Mr. Charlish
Erin Bray
Eliana Speckhardt
Katie Moore

Mrs. Donovan
Alex Lindsey
Lauren Ignazzitto
Francisco Alvarez

Mrs. Leibach
Elijah Adegbenu
Alexa Osorio
Ali Shukrullah
Tabita Gastiaburu

Mrs. Thunstrom
Alyssa Reinke
Natalie Wike
Ariel Huertas

Mrs. Snow
Ashley Martinez
Victoria Salinas
Peyton Moyer

Ms. Shultz
Maya Eriksen
Ali Al-Haddad
Homira Koragaine

Miss Phillips
Alana Brauns
Dillon Turner
Togen Floch

Mrs. Hazlett
Cristian Abarca
Daniel Guzman
Laurena Hytten

Mrs. King-Worner
Ben Kitcoff
Luis Ruano-Campos
Carris Morris

Miss Murray
Sumaya Mohammed
Darya Mansouri
Aiden Piece

Mr. Gall
Colson Merrill
Tara Pirooz
Hasita Ravula

We’re on the Web!
http://cmsweb2.lcps.org/potowmack/site/default.asp
Teaching Technology: DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

For November, we will look at Balance the Time.

As Fall Break approaches, parents start worrying about finding child care while they work or about keeping their children occupied during all this time off. (And you better start thinking, because it’s a long Winter Break this year!) It’s easy as parents, who manage jobs, volunteer time, multiple children, taking care of the home, taking care of relatives, and – yes – themselves (gasp!) to simply suggest “Just go on your iPad!” However, our young children need to be taught and understand the importance of well-rounded, balanced, extra-curricular activities. Just like we eat balanced meals to keep our bodies healthy, having well rounded extra-curricular activities keeps our mind healthy.

While going through my training to become a Common Sense Education Certified Educator, I came across this piece of data. My mind was blown.

The decision to limit screen time, or even at what age to introduce screen time is a personal/family decision. However, many experts agree that parents should consider the following when setting guidelines for their family. And remember, this is not a “One size fits all” approach.

- Amount of Play Time
- Age-Appropriateness
- Health and Obesity
- Addiction
- Safety Concerns
- Violence, Aggression and Misbehavior

We’re on the Web!
http://cmsweb2.lcps.org/potowmack/site/default.asp
There are many ideas available that won’t take much effort on your part. Creating a nature scavenger hunt could keep children busy AND get them outside. Collecting items from nature and creating crayon rubbings is always fun. Cup stacking with SOLO cups, helping you bake, raking leaves are always fun things for kids to do.

I found websites that had other fun ideas:
http://frugalfun4boys.com/2014/03/16/survival-guide-sick-pregnant-mom-kids-activity-ideas/
http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/03/50-simple-outdoor-activities-for-kids.html

Good Luck, and Happy Fall!

-Mrs. Rizalvo
(mom of a 2 ½ year old & full time teacher)

I can get him to anything as long as it’s in a tent! Everything is more fun in a tent!

I found great - realistic - ideas on Pinterest for last winter’s 15 snow days 😊
Please Join Us!!!

American Education Week Activities
Potowmack Elementary School
2014-2015

Monday, November 17 - Friday, November 21
All Week - Scholastic Book Fair

Monday, November 17
Stories under the Stars 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
2nd Grade Activities

Tuesday, November 18
1st and Kindergarten Grade Activities

Wednesday, November 19
Restaurant Night

Thursday, November 20
3rd and 4th Grade Activities

Friday, November 21
5th Grade Activities
Fall is in the air. Thanksgiving is around the corner. Remember to bundle up. School activities are abundant. ASP began this month. GOTR and RWTS is in full swing. If you ever have questions, don’t forget you can contact any board member, and we’ll have an answer for you. Enjoy a happy Thanksgiving.

Rennie Butler
PTA President

PARENTS SAY . . .

We just wanted to let the PTA know how much we appreciated them hosting Crazy Hair Day and helping us raise $1396.45 for Childhood Cancer Research!!

Thank you,
The Choe Family

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND (OM)
Maura Greenman

Our Odyssey of the Mind kick-off meeting was a success! Potowmack is proud to be fielding 3 OM teams this year. Mark your calendars now to come out and cheer them on at the Regional Competition: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015 @Park View HS. 8AM-3PM.

Odyssey of the Mind is an out-of-the-box problem-solving competition where teams of 7 kids work together to compete by presenting both an 8-minute dramatic and/or engineering and/or artistic performance AND a ~15 minute spontaneous challenge. It’s very creative, colorful and loads of fun. (Oh, and cheering on is free. J). We’d love your support!

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
NO SALE YARD SALE
Linda Smith
Helen Lin
Judy Schmid

The PTA wants to give a big thanks to all the parents who have donated clothes for our No Sale Yard Sale, which will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 to Noon. Admission to the sale is a grocery store gift card or monetary donations in support of our Annual Thanksgiving Drive.

If you don't have clothes to donate, but would like to help, grocery store gift cards and monetary donations can be dropped off at the Front Office. Please submit the donations in an envelope marked "PTA No Sale Yard Sale".

We thank you for your support.

GREEN TEAM KIDS
Ines Perez

Congratulations to the students who will be on the Garden Team this year. Every entry was extraordinary.

The students who will join the garden team are:

Morgan Duley - King-Woerner
Joseph Swarm - King-Woerner
Julia Donovan - King-Woerner
Nadra Shabbeer - King-Woerner
Carris Morris - King-Woerner
Colson Merrill - Gall
Alana Brauns - Phillips
Alexie Guy - Phillips
Bhavya Guduru - Murray

Sarah Khan – Murray

The Green Team meets every other Monday to discuss how we can keep our school clean, conserve energy, and plan campaigns for a greener school.

PTA MEMBERSHIP
Brenda Ulrich

Membership registration remains open? Your membership dues of only $10.00 helps to pay for video conferencing, assemblies, allotments for the staff to use in their classrooms at all levels, instructional supplies like novel sets, owl pellets in fifth grade, embryology supplies for third grade, Scholastic newsletters and Time for Kids newspapers, fifth grade luncheon supplies, DARE supplies, butterfly supplies for second grade, art, music and P.E. supplies, field day, Doughnuts with Dad, PSO support, WATCH DOG supplies and hospitality events for the staff.

To join, just write your name, your child’s name and teacher on paper. Put it in any envelope with either cash or a check made out to Potowmack PTA-label it Membership and send to school with your child. Dues are 10.00 for 1 parent or 20$ or both parents. Contact brendaandglenn@comcast.net with any questions.
MATH INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Angie Ignazzitto

The new PTA sponsored math incentive program which will be a fun, Internet-based, interactive program. Our plan is to have the new math incentive program up-and-running during the second semester of the current school year. You can find the Math Superstars worksheets for practice at home on our school website under the “Resources” drop down menu and then click on "Math Superstars" to locate the worksheets for each grade level. If you have any questions, please contact Angie Ignazzitto at Angie20165@yahoo.com or (703) 431-4860.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

MSAAC
Linda Smith
Linda Ables

Each Cluster reported on the activities, such as, Breast Cancer Awareness, PSAT/SAT preparation, and Homecoming events
MSAAC Chair talked about the topic "Excellence - Equity = Excellence. Important to create equity for all children. Dr. Tyler discussed the State of LCPS - How to address the Gap/closing the Gap?
Conversation with Superintendent, Eric Williams - topics such as, "Are we doing our best at engaging, challenging and supporting our students? Having a

SEAC
Jackie Baker
Danielle Bischoff

The October 1st presentation was INCLUSIVE

PRACTICES: PART I, featuring LCPS Deborah Dupree, Programs and Services Supervisor, and Megan Wagner, Elementary Special Education
Supervisor. The presentation included inclusive practice frameworks currently in place in LCPS, outcomes for schools utilizing the frameworks, and how administrators learn about best practices. A copy of the presentation is available at www.lcps.org/seac, click on 2014-15 Presentations on the left menu bar.

October is Disability History and Awareness Month. Please share the attached document with your school administrators for ideas so that your school can participate. Additionally, send us your photos of the school participation (morning announcements, posters, book displays, etc.) for us to share on the SEAC Facebook page. Send photos to lisaglasgow.seac@gmail.com.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to the Parent Resource Center, www.lcps.org/prc, to learn about upcoming programs and workshops of interest to the disability community and to seek information about LCPS special education programs and services. This is a wonderful parent resource and parents are urged to utilize the PRC.

LEAP
Denise Washington
Rennea Butler

Superintendent Dr. Eric Williams outlined his vision for the school system. Williams centered his presentation on three areas: 1) Instruction: teaching and learning, 2) Strategic planning: making a great school division even better and 3) Developing a budget for the next fiscal year.

Williams doesn’t want instruction in Loudoun’s schools to become; a vehicle to create competent test-takers. “What all this relates to is not having a content-coverage mentality…Content and competencies of the curriculum need to be taught... Yes we want our students to do well on standardized tests. We need to aspire to so much more than that.” To make sure Loudoun expands and builds on its successes, Williams is undertaking a strategic plan for the school division. I think it’s crucial that we have the questions about where we want to go and how we want to get there. The School Board has said, “We want to commission a process where we’re going to go to the community and say what our vision should be to the year 2020 and beyond.” Williams said three principles will guide the LCPS staff as it develops the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget: “Having a success mentality, being strategic and being transparent.” “I want to bring that analytical, reflective and obsessed-with-the-numbers-in-the-budget approach to the budget development process.” Williams expects the proposed budget to be larger than the current budget. “We’ve got some expensive bills to pay.”

SURFICIAL LIVING
Jen Wike

The LCPS School Board Wants Your Input
The LCPS school board is asking for parent input as they consider two items:

Elementary School Playgrounds
Should the county cover the cost of building elementary school playgrounds with the funds budgeted when a school is built, similar to high school stadiums, or should it continue to be paid for by parent-teacher organizations and private donors? The Board of Supervisors has asked the School Board to provide their feedback and the school board is interested in your opinion as they consider asking the county to ensure whether or not elementary schools are built with playgrounds. To learn more, go to this article from the Washington Post on October 24, 2014:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/loudoun-to-weigh-whether-taxpayers-or-donors-should-pay-for-playgrounds/2014/10/24/0a94ae70-5ac0-11e4-b812-38518ae74c67_story.html

How can you provide your feedback?
You can contact:
Debbie Rose (Algonkian District Representative) at Debbie.Rose@lcps.org
Kevin Kuesters (Broad Run District Representative) at Kevin.Kuesters@lcps.org
Thomas Reed (At Large Representative) at Thomas.Reed@lcps.org
AND/OR the general School Board account at lcsb@lcps.org

Your voice is important and the school board wants to hear from YOU!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering, the following opportunities are available. Please contact Rennea.butler@outlook.com with questions or to sign up.

Donuts with Dad – 11/14/14 – Help to guide students and parents during breakfast and distribute food.

Fall Book Fair – 11/14/14 – 11/21/14 - Help parents and children with selecting books, sort the selling products, and ring up purchases for students and parents.

5th Grade Level Coordinator
Work with the each classroom Rep to inform and advise of school events and coordinate the distribution of information to parents.
DID YOU KNOW
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.

PTA membership is only $10 per person. If you want to join the PTA, please send in your fee with your child to school.

Please send any ideas and suggestions to rennea.butler@outlook.com or wendylove@mac.com

There are various ways to communicate with us at school including, but not limited to ConnectEd, PIMS, and the monthly newsletter. A complete list of communication resources will be provided soon.

EVENTS
by The Assembly Team

Barefoot Puppets Presents: Trickster Tales
November 12, 10:00 AM @ Franklin Park Performing Arts Center
(All ages) Can a spider defeat an elephant at tug-of-war? Overpower a python? Capture a cloud of hornets? With Anansi the Spider, the world famous trickster, all things are possible - if you only have a plan! This show brings traditional stories from West Africa to live with expressive rod puppets, original music, and lots of puns. Performed on a large, twelve-foot stage with colorful scenery and amazing scene changes, it's a high-energy show with lots of laughs! Reserve seats by calling us!

My First Book Club
Cascades Library
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 4:00 pm
Books by Arnold Lobel (Frog & Toad, Mouse Soup, etc.)
For Grades K-1.
Registration required

123 Math & Science: Popcorn Science
Cascades Library
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 4:00 pm
Popcorn is more than just a delicious treat, it's a chemical reaction wonder. See, hear, touch, smell and taste the science behind popcorn.
For Grades 3-5.
Registration required, begins Nov 4.

Nov 6 Restaurant night – Chuck E. Cheese
Nov 8 No Sale Yard Sale
Nov 12 PTA meeting 7:30am
Nov 12 Teacher luncheon
Nov 14 Donuts with dad
Nov 14-21 Fall book fair
Nov 26-28 Thanksgiving holiday

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