

January 10, 2017

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Coming Up

Fri, Jan 13	Early Release Day – Noon Dismissal
Mon, Jan 16	No School – MLK Jr Holiday
Tue, Jan 17	Rocket Raffle Kickoff
Wed, Jan 18	PTA Meeting, 9:30 AM All are welcome!
Thu, Jan 19	Social Media Awareness and Cyber Bullying Program, 6:30-8:00 PM PSE Media Center
Mon, Jan 23	End of 2nd Quarter
Tue, Jan 24	No School – Teacher Workday

Next Rocket Review on Wed, Jan 25

Contacts

Julie Cho, PTA President
julieheintzcho@gmail.com
 Amy Mahaffey, PTA President-Elect
mahaffey5clt@gmail.com
 Genie Ombach, *Rocket Review* Editor
gombach@gmail.com
 Jen Taylor, *Rocket Review* Editor
ttaylor8@carolina.rr.com
[How to Submit *Rocket Review* Content](#)

Rocket Raffle Starts Next Tuesday!

PSE's beloved fundraiser, the Rocket Raffle, is coming soon! What makes the Rocket Raffle so special? We all know that when our children see their teachers out and about, they feel like they are running into a movie star. **PSE's Rocket Raffle offers our students the chance to win all sorts of fun and exciting activities with our very own PSE celebrities.**

This year, a World of Opportunities is coming your way, because this year's Rocket Raffle has it all...sports, games, arts and crafts, treats, outdoor adventures, behind-the-scenes tours, front-row seats, VIP parking to PSE events, and more! Most of the activities available in the Rocket Raffle are done in groups and can include anything from fishing with Mr. Surratt to cake decorating with Mrs. O'Connor, playing a great game of football with Mr. Grabon and friends, or playing with Mrs. McMurray's dog Twinkie. You can also win chances to participate in the daily activities that make our school run so well, and there are even choices for Mom and Dad.



All teachers participate at all grade levels and there is a raffle item to suit every interest. This year, the proceeds from the raffle will go to purchase a much-needed sound and video system for PSE's multipurpose room and cafeteria, which will be sure to enhance many of our Rockets' experiences, such as grade-level performances, cafeteria concerts, cultural arts presentations, special events and more!

Rocket Raffle tickets can be purchased online at Pay4SchoolStuff beginning **January 17 through February 1**. Check those backpacks next week for listings of amazing prizes and opportunities!

Rocket Raffle Sale Dates – January 17 through February 1. Winners will be announced on February 13.

Don't miss it!

Next Week!

The PTA will meet
 Wednesday, Jan. 18 in the
 Rocket Cafe at 9:30 am.
All are welcome!

**This meeting was rescheduled from Jan. 11 due to severe weather days.*

Parent Education Night: Social Media Safety

What are the current apps used by children today?

What is the difference between a private and public access app?

Do you know the current technology lingo or terminology?

What are the potential legal ramifications of online communications among kids?

Get the answers to these questions and hear about the latest social media statistics and research at Parent Education Night next week at PSE. Hosted by the character initiative with the support of our PTA, it's a night you won't want to miss!



Back by popular demand is Susan Wind, creator of ParentsKNOwmore.com, an online resource for parents helping their children navigate the world of social media. She will lead the session for PARENTS ONLY to learn how to keep your child safe in today's social media. She will offer advice, education, and resources that parents will find helpful in teaching children how to be responsible with technology. The presentation will be in the media center from **6:30-8:00pm on Thursday, Jan. 19.**

Please send an email to Teresa Fletcher, teresa.fletcher@cms.k12.nc.us, with "parent session" in the subject line, if you have any specific questions or topics of concern you'd be interested in hearing about. I'll send the list of topics of interest and questions to Ms. Wind prior to the session.

– *Teresa Fletcher*

Coming Soon: Jump Rope for Heart

This year's Jump Rope for Heart event is just a few weeks away, so watch your inbox for an email with all the details coming soon from your room parents. We love Jump Rope for Heart because it shows our students that exercising can be fun, and it celebrates their fundraising efforts for the American Heart Association.

The event will be held during students' regular PE classes, where they will participate in jump rope activities at six different stations (think mini indoor field day). **We will be asking for six parent volunteers per class to help with these stations.** (Please note that younger siblings are not permitted to attend.)

Students who wish to get started now on their JRFH efforts can click [here](#) to join the PSE Jump Rope for Heart team and begin raising money. Fundraising is completely voluntary, but for those students who do want to raise money, doing it online is a fun and easy way to reach out to family and friends for their support.

Regardless of whether your family chooses to participate in the fundraising part of Jump Rope for Heart, all students participate in this fun day of fitness, and all parents are encouraged to volunteer.



Thanks in advance for all your support as we show our children how fun it can be to help others!

A Message from Our Principal

Dear PSE Families,

Happy 2017. As we all make our personal resolutions for this new year, our faculty and staff have a collective resolution to revisit the 3rd pillar of our school's culture and to put more emphasis on our children's spending time in our outdoor classrooms and taking a closer look at environmental conservation.

I guess two personal experiences I have had recently put environmental concerns on the "front burner" of my list as I am determined to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. The first experience occurred right here in North Carolina (Lake Lure, to be exact) when I was in Europe visiting my older daughter. Watching the raging fires on my iPad was a helpless feeling as I was wishing with fingers crossed that the damage would leave no one injured and all fire fighters safe. The second incident involved my younger daughter traveling across the world to attend the wedding of a friend. The pollution was so great in the city where she visited that all were advised to stay inside or wear a mask. The pictures sent home showed people faintly visible through what looked like a thick fog right in the middle of the day.

So, what does any of this have to do with us here at Providence Spring?

Many educators and parents have read Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods* where he explains that the unwanted side effect of the electronic age is our societal disconnect with nature. This disconnect has some consequences for a whole generation of plugged-in children whose brains are not made for the over-stimulation of an artificial environment we've carved out for them. Louv encourages all of us to use the woods, fields, streams and canyons around our homes to keep our children active and healthy in nature, as nature intended.

And this mandate to "go outside" takes us to two additional topics that we need to think about. In order to have the pristine natural areas in which our children can play, we need to be active conservationists ourselves. Nature is not an unlimited resource and land that is developed goes out of use at least for our lifetimes. As adults we must repeatedly ask ourselves, "In what

condition do we want to leave the world for our children and grandchildren?"

Closely related to this last point is a comment that our former outdoor coordinator and gifted teacher, Steve Houser, used to make to the staff frequently. "We must get our students outside and teach them to appreciate nature if they are to grow up and be the leaders of tomorrow who protect the earth for future generations."

To greet the New Year, Mrs. Conroy, who is now the outdoor coordinator and gifted education teacher, has designated 7 major areas on campus that can be used for learning in a variety of subjects. These include:

- Several observation/journaling stations (along the back of the building)
- The PSE Bog Garden
- Branch Creek Preserve amphitheater
- Branch Creek area
- Big rocks area (aka Bluebird Meadow)
- PSE Sensory Garden
- PSE Courtyard

A faculty sign-up has been created for the use of these areas so a teacher can schedule uninterrupted time for his/her students outside with a specific lesson in mind and the students' nature journals in tow.

If conservation is your "cup of tea" you may want to monitor efforts designed to reduce environmental regulations and/or you may want to become active in one of the many non-profits that have as their mission, protection of wildlife and national part areas for future generations to also enjoy. If you have a love of nature, a knowledge of the outdoors and would like to be a part of this effort at PSE, I would encourage you to send us your name and tell us a bit about your passion. We would love to have you join our efforts in creating 934 active conservationists who will be learners and leaders in securing our natural spaces for the generations who follow them.

Let's Get Lost in the Woods!

-Diane Adams



2017's Exciting News in Mrs. Edwards' Second Grade Class

Prior to our holiday break, Mrs. Edwards tendered her resignation as a second grade teacher here at PSE and, though the parents of her students were informed at that time, we wanted to share the news with the entire school community so others could join us in welcoming two seasoned and gifted PSE teachers back to our campus to job share the instruction of this delightful class of boys and girls.

Those of you who have some history with PSE will immediately remember Mrs. Vicki Baker who helped us open the school in 2002 and who retired from her second grade position last year. Mrs. Baker will be covering the morning classes and she is so excited to be part of this wonderful second grade team once again and to have the opportunity to teach our children and to experience their joy of learning.

The second half of this “dynamic duo” is Mrs. Beth Ebert who is also a former PSE faculty member and, in fact, was hired earlier this year in a half time position in fourth grade and in environmental studies. Mrs. Ebert will be the afternoon teacher working with social studies, science and some literacy.

For those of you who are new to Providence Spring, this format has been quite successful in past years at our school. Our children have always benefited from two talented and experienced teachers who work closely together planning the exciting instruction which makes school both challenging and fun. Two halves, we have found, working in tandem, are always greater than a whole and we are just thrilled that our “newcomers” to this position aren’t newcomers at all but are tried and true PSE professionals eager to make, once again, positive differences in the lives of their students.



Mrs. Baker



Mrs. Ebert

2017 North Carolina Aviation Art Contest

Providence Spring Elementary is known throughout the county and, indeed, throughout the state as having extremely large numbers of students choosing to participate in competitions and contests in all sorts of content areas



– from writing to photography – from math quiz bowls to geography challenges – from music composing to dance choreography ... if the contest is announced, Providence Spring students step up to the plate to practice their skills.

We support their efforts and we remind our boys and girls that, as human beings, we gain from an experience exactly what we put into it. Do only what is required, and your experience will be minimal. Be activity engaged and participate in optional opportunities, and previously unknown doors will open wide for you and your world will become larger and richer with each new challenge.

So, with that introduction, here is our first contest opportunity for the 2017 school year – the North Carolina Aviation Art Contest. Please note the contest rules, if entering. All guidelines must be followed or the entry will be disqualified. Note the entry must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 20. To have specific questions answered, students may ask Mrs. Martin, our art teacher, during their scheduled art class.

Please visit [this link](#) for all contest details and guidelines.

Catching Up With Good Character at PSE!

The students and families of PSE have been busy this past quarter studying the monthly character traits of honesty and caring. Many grade level service projects have happened that have shown caring toward others, such as the second grade team's amazing collection for the TLC orphanage in Africa. The team and students raised donations totaling over \$3000 during their African Safari Night. The students spent the night learning about the culture and traditions of Africa through songs/music, crafts, and SMART board activities.

The fifth graders have recently raised money for Flint Michigan Water to provide the community with clean drinking water. The student donations totaled over \$2,250.

Two school wide projects also helped our local community in need, Loaves and Fishes and Levine Children's Hospital book drive. I am pleased to announce that the Loaves and Fishes food drive will help many families with over 10,000 canned/nonperishable food items collected. The book fair/book drive was also a huge success with our Rockets donating 144 brand new books to Levine Children's Hospital. In addition, to the \$265 raised to purchase part of the 144 books, Scholastic also donated 265 books to kids in need in our community. What an amazing way to show we care with the gift of literature and knowledge!

– Teresa Fletcher

The Character Club members have been doing a fantastic job decorating the hallway bulletin board each month. The pictures below show the members and the designs they created for December and January.



*"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."
–Dalai Lama*



*"Justice cannot be for one side alone but must be for both."
–Eleanor Roosevelt*

PSE PTA Profit & Loss for December

Beginning Balance 12/1/16	104,137.67
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Beautification	(904.00)
Capital Donations	681.18
Cookbook	10.00
Go Play Save	(25.00)
Food Fundraisers	(125.00)
Free Fundraiser	745.13
Interest Income	(82.30)
School Store	241.50
Spirit wear	71.00
Sponsorships	500.00
Yearbook	15.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>1,127.51</u>
Expense	
Go Play Save	9,285.00
Classroom Grants	7,994.11
Food Fundraisers	(125.00)
Hospitality	60.54
Principal's Discretionary	130.00
Tech and Ed	85.00
<u>Total Educational Expense</u>	<u>17,429.65</u>
PTA Operational Expenses	
Accounting Fees	350.00
Bank Fees	(100.13)
PTA Discretionary - Admin	960.23
Insurance	(590.00)
PTA Operational Expense - Other	(19.98)
<u>Total PTA Operational Expenses</u>	<u>600.12</u>
Total Expense	18,029.77
Net Ordinary Income	(16,902.26)
Other Income/Expense	
Media Wish List	(5,000.00)
Spirit Wear	971.00
PY Tech & Ed Fund	4,886.00
<u>Total Other Expense</u>	<u>857.00</u>
Net Income	(17,775.26)
Ending Balance 12/30/16	86,378.41

Did you know?

The **K-8 school lunch menu** is available on the CMS website.



The menus are updated monthly, so bookmark this link to always have access to the latest!

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/CMSDEPARTMENTS/CNS/Pages/MenuCarbsAllergens.aspx>



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