Dear Poplar Tree Panthers:

As the final days draw near, I sit and reflect on the strength and caring culture of Poplar Tree. My days and years here will always be etched in my heart with so many wonderful memories of hope, fulfilled dreams, endless aspirations, and uncompromised excellence. Thank you for allowing me to plant so many seeds of knowledge, to cultivate the roots of resiliency, and nurture a school rich with character and Panther PRIDE. I bid MY Poplar Tree Community—students, staff, and parents—a fond farewell...continue to spread your wings, aim high, and soar!

~ Sharon S. Williams
It’s hard to believe another school year is coming to an end. Before the school year ends, we thought we would share information on an important skill for all students to learn: resilience.

Resilience is the strength and speed of how we respond to adversity. It’s how we “bounce back” from a disappointment or difficulty. When we let our children experience small setbacks and hardships without intervening to fix it ourselves, we teach them to be stronger and more confident.

In fact, research shows that students can actually bounce forward when parents allow them to solve problems independently. They learn from the experience and are better prepared to handle the next situation. Building resilience is a process.

First, let your child experience a setback.

Help your child notice and name what they are feeling: disappointment, embarrassment, shame, confusion.

Ask them what they have learned from the experience and what they could do differently.

Plan your next step and move on.

Through this process, children learn to accept that there are normal struggles in life. We can recover from them, learn from them, and move forward: resilience.

For more information on resilience check out the Option B website created by Sheryl Sandburg and Adam Grant at www.optionb.org. Also on the website is the full article, Raising Resilient Kids by Julie Lythcott-Haims at: https://optionb.org/build-resilience/conversations

Kids enjoy many fun activities over the summer; swimming in the local pool or on trips to the beach, picnics, camping, sports, and all sorts of other outdoor activities. If you are looking for something for them to do on those rainy days where the kids cannot get outside, consider a few of these tech options which allow kids to have fun and challenge their minds.

myon.com - This reading app that students use to listen to reading, and independently read at school is also available for use at home. Students will be able to use their accounts until the end of July, at that time passwords will be reset for the next school year.

TypingClub.org - Typing is a necessary skill for students to develop. TypingClub is web based and highly effective. It is a free program that helps students learn the mechanics of typing and build speed and accuracy.

code.org - This is great website that helps students learn about computer coding. It exposes them to the skills they will need if they are interested in pursuing a career in technology.

~Mrs. Uncles and Mrs. Radler
Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Walk or Bike to School Day. We had 170 participants!

When the weather permits, your child will have the opportunity to earn foot tokens during our Spring Ticket runs. This is a great motivator for our 3rd-6th graders!

We hope that students will be active this summer and keep up their exercise and gameplay!

*FITNESS AND NUTRITION CORNER*

*Information shared with permission from the Fairfax Co. Health Dept.

Put a little spring in your step – move at least 60 minutes a day. Spring is here and it is a great time to get out and have some fun in the sun! Activity doesn’t have to be painful, it just needs to be fun. Be creative and make new games with your kids. Include the three elements of fitness:

**Endurance** - Aerobic activities such as soccer or swimming gets the heart pumping. It strengthens the heart which promotes longer periods of activity.

**Strength** - Activities that build strength do not always involve weights. Push-ups, abdominal crunches and playing on monkey bars will strengthen those muscles.

**Flexibility** - Activities that allow muscles to stretch helps decrease the risk of injury. Try games that include picking up things slightly out of reach to increase flexibility, or try yoga!

Physical activity is not only fun but also improves mood, increases concentration and can help your child do better in school!

It’s been a great year in the gym and on the field. Thanks for all the fun.

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Congratulations to the Sixth Grade All County Choral Festival (ACCF) students! Thank you for your dedication to rehearsals and for performing at the concert on Saturday, April 29th.

Channel 21 will air the festival on most evenings in May and June at 7:00 pm. Go to www.fcps.edu and search “Cable TV Guide” for the specific times.

Sixth Grade Chorus is currently working hard on their production of “Bon Voyage” Mark your calendars with these important dates!

- **Tuesday, June 6, 2017** – Dress Rehearsal @ 2:00-5:00 pm.
- **Thursday, June 8, 2017** – Evening Performance @ 7:00 pm.
- **Friday, June 9, 2017** – School Assembly Performance @ 9:15 am.

JUNE SONGS-OF-THE-MONTH: Review of songs sung this year.

Happy Retirement, Mr. Ring!
We will miss you!
Your Poplar Tree Family!
Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned or slip out of practice during the summer months. The following are an excerpt from Scholastic.com. These suggestions will benefit your child greatly and hopefully prevent “Summer Slide.”

**Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Libraries often run summer reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area. Also check our book lists for recommendations.

**Read something every day:** Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day:

- **Morning:** The newspaper — even if it is just the comics or today's weather.

- **Daytime:** Schedules, TV guides, magazines, online resources, etc. For example, if your daughter likes the food channel, help her look for a recipe on the network's Web site — then cook it together for more reading practice.

- **Evening:** End the day by having your child read to you from the book he is currently reading (one of the six books, above). Have him rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you.

- **Rereading will help him be more fluent — able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with nice expression.**

**Keep reading aloud:** Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.

It's hard to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions. These suggestions will fit into a busy schedule and make reading fun!
Join Band or Strings!!

Sign in to your Google Classroom account
- Join PTES Band or PTES Strings Google Class (use the small plus sign in the upper right corner of your Classroom screen)

- **BAND Class Code:** ii4qsjc
- **STRINGS Class Code:** plb7w21

Access enrollment forms and submit it

NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017

YOU MUST fill out and submit the enrollment form to be included in the program. Students will not be signed up for band or strings by just joining the Google classroom.

**PLEASE NOTE**
- 4th, 5th and 6th grade students may sign up for strings
- 5th and 6th grade students may choose between band and strings (students may not participate in both)

This Brush Strokes article is brought to you by Mr. Baybrook’s art class. As the year starts winding down we have been busy at work on our final art projects! The following lists describes our latest artistic endeavors!

In Kindergarten, we have been working on a landscape painting which depicts a sunny day in the park with a few scattered trees. Students are learning how to mix colors, and how to place trees at various distances in the landscape and determining appropriate branch and leaf placement on their trees.

First Graders are working on a three-dimensional paper collage mask which represents their ideal family pet. They are experimenting with various paper building techniques including pleating, fringe, curls and rolling the paper.

Second graders are also working on a three-dimensional paper sculpture this month. They are imagining that they are artists who are tasked creating a large piece of animal art for a public space. Not only must they design the animal, but they are also responsible for modeling the public space in which the animal resides.

Third graders have been working on a landscape painting of a park and the visitors engaged in various park activities. In order to come up with ideas for their painting, we played a game of “park charades”, where students were asked to act out various park activities while other students had to guess what they were doing.

Fourth graders completed a lesson entitled, “Drawing for the Future.” Their challenge was to design and illustrate a futuristic building that contained elements of Colonial and Georgian architecture. Their final illustrations would be completed with both pen and colored pencils.

Fifth graders are busy at work on a weaving challenge. Unlike the lower grades, the fifth graders are using more sophisticated wooden looms that will allow for larger projects and a variety of complex and experimental designs.

Finally, sixth graders recently finished a complicated multi-step printing making process. They were asked the come up with an abstract design based on their fingerprint. They transferred these designs to a piece of linoleum and using safe art-space practices, carved out their designs into printing blocks. They then used these printing block stamps to replicate their designs using a variety of ink and paper colors.

Happy Retirement,
Mr. Watts!
We will miss you!
A Note From Mrs. Acosta

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wow! This year has flown by! It has been an exciting year of critical thinking, problem solving, and learning. The students have used problem solving skills and persistence to play critical thinking games and activities in the Strategies Lab. The Strategies Lab consists of games and puzzles that require critical and creative thinking to complete. Many of our games are from Think Fun. For further information go to www.thinkfun.com. I am looking forward to continuing to focus on these skills next year. I wish you all a wonderful summer!

Screening for school-based services can happen at any time during the school year but is done schoolwide in spring to determine services for the next school year. Our school-based screening will take place the last week of May and the first week of June. All students will be screened during our Spring School-Based Screening. At all other times of the year, parents can initiate a referral by submitting the AAP School-Based Services (Level II-III) Referral Form. If you have any questions, please email me at rbacosta@fcps.edu or go to www.fcps.edu/is/aap for more information.

Raechel Acosta
Advanced Academics Resource Teacher
Sincerely,
Raechel Acosta

Brief overview of the AAP levels of service:
Level 1- Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies lessons in all classrooms monthly.
Level 2- Differentiation delivered by the classroom teacher in an area of academic strength with support from the AART.
Level 3- Part-time Advanced Academic service provided by the AART. This service is either provided by pushing in to the classroom or pulling out a small group.
Level 4- Full-time Advanced Academic service in which the students receive advanced instruction in all four core subject areas: mathematics, language arts, science and social studies. The county determines eligibility for this level of service.

Important Information:
• Help your child become a creative problem solver!

Step 1– Identify a problem or challenge
Step 2– Fact Finding
Step 3– Identify Problems
Step 4– Generate Ideas!
Step 5– Create a Solution
Step 6– Solve the Problem!

Through the practice of Creative Problem Solving children will be empowered to face any problem and to search for unique solutions to improve their world not only for today but for future generations as well.

- Dr. Carol V. Horn

Problem Solving Strategies:
1. Act it out or use objects
2. Draw a picture
3. Look for patterns
4. Guess and check
5. Use logical reasoning
6. Make an organized list
7. Make a table
8. Solve a simpler problem
9. Work backwards
We made it to the home stretch!! With only a few weeks left of school, it’s time to start wrapping up the 2016/17 school year and, yes, even start planning for 17/18.

Speaking of strategizing for next year, thank you to all those who participated in our Fundraising Survey (open to current PTA Members). The results had the No Fuss at a strong lead at 60.7% to the Boosterthon at 39.3%. The Executive Board will work hard over the summer to look for ways to keep our budget in line for the 2017/18 school year without sacrificing the high quality of programing that the PTA provides.

Although much of the PTA board will remain the same next year, Karrie Delany will be stepping down to continue with her campaign. We would like to thank her for the work that she has done this year with our PTA. An additional thank you goes to Allison Denenberg for filling the roll of Vice President.

If you wanted to get involved this year, but did not, we have plenty of committee openings available for next year. Keep watch on both our Facebook page, email blasts and website for listings of open positions. The PTA Board will continue meeting throughout the summer to start planning for next year’s activities. Please let us know as possible if you can help with any of these valuable positions.

Speaking of volunteering, our last PTA meeting of the school year will be a fun, informal, Paper Plate Awards held at Kona Grill the evening of Thursday, June 15. Please RSVP to either PoplartreePTA@gmail.com or by following this link: http://evite.me/upyVFsPqVJ

Finally, as everyone knows, Mrs. Williams, our Principal, after a long career with FCPS and with Poplar Tree in particular, will be retiring. We would like everyone, current parents and past parents to join us for a special Poplar Tree Send Off on Wednesday, June 14 in the Language Arts Room from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. We hope to see you there for this wonderful event chaired by Heather Ellison (Thank You, Heather!).

Melanie Read
PTA President
mread22@verizon.net
703-994-3109
Running/Walking Club

The last day of the Running/Walking Club will be Wednesday, June 14, 7:45-8:20 am.

For more information, contact Susan Ellis, susansweb01@aol.com

School Supply Kits

Last day to order school supply kits online is June 16th www.shopttkits.com.
School code: 40210.

Kits will be delivered to your child's classroom before the first day of school.

Dear parents of rising 4th – 6th graders:

The FLL Program is back again for the 3rd year.

FLL Challenge for 2017:

On your mark, get set, flow!

Drink in the 2017/2018 HYDRO DYNAMICS℠ season and learn all about water – how we find, transport, use, or dispose of it. In the 2017/2018 FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge, students will discover what might become possible when we understand what happens to our water.

Help Us Bid a Fond Farewell

Retirement Tea

In Honor of

Sharon Williams

Language Arts Room

Wednesday, June 14, 2017
11:00-12:30PM

Hosted by the PTA