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## PGCPS Express: Protecting Against Cyber Attacks

Prince George's County Public Schools sent this bulletin at 12/04/2020 05:27 PM EST - Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Prince George envió este boletín/anuncio a 12/04/2020 05:27 PM EST

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December 4, 2020

### Get the Scoop

#### Hybrid Learning Delayed Amid Recent COVID-19 Surge

CEO Dr. Monica Goldson [announced](#) this week that Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will **delay the distribution of a parent survey** about moving to a hybrid instructional model for the second semester or continuing distance learning through the end of the school year. Hybrid learning will not begin in February.

#### Protecting PGCPS from Cyber Attacks

Cyber criminals have been targeting a number of school districts with increasingly sophisticated cyber attacks during this period of remote learning. To **protect PGCPS from a cybersecurity breach**, we must all continue to be vigilant when it comes to opening emails, clicking on links or downloading information from untrusted sources.


While PGCPS has strong firewall protections and antivirus software in place, cyber attacks typically occur through deceptively simple means where a carefully-crafted email message or fake email address — known as phishing emails — are used to lure the reader into believing the message has come from a trusted source. That's often all it takes to let malware or ransomware — malicious programs designed to disrupt and damage networks — into our system.

When reviewing your emails, make sure to verify the sender's identity. Be careful not to open emails, click on links or download information from an untrusted source.

For more information, including tips to help you understand this threat and protect yourself and PGCPS from such attacks, please view the [SafeSchools](#) training module, "Protection Against Malware."

#### 2020 Hall of Fame Gala to be Rebroadcast on Sunday

**WATCH: 2020 PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala**  
**WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 6**  
**WHERE: ABC7**  
**TIME: 1:30 P.M.**



*Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence and journalist Abby Phillip lead an all-star class of inductees into the PGCPS Hall of Fame at this year's virtual gala*

**Don't Miss It!**

In case you missed it, the PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala will be rebroadcast Sunday, Dec. 6 on ABC7. This year's all-star class includes

- **Abby Phillip**, Distinguished Young Leader (Bowie HS '06)
- **Congressman Steny Hoyer**, Distinguished Public Servant (Suitland HS '57)
- **Sam Brin**, Distinguished Humanitarian (Eleanor Roosevelt HS '05)
- **Susan O'Malley**, CEO's Award of Excellence (Surrattsville HS '79)
- **Martin Lawrence**, Distinguished Professional (Eleanor Roosevelt HS '84)
- **Louis Wilson**, Distinguished Athlete (Frederick Douglass HS '77)
- **Richard Arnold**, Distinguished Professional (Bowie HS '81)
- **Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms**, Distinguished Educator

## In the Spotlight

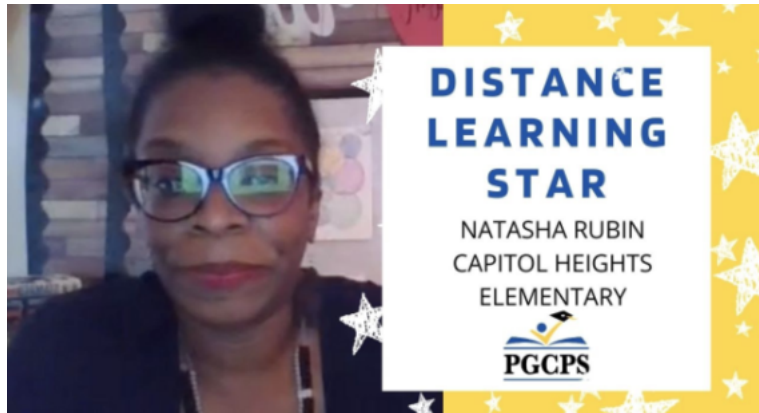
### PGCPS Pride

#### New Chief of Information and Technology

Effective this week, **Dr. Andrew Zuckerman** is the new Chief Information and Technology Officer, succeeding Dr. Wesley Watts Jr., who has retired after 28 years of service to PGCPS. Dr. Zuckerman returned to the school system this fall as Innovation Officer.

#### #TeacherTuesday: Sharing Distance Learning Tips

Capitol Heights Elementary School teacher **Natasha Rubin** [engages students with a warm-up activity](#) to help transition to learning mode.



#### Hyattsville Middle School Students Create Ornaments for National Christmas Tree Display in Washington, D.C.

Hyattsville Middle School students **Marilyn Phan, Jackson Fassler, Emily Natalia Blanco, Corey Schmick and Camila Aguayo** created Maryland-themed ornaments for "America Celebrates," part of the National Christmas Tree display!

Students from 56 schools nationwide designed ornaments for the display in [President's Park](#). These unique ornaments will adorn 56 smaller trees that surround the National Christmas Tree, representing each state, territory and the District of Columbia. This year,



Several ornaments from each school will also be displayed inside the White House.

**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](mailto:communications@pgcps.org). Submissions may be edited for length, clarity or grammar.

## Benefits Services: Our Focus Is You

### December Activity: Physical and Emotional Impact of Stress Webinar



Kaiser Permanente will host a webinar on physical and emotional stress on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. You must [register](#) for this session.

## Eating Healthy During the Holidays

Check out these [Festive Holiday Strata](#) and [Cornbread and Oyster-Mushroom Stuffing](#) recipes from *Eating Well* to make your holiday meal healthier. You can also get tips in this webinar on [eating healthy around the holidays](#).

**Festive Holiday Strata**



**Cornbread & Oyster-Mushroom Stuffing**



## Opportunities to Save for Retirement

Employees can save for retirement by participating in both a 403(b) and/or 457(b) plan.

**Why save with one of these plans?** You do not have to pay income tax on the allowable contributions until you begin making withdrawals from the plan, usually after your retirement. Investment gains in the plan are not taxed until distributed. Retirement assets can be carried from one employer to another in most states.

**How can I participate?**

Prior to contribution you must open an account with an [investment provider](#) participating in the plan and complete a [Salary Reduction Agreement form](#) online.

## Announcements

### Swearing-In Ceremony for New and Returning Board of Education Members

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Prince George's County Board of Education will host a swearing-in ceremony for new and returning members.

Edward Burroughs III (District 8), David Murray (District 1) and Raaheela Ahmed (District 5) were re-elected to four-year terms, expiring in 2024. Shayla Adams-Stafford (District 4) and Kenneth F. Harris II (District 7) are newly elected, with terms also expiring in 2024.

A representative from the office of Mahasin El Amin, County Clerk of the Circuit Court, will preside over the ceremony, which will begin at 6 p.m. The order of the swearing-ins is listed below.

6 p.m. Kenneth F. Harris II

6:30 p.m. Shayla Adams-Stafford

7 p.m. Raaheela Ahmed

7:30 p.m. David Murray

Vice Chair Burroughs is unable to attend and will deliver videotaped remarks.

Although the swearing-in ceremony is not open to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be aired on the [PGCPS website](#), [YouTube channel](#) and PGCPSTV (Verizon 38/Comcast 96).

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## Reminder: Safe Schools Training

The next round of **mandatory SafeSchools training modules** are due no later than Friday, Dec. 11. Sessions include:

- Sexual Harassment: Student Issues & Response
- Workplace Bullying: Awareness and Prevention
- Discrimination Awareness in the Workplace

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## BOE Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Policies

The Board of Education is seeking public comment on Draft Policy 5113, Student Attendance, Absence, and Truancy, before adoption. **Comments are due Wednesday, Dec. 9 by 5 p.m.**

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## PGCPS/ACE Partnership Grant and Holiday Giveaway

American College of Education (ACE) is offering employees the opportunity to take advantage of the [PGCPS Partnership Grant](#). Applications for the January term are due Friday, Jan. 8; the term begins Monday, Jan. 11.



ACE also wants to make the holidays a little brighter by giving employees the chance to win **\$50 Amazon gift cards or a Digital Learning and Teaching micro-credential**.

Now through Wednesday, Dec. 16, employees can [enter the gift card giveaway](#). **There is no purchase necessary.**

Winners will be notified on Friday, Dec. 18 – just in time for last-minute shopping!

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## Earn a Masters in Teaching from Bowie State



The [Bowie State University STAR \(Superb Teachers Achieve Results\) Program](#) is looking for aspiring teachers who wish to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) with a focus on STEM education. The program cultivates highly effective 21st century educators, equipped to excel in communities facing distinct challenges, like social emotional learning, equity and poverty.

[Applications](#) are now being accepted for the spring semester. For more information, contact [BSUStarProgram@bowiestate.edu](mailto:BSUStarProgram@bowiestate.edu).

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## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

### Join the PGCPS Alliance

The [PGCPS Alliance](#) is committed to PGCPS pride and helping to support school system needs. As a member of the PGCPS Alumni Alliance, you can get exclusive savings and perks for a small annual donation. Join today!



## STAY CONNECTED

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



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