



# EXPRESS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PGCPS EMPLOYEES

## Top News

### #PGCPSGrateful: Season of Gratitude!

Heading into Thanksgiving week, here are five big reasons we are grateful for the PGCPS community!



Have something special planned for the holidays at school or at home? [Upload photos or video](#) of your moments or traditions for a chance to be featured!

### Nominate an Outstanding Educator/ Principal



Nominations for the annual *The Washington Post* principal and teacher of the year awards are open! Two nominees (one teacher and one principal) will be selected to represent PGCPs in the regional competition for [The Washington Post Principal and Teacher of the Year](#) awards.

Email nomination packets to [communications@pgcps.org](mailto:communications@pgcps.org) (the Office of Communications) by **Friday, Jan. 13**, 2023. Do not send packets directly to *The Washington Post*.

[Teacher of the Year Application](#)

[Principal of the Year Application](#)

## Speaking with Youth About Fentanyl



Illegal drug use is on the rise across our nation and right here at home. Join us in educating our youth about risks.

[Learn more](#)

## After School Reading Tutoring for K–5 Students



Kindergarten through fifth grade students can get a boost in reading with free, small-group virtual tutoring sessions with experienced [BookNook](#) tutors! **The deadline for families to sign up for Cohort 1 is Dec. 16.**

[Register Now](#)

## Spotlights

### #TeamPGCPS Thanksgiving Food Drive





The Maintenance Department collected more than 500 food items to be delivered to families in need.

## Once an Educator, Always an Educator!



“After seven years of leadership roles, I returned to teach to address the teacher shortage. At the staff meeting, I found out I was voted Thomas Johnson Middle School Teacher of the Month!” Dr. Kia Cadet



## Teacher Mentors Honored



Thomas G. Pullen Creative and Performing Arts Academy teacher mentor Yolanda King-Davis and teacher Dana Shieh were honored by the University of Maryland College Park Philip Merrill Presidential Scholars Program for outstanding mentorship of PGCPS graduates.

## Inspiring Future Educators



The [Teacher Academy of Maryland \(TAM\)](#) and the Educators Rising Career and Technical Student Organization at Crossland High School are working together to prepare students for teaching careers!

Teacher Lynnette Coles (pictured left) encouraged students to participate in the statewide Educators Rising Moment competition this fall which asked students to share why they want to become a teacher. Eleventh-grade TAM student Gelsy Carranza Garcia (pictured right) won Third Place in the competition!

[Learn more](#)

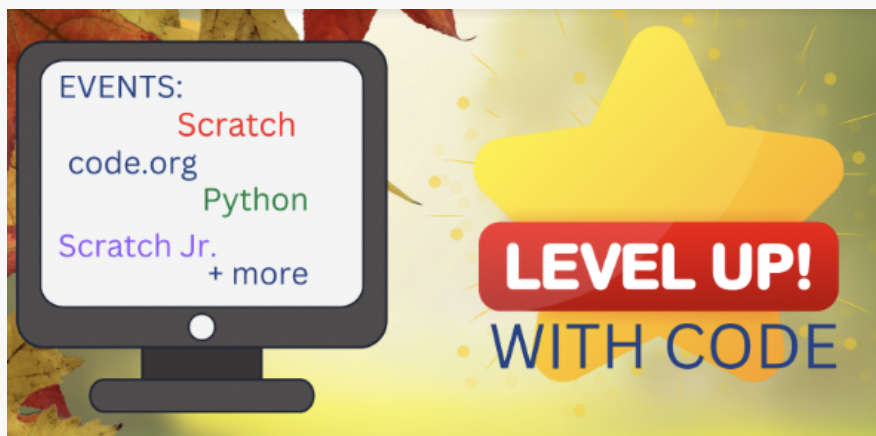
## PG13: Joy of the Playoffs



Coaches and players go through the mind boggling yet fun exercise of trying to predict their playoff opponents. During practice week, teams work hard, but mix in a lot of fun too. Check out the shout-outs, touchdown celebrations, and dance moves!!

## Announcements & Professional Development

### Computer Science Education Week: Level Up with Code



Join the Department of Career and Technical Education on Monday, December 5 for a free [Level Up with Code](#) virtual event! Parents and students will participate in an 'hour of code' activity and learn more about Computer Science education. No coding experience required! [Register online](#) by Dec. 2.

### Power of One: Season of Giving

# United Way



Our annual United Way fundraising campaign will run from November 28 through December 9. More information is forthcoming.

## UMD Online TESOL Certificate

The University of Maryland College of Education offers an online TESOL certificate program that can be completed in as little as a year. Questions: Email Sarah C.K. Moore at [sckmoore@umd.edu](mailto:sckmoore@umd.edu).

### *Application Deadlines*

Spring 2023: Jan. 13, 2023

Summer I 2023: May 16, 2023

Summer II 2023: June 26, 2023

Fall 2023: Aug. 10, 2023

[Learn more](#)

## American College of Education Alumni Event

Calling all PGCPs alumni and students from American College of Education (ACE)! Join ACE for a fun-filled night to reconnect and network with fellow alumni while enjoying free drinks and appetizers!

**When?** Thursday Dec. 8 6-7:30 PM. **Where?** Old Town Bowie Grille.  
RSVP [HERE](#) by Nov. 30

## In the News

### Upward Bound Awarded \$3M to Support PGCPs Students

The University of Maryland Upward Bound Program which supports PGCPs high school students received a new five-year, \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education!

[Read more](#)



### Tax Sheltered Annuity Plans Now Available



PGCPS employees can save for retirement by participating in both a 403(b) and or 457(b) plan. Roth investment options are now available!

#### Why Save With one of these Plans?

Unlike the traditional pre-tax 403(b) and 457(b) options, Roth plans allow you to contribute after-tax dollars and then withdraw tax-free dollars from your account when you retire.

#### How can I participate?

Prior to contribution you must open an account with an [investment provider participating](#) in the plan. You may then complete a [Salary Reduction agreement](#).

[Learn more](#)

### Principal Application Window Open

Qualified candidates should **apply through Dec. 31** via iRecruitment. Interested applicants may visit the [PGCPS Careers](#) for more information and to review job announcements.

#### *Job announcements include:*

- IRC183480 - Elementary/Secondary Principal
- IRC183481 – Montessori
- IRC183482 - Language Immersion
- IRC183483 - Early Childhood Center
- IRC183860 - Regional School Programs

[Learn More](#)

## #TeamPGCPS Paparazzi

The Area 1 team spread awareness of food insecurity and homelessness for National

## Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.



### STAY CONNECTED

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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: [communications@pgcps.org](mailto:communications@pgcps.org)