



## PREPARING OUR PATRIOTS FOR THE FUTURE



Pike Road Schools recently held its first Preparing Our Patriots (POP) Day, an event designed to equip senior students with essential life skills as they prepare to graduate. The day was filled with hands-on sessions and interactive experiences to help students navigate real-world challenges beyond high school. Students participated in auto maintenance workshops, where they learned practical skills such as how to change a tire, check their oil, and locate important vehicle information.

Panel discussions covered critical topics, including nutrition, finance, personal wellness, safety, communication skills, and etiquette—all aimed at fostering independence and preparedness.

A highlight of the day was the financial reality fair, where students were assigned careers with specific salaries and tasked with budgeting for real-life expenses. Some students managed finances for a family, while others budgeted as individuals, making decisions on housing, transportation, groceries, entertainment, and more. The experience, much like the game of LIFE,



provided a hands-on understanding of financial responsibility.



The event concluded with an inspiring keynote address from KD Hill, former Ole Miss Defensive Lineman and author of *The Uphill Climb: The KD Hill Story*. Hill shared his powerful message on resilience, encouraging students to persevere and rise above life's challenges.

## ESSAY WINNERS

PRES continued their writing competition in C2 and C3. Round 2 was Narrative writing, and Round 3 was Expository Writing. These students received Winning Writer Goody bags and will participate in a pizza party at the end of the week!



ROUND 2- NARRATIVE WRITING WINNERS



ROUND 3- INFORMATIONAL WRITING WINNERS

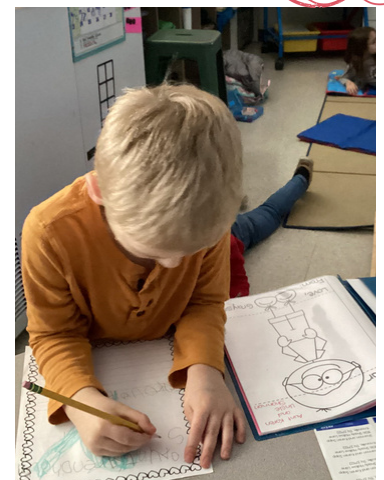
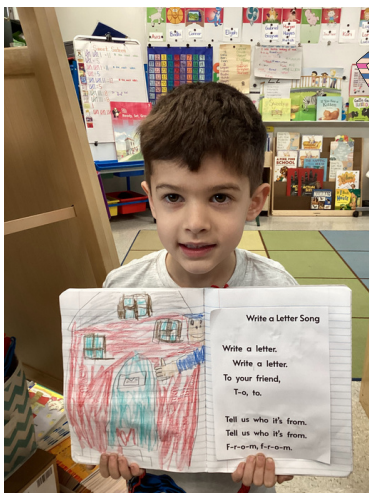
We would like to give a HUGE shout-out to Mrs. Meisler and her 7th-grade students for helping with judging entries!

THANK  
you



## PEN PAL PROJECT

Mrs. Dolandson's students are writing, revising, sending, and receiving letters from across the USA! They even located the addresses on a US map and are collecting their letters and cards.



## VISITORS READING ACROSS PRES

Pike Road Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a week full of special guest readers for Read Across America Week! Visitors from Pike Road High School, the Central Office, Board Members, and even Mayor Stone joined in to share their love of reading with students. It was a fantastic week of storytelling, laughter, and celebrating the joy of books!



families enjoy a country  
breakfast before school  
with their young  
students.



## PRIS CAREER FAIR

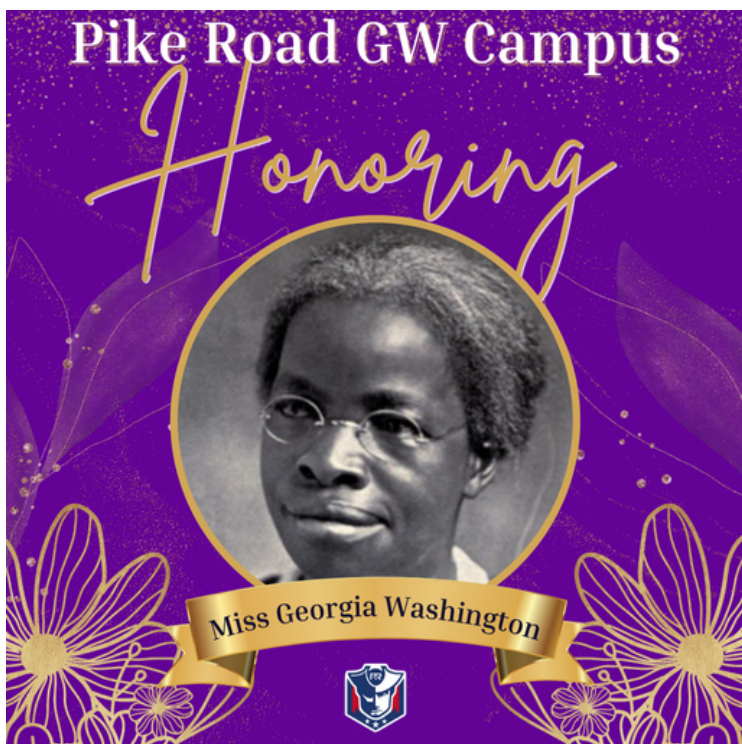
Students at PRIS had an opportunity to explore future career possibilities during the annual Career Fair. The event featured professionals from a wide range of industries, including aviation, broadcasting, paleontology, athletics, social work, public safety, real estate, healthcare, architecture, interior design, higher education, and technology.

Throughout the day, students engaged in conversations, asking professionals about their daily responsibilities, salary ranges, required education, and favorite aspects of their jobs. This interactive experience not only broadened students' understanding of various career paths but also helped them make connections between their education and future aspirations.



## HONORING MISS GEORGIA WASHINGTON

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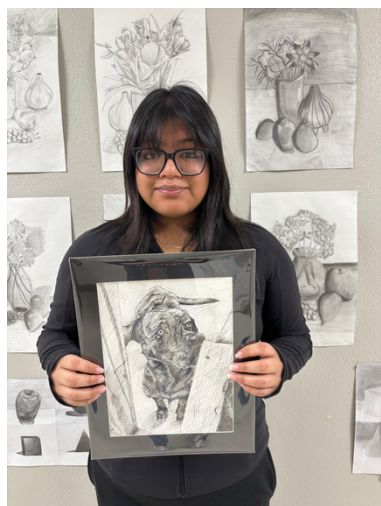


On Friday, February 28, 2025, staff and students wore purple and gold to celebrate the remarkable life and contributions of Miss Georgia Washington, a true patriot whose dedication to education changed countless lives. Her commitment to service, education, and community upliftment embodies the spirit of patriotism—working to create a brighter future for future generations. In 2018, the Town of Pike Road acquired the Georgia Washington Middle School campus and ensured that her name would remain on the school and her grave would be preserved.

## STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Four high school art students have artwork that was selected for the Wiregrass Art Museum in Dothan, AL. Their artwork is on display through March 31.

Held every March, Youth Art Month is a month-long celebration of student artists, in which WMA partners with elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the Wiregrass region to display student artwork in the museum.



LIZETH FLORES (C9)



ABIGAIL MILLS (C10)



GRACIE NIOLET (C11)



LILLIAN RESTAD (C11)

## CONGRATULATIONS DR. SULLIVAN!

## ADMIN CABINET

*Congratulations!*



We are thrilled to announce that Pike Road Intermediate School Principal Dr. Bonnie Sullivan was recently named as the new Zone 4 director on the NAESP Board of Directors. Dr. Sullivan will begin her three-year term Aug. 1, 2025.

We are so proud of you, Dr Sullivan!



**naesp**<sup>™</sup>  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
Serving all elementary and middle-level principals



Congratulations to the PRES Admin's Cabinet Winners! Emily Bryant, Olivia Rass, Grady Bonham, Aria Wilson (not pictured), and Carter Nelson (not pictured).



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Pike Road School District has been recognized at The Alabama Association for Prevention, Attendance and Support Services (AAPASS) Conference for its outstanding commitment and dedication to reducing chronic absenteeism during the 2023-2024 school year! This recognition directly reflects the commitment, consistency, and hard work ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive through consistent school attendance.

This achievement would not be possible without our Campus Attendance Coordinators and Attendance Clerks—their daily dedication to tracking, encouraging, and improving student attendance is making a real difference! We would also like to give a huge shoutout to our parents, who played a vital role in this success by prioritizing attendance!

## COSTA RICA SPRING BREAK

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Fourteen students from Pike Road High School, accompanied by five chaperones, recently returned from an incredible educational adventure in Costa Rica. This immersive experience was open to students enrolled in Spanish 3 or AP Spanish, offering them the opportunity to explore the country's rich culture and history while strengthening their language skills.

The journey began in Liberia, where students learned firsthand how Costa Rica utilizes sustainable resources to run successful businesses. A highlight of this visit included milking cows and soaking in the area's natural thermal springs.

Next, in Arenal, students toured a local farm, made cheese, and kayaked on Lake Arenal while taking in breathtaking views of the Arenal Volcano. They also went ziplining through the rainforest and participated in a market challenge, which allowed them to engage with local vendors and practice their Spanish. One of the most memorable moments of the trip was dining in the home of a local family, which provided a true taste of Costa Rican hospitality.

The adventure continued in Sarchí, where students explored the history of Costa Rica's famous ox cart wheels and even took a painting class to create their own designs. A visit to a pineapple farm offered a hands-on experience in agriculture, where students picked and tasted fresh pineapples straight from the fields.

The trip concluded in San José with a special dinner and cultural exposition at a restaurant overlooking the Central Valley. This unforgettable journey deepened students' appreciation for Costa Rica and broadened their global perspective, reinforcing the importance of language learning and cultural connections.

Show your Patriot Pride with a new Pike Road Schools Debit card from Alabama ONE credit union.



Visit your new Pike Road Alabama ONE branch to get your debit card for only \$15. 100% of the proceeds benefit Pike Road High School

## Did You Know?

Did you know you can purchase a "Helping Schools" tag and \$20 will be given to the school of your choice? You can purchase your tag at the website below:

[www.revenue.alabama.gov/license-plates/](http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/license-plates/)



## MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

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### *What's going to fill your bracket of self-care?*

GRAB A QUICK BITE TO EAT TO FUEL YOUR MIND AND BODY  
EVEN ON BUSY DAYS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEK WITH TIME FOR BREAKS

TAKE A QUICK REST BETWEEN ACTIVITIES TO 'RESET'

SPEND 15-20 MINUTE "TIME OUT" EACH DAY TO DO  
SOMETHING YOU ENJOY LIKE READING, WATCHING A SHOW,  
DOING AN ACTIVITY OUTSIDE, ETC

ADD REFLECTION TO YOUR GAME PLAN BY  
WRITING DOWN OR SHARING 3 POSITIVES FROM YOUR DAY

### DID YOU KNOW...



The Pike Road School Patriot Marching Band is set to perform on a national level as they prepare to march in the National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2025. This honor places the band among top performers from across the country, showcasing their talent in one of the nation's most celebrated spring events.

The band will perform "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Main Street America", bringing an all-American flair to the parade and proudly representing Pike Road School and their community.

### SC SPIRIT NIGHTS



*Pike Road School*  
*Show Choir*  
*Spirit Nights*



TUESDAY, 4/8: THE MARKET AT JOHN HALL 5-8  
MONDAY, 4/28: MELLOW MUSHROOM 4-9  
TUESDAY, 5/13: SAN MARCOS 5-9:30  
TUESDAY 5/20: THE MARKET AT JOHN HALL 5-8  
TUESDAY 6/10: SOL 5-9



SAVE THE DATES!  
TO-GO ORDERS COUNT



## Save the Date

- March 29: Military, School Staff, & First Responders Appreciation Day at John Hall
- April 18: Professional Development (No School)
- April 21: BOE Meeting
- May 3: Crawfish Boil
- May 22: Graduation
- May 23: Last Day of School

Show your support for our Pike Road Schools Military Children during Month of the Military Child



[pike-road-purple-up.cheddarup.com](http://pike-road-purple-up.cheddarup.com)

Shirts will be delivered to your campus. Orders close March 28th

## Get ready for the Crawfish Boil!

**MILITARY,  
SCHOOL STAFF, &  
FIRST RESPONDERS**  
*Appreciation Day*

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

FREE HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS FOR  
MILITARY, SCHOOL STAFF, AND FIRST RESPONDERS

THE MARKET AT JOHN HALL STORE,  
15668 VAUGHN ROAD

THE LAW OFFICES OF  
**V&W**  
VICKERS & WHITE PLLC

PIKE ROAD  
PATRIOT FUND

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**CRAWFISH BOIL**

★ ★ **SEE YOU** ★ ★

**ON MAY 3!**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1!**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★