



## A Note from the Principal

It is hard to believe how quickly the school year has passed and come to an end. I would like to thank you for your faith, trust, and commitment to the mission of Phenix City Elementary School: Soaring Beyond Expectations. We appreciate your involvement here at PCES and we will continue to put your child first in everything we do! This was a very busy year and you, as partners in education, played a great role in making it a success!

Although it is a hectic time of year, it is the time when I most realize how blessed we all are to be part of the PCES Family. Parents and teachers commit their time and energy every day toward creating a nurturing environment in which children can thrive! We wish our fifth grade students all the best as they journey on to PCIS. Fifth grade graduation is a time for celebration and reflection on your child's education and the impact it has made on each student, and parents proudly see their child as a PCES graduate:

- An effective communicator
- A reflective and creative thinker
- A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner
- A collaborative contributor to society who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work
- A caring family member
- A responsible citizen

In closing, I take this opportunity to congratulate all students of Phenix City Elementary! I wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer. Please be sure to take time as a family to talk, play, and pray together. I look forward to seeing you all in August. Those families who are not returning to our school will continue to be in our prayers as you make your journey on to new places.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Averett, Principal

Phenix City Elementary School



## Tips For the End of the Year



Even when tests are over and report cards are filed, students are still soaking up those last bits of curriculum they need before they advance to the next grade. Teachers must dig deep in their bag of tricks to keep students from coasting - or bouncing off the walls - until the last bell rings, and parents do, too. But don't worry, these tips will help get your little scholar through the home stretch with your sanity intact.

- Stick to routine:** As tempting as it is to slip into summer-relaxed mode, don't abandon the routines and structures you've relied on all year.
- Take it outside:** Research shows that spending more time outdoors improves children's concentration in school, lessens aggression and improves their ability to cooperate.
- Plan ahead:** Get a head start on preparing your child to make the transition from one grade to another, and from in-school learning to summer learning.
- Acknowledge progress:** Encourage your child to reflect back on their school year and think about what they've learned, what was challenging, how they dealt with it and what they're proud of.

As the kids count down (and you do, too!), start planning something special to mark the last day of class. It's important to end the year on an upbeat note, whether it's a school's-out scavenger hunt, a class picnic in the park or a backyard barbecue complete with cake and balloons.

## PCElympics Are Back!

Our annual PCElympics will be held the week of May 7-11th. Once again, classes will be competing for the coveted "Golden Shoe" Award, and they are excited to participate! Below is our color schedule for the week. Help your child to pick out clothes for that day's color, so their class can win the Spirit Award!

Monday: **Blue**  
Tuesday: **Green**  
Wednesday: **Red**  
Thursday: **Black**  
Friday: Swimsuit



\*\*In order to participate in Field Day, your student must have an A in conduct. Please make sure swimsuits are age appropriate, and send a towel and a change of clothes.



## Calendar of Events

### May

2nd: Word Hawk Trip

3rd: Career Day



4th: Relay for Life



6th - 11th: PCElympics



11th: Field Day



14th: Yearbook Signing Party

15th: Principal's List Banquet



16th: Amazing Hawk Celebration

18th: Kindergarten Graduation @ 9:00



18th: 5th Grade Graduation @ 12:00

23rd: Students' Last Day of School



## Yearbooks

The school year is almost over, and if you haven't purchased your year book yet, time is running out! Our year book signing party will be held on Monday, May 14th.

Students **must have purchased a yearbook** in order to attend. Make sure you and your students don't miss out on this amazing keepsake!



## What Does Respect Look Like?

Your student's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he or she speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping your student learn about respect:

- 1) **Respectful Replies:** Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (for example, whether their video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that their brain and body are growing, and they need to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such as "I want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have them brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.
- 2) **Everyday Acts:** When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask your student to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, they might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.





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- Yearbooks are only \$23 while supplies last.

### Volunteers

Thank you to all the many volunteers that give up time to come into school and help with activities such as listening to readers, general help in class and supporting on school trips and visits. We really do appreciate everything you do to support our children at PCES and hope you will be able to continue into the new academic year.

If there are any other parents who can offer any help to the school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the new academic year.

### A Reading Challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. They'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Here are some suggestions to help you:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tough book easier to understand.** If your student is reading a novel set in China, they could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online.
- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject.** A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your student better understand a textbook chapter on the Civil Rights Movement, for example.
- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand.** He or she can write down questions, words to look up, or facts that he or she wants to learn more about!