

June 6, 2017

In This Issue

Science Olympiad Success!	1
Order Your 2017-18 School Supplies Now	1
From the Principal	2
Personnel Changes	3
Summer Assignments	3
Travel with Baby Bear	4

Coming Up

Wed, Jun 7	*RESCHEDULED* Celebration of Nations, 8:45 AM
Fri, Jun 9	Last Day of School
Fri, Jun 23	EduKit School Supply Ordering Deadline
Mon, Aug 28	First Day of 2017-18 School Year

Happy
summer
break,
Rockets!

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](#)

Science Olympiad Success!



On Saturday, May 20, 46 students participated in the North Carolina Science Olympiad competition at UNC-Charlotte. These students have spent the last five months preparing to take either written tests or compete in hands-on events (like building and blasting off rockets!). Every Friday afternoon after school this dedicated group met to learn more about 19 different scientific topics including the weather, the human body, genetics, rocks, and different types of animal habitats – just to name a few. This could not have been accomplished without the tireless efforts of over 30 parents and teachers who acted as coaches and advisors to this scientific bunch.

PSE entered three teams into this year's competition which consisted of 47 teams from 26 different schools in the greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. The competition is divided into Varsity and Junior Varsity for competition and judging purposes. I am happy to report that our teams did quite well in the competition this year.



The Varsity team won medals in eight of the 19 events and placed 6th overall as a team.

The JV teams won medals in 14 of the 19 events and the JV1 team place 6th overall as a team.

Needless to say this team, led by Mrs. Ikoku, has achieved great success. The level of commitment, teamwork and good character shown by our group this past weekend was amazing. Congratulations to all of our hardworking scientists!

Order Your 2017-18 School Supplies Now

Place your EduKit order by June 23 for best pricing! Last chance to order is July 28.

Here's how: Go to www.edukitinc.com. Next to the FIND YOUR SCHOOL box, type in Providence Spring. Then order based on your child's grade level for 2017-18.

If you miss the June 23 deadline, Last Chance ordering will be available through www.edukitinc.com for an additional fee plus shipping costs. You will not be able to place any orders after July 28.

Questions? Email

Jennifer Nisbet, jennifer.nisbet@gmail.com
or Christie Stump, christiestump@gmail.com



From the Principal

Dear Folks,

Not everyone, unfortunately, can wake up most mornings and say, “I can’t wait to get to work because . . .” **But I have had this experience because I have worked at Providence Spring.**

Not everyone, unfortunately, can count multiple hugs each morning, countless high fives and greetings from my canine friends, all before breakfast. **But I can because I have worked at Providence Spring.**

Not everyone can . . .

- hear the stories only the little ones can tell with such enthusiasm,
- rub shoulders daily with the most scholarly minds in the business of education,
- work with volunteers who continually ask, “What’s next?” and
- be supported by a PTA who understands that it’s not so important to be like everyone else.



But I can because I have worked at Providence Spring, and it’s in my blood, it’s a part of who I am – Providence Spring is one of my last thoughts at night and one of my first thoughts the next morning.

I can’t thank you enough for embracing the hard and the difficult, for never accepting the ordinary, and for giving happily of your time, your money, your smiles, and your labor.

Aristotle tells us (and this is paraphrased) that true happiness is the result of having a purpose bigger than oneself, being able to use one’s talents in fulfilling that purpose and being a contributing part of the collective effort to advance humanitarian work such that the world becomes a better place for all.

I believe Aristotle had a good handle on happiness, and I also believe that our magical school provides this opportunity for everyone in the school family. It is a place where all of us have the opportunity to find long-term and sustainable happiness.

Our vision statement, I believe, captures the essence of our purpose.

“At Providence Spring, **children learn to be successful, to find their passions, and to make the world better** because they were here.”

In closing, I thank each and every one of you for what you do, who you are, and for your unwavering commitment to this nation’s future through your unwavering commitment to our children. Because of you, “PSE will always be the place to be . . .” to teach the truths that define who we are and the truths that help inform our collective journey into the future.

Please keep up your glorious work. Everyday your collective efforts and intent keep our unique programs and our incredible campus (teeming with life and energy) alive and healthy for the children who are our scholars today and our leaders and problem solvers tomorrow. Providence Spring will forever shine brightly in the memories of those who were here . . .

Always,
Diane

Personnel Changes

Two Talent Development Personnel Changes at PSE but . . . No Changes in our Fantastic Talent Development Program

First, one of our most esteemed resident scholars here at Providence Spring Elementary and the only Primary Talent Development Teacher in CMS, if not in the entire state, our own Ellen Murphy, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Her contributions here at school are many and highly valued. As alluded to above, she has developed the primary TD catalyst model, growing gifted children like fields of wildflowers. She shares her ideas and wonderful resources in differentiating grade level instruction for those children performing far above grade level, she pulls small groups, on occasion, for direct instruction and vocabulary development, and she tells stories of life and learning to all of us here at school, putting smiles on our faces while sharing universal and important truths that we remember because her tales are so intriguing.



Mrs. Murphy will be moving back to Boston to be close to family, but will maintain her beautiful home here for a while so we may still plan to see her in and around town, which suits all of us just fine. There is only one Ellen Murphy, and to have crossed her path is an education in itself, and we feel very fortunate that she was here and shared her “Murphyisms” so freely with us.

Second, filling this vacancy is another quite gifted and much beloved primary teacher who has been a close professional colleague of Mrs. Murphy throughout the years here at PSE. In fact, they have planned together, shared experiences and ideas, and they have developed a mutual admiration society so strong that Mrs. Murphy worked hard to make sure the stars were aligned to have Kelly Safran take over the primary gifted reins. When the last person gave the nod to this selection, it was difficult to know who screamed the loudest with glee, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Conroy (our 3-5 TD queen),



Mrs. Safran, or me. All is well with the world and all is well with the TD program at Providence Spring.

Be on the lookout for Ellen Murphy “out in the world” because she’s going to have a bit of free time now, and join me in welcoming Kelly Safran to her new position at PSE . . . a perfect selection in every way!

– Diane Adams

Summer Assignments

All PSE Rockets have summer assignments that **need to be completed prior to the beginning of the next school year.**

Instructions for these assignments will be available on the [school website](#) during the summer. These assignments will be addressed by their new classroom teachers during the first few days of classes in August.

Current PSE fifth graders will access their summer assignments on either the [Jay M. Robinson](#) website or the [Crestdale](#) website.





Travel with Baby Bear

Mrs. Adams will retire as the principal of Providence Spring Elementary on June 30. As Mrs. Adams retires and starts her own adventures she would love to hear about your summer adventures. Baby Bear is Mrs. Adams' travel pal, kind of like Flat Stanley. This summer Baby Bear would love to accompany you on your travels. Simply print out the Baby Bear on the next page and take him on your vacation, snap a photo of yourself with Baby Bear, and post

the photo on this
Shutterfly Share Site:

<https://babybearsummertravels.shutterfly.com>

(The password is: **rockets**)



Mrs. Adams cannot wait to see the places Baby Bear will go.





Click each sponsor's logo to learn more.

Platinum

Gold



Silver



Bronze



[Learn about becoming a PSE PTA Sponsor](#)