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The Paulding Pulse

PATCHWRITING...THE NEW PLAGARISM?

Usually on the front page of the District's e-newsletter, we spotlight an activity or an event going on inside one of our schools. That feature will return next month. But this month, I wanted to draw your attention to the "new" (it isn't really new) form of plagiarism: patchwriting.

Most of us were taught to cite our sources when writing a paper for class. In order for us to do that, we had to use source material, quote it, and then write a bibliography showing where we found our information. But what if we didn't directly quote the source material. Instead, we paraphrased it. Patchwriting is, basically, a failed attempt at paraphrasing or paraphrasing the source material's language too closely. It is a form of intellectual dishonesty.

In a 2008 study, called the Citation Project, a Syracuse University professor looked at the techniques students were using in their papers. How were they citing their sources? The study took 174 papers written by students at 16 different colleges. Researchers found 17% of the writing in a college term paper was actually patchwriting. It wasn't direct plagiarism, but the writing was so close to the original source material that one could make the case that the student lifted it instead of writing for themselves.

We are all at risk for patchwriting. So, how can you help your student avoid this common pitfall?

1. Ask them are they presenting a new idea or just regurgitating what they have read? Is your child offering a new opinion? Are they offering a new perspective on the topic than the accepted wisdom?
2. Budget enough time for great content. Patchwriting often occurs when we haven't set aside enough time to completely flesh out our own ideas and words, and we are left with a few hours to write a 10-page paper. Don't wait until the last minute. Break up your writing into segments: brainstorming, outlining, writing, and editing. When you aren't up against a deadline, you've allowed yourself the opportunity to be creative, revisit your ideas and craft them in a way that is unique to the reader.
3. Give your work another set of eyes. This is an important tip, even if we weren't focusing on patchwriting. Parents, take the time to read through your child's papers. You know them well enough to know if the ideas they are putting forth in their writing are their own, or lifted from someone else. Additionally, you'll be able to catch grammar and spelling errors that can derail even the most original paper!

Written by: Suzanne Wooley
Director of Communications

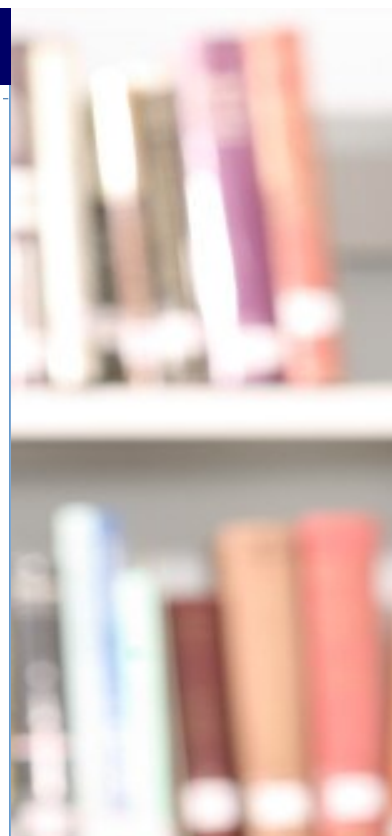
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 Paulding County School District

 @pauldingboe

 Positively Paulding blog (www.paulding.k12.ga.us)

The mission of the Paulding County School District is to prepare
ALL students for success today and tomorrow.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Superintendent.....	2
Buzz from the Board	2
Parent Teacher Conferences ...	3
Move On When Ready	3
Bullying Prevention Month.....	4
Help Stop Bullying	4
Transition Tuesdays.....	5

UPCOMING DATES:

OCTOBER 9: END OF 1ST 9 WEEKS

OCTOBER 12-16: PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES, ONE HOUR EARLY RE-LEASE

OCTOBER 16: GRADE REPORTS ISSUED



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK...

We are about to be at the midpoint of the first semester. Now is the time when you will be getting information about parent/teacher conferences. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to sit down with your child's teacher, offer feedback, receive feedback and make a game plan for the rest of the semester. You'll find a number of tips on how to make a parent/teacher conference successful on the next page of this newsletter.

October is Community Engagement Month. It is so important for the community to be involved in our schools. Not only can you provide invaluable resources and perspectives that will help our students achieve, but you also show our students that the community is invested in their education and their future. There are many different ways that you can get involved with the Paulding County School District. One of those is by volunteering at a Reality Fair later this month. Eighth grade students will be assigned a job, a salary, and a family. They will have to figure out how to budget for everyday items like mortgage/rent, utilities, car payments, car insurance, daycare, as well as unexpected events like speeding tickets and a trip to the ER. These fairs can be an eye-opening experience for many of our students, some of whom find themselves questioning their intended careers earlier enough to switch their focus to something more profitable. I encourage you to take part in one of these fairs, if you have the time.

Finally, I know many of you are anxious about your child's Georgia Milestones results from last year. The State Department of Education says we can expect those individual scores back later this month. When we receive them, we'll pass them along to you.

Cliff Cole
Superintendent

Buzz from the Board

October is...

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Bullying Prevention Month

We observe...

- October 2: National Custodial Workers' Day
- October 2: National Diversity Day
- October 5: Child Health Day
- October 5: World Day of Bullying Prevention
- October 5: World Teachers' Day
- October 5-9: Fire Prevention Week
- October 6: American Libraries Day
- October 11: Southern Food Heritage Day
- October 12: Columbus Day
- October 12-16: School Lunch Week
- October 16: Dictionary Day
- October 19-23: School Bus Safety Week
- October 31: Halloween

Board Meeting

Dates:

**October 5th—
Board Work Session**

**October 13 —
6:15pm**

**October 27 —
8:30am**

To see the latest news from the Board of Education meetings, please visit: <http://paulding.schoolwires.net/Page/331> and look for our "News from the Board" e-Newsletters.

Details from our biweekly board meetings will return to the District e-newsletters in January 2016.



Back row (L-R): Tom Cable (Board Attorney), Richard Manous, Joe Watson, Nick Chester, Kim Curl, Brian Ottott (Associate Superintendent); Front row (L-R): Theresa Lyons, Cliff Cole (Superintendent), Kim Cobb, Sammy McClure

THANKS!

We want to thank everyone who came out for Xtreme Family Field Day!



The event was an overwhelming success, and we'd like to thank the Paulding Education Foundation for all of its hard work.

If you'd like to support the Paulding Education Foundation further, please check out their website at www.pauldingeducationfoundation.org.

MOVE ON WHEN READY

Did you know Georgia has a new "Move On When Ready" program? It is the state's new dual enrollment program that allows high school students to earn college credit while working on their high school diploma. The new Move On When Ready program covers tuition, mandatory fees and required textbooks!

The goal of Move On When ready is to increase college access and completion, prepare students to enter the workforce with the skills they need to succeed, and to remove financial barriers to student participation.



All high school students in the Paulding County School District can participate in Move On

When Ready, but there is a list of requirements each student must meet to earn the college credit.

For more information on Georgia's Move On When Ready program, please visit the [Counseling Information](#) section of the District's website.

PREPARING FOR PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

A parent-teacher conference is a great time to discuss your student's mid-semester progress. It is a chance for parents to ask questions, and for teachers to provide invaluable feedback. It is also a time for parents and teachers to work together as a team to discuss ways both can help the student.

Research shows family engagement is a dynamic, interactive process that provides a pathway to student success. The Harvard Family Research Project defines family engagement as:

1. A shared responsibility among families, community organizations, and schools.
2. Continuous throughout a child's life, from birth to adolescence.
3. Occurring across the multiple settings and contexts in which children grow and learn.

So, how can you get the most out of your parent/teacher conference?

First, think of the conference as a two-way conversation. This is an opportunity for parents to learn about their children's progress in school, and for teachers to gain insights into their students' home and community lives. Parent perspectives on student strengths and weaknesses can help teachers shape their instructional methods.

Next, keep the emphasis on learning. Research shows that family involvement is most effective when it is "linked to learning." An important goal of the first parent/teacher conference is to develop new strategies to support student learning at school and at home.

Finally, focus on both opportunities and challenges. The tone of parent/teacher conferences should be balanced so that all involved understand what the student is doing well, and where that student can improve. Achieving this balance sends the message that your school values student strengths and has high expectations.

Excerpt from: Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets from The Harvard Family Research Project

How to Have a Successful Parent/Teacher Conference

- Make a list of questions to ask your child's teacher
 - Does my child have good work habits?
 - Is my child working up to his or her potential?
 - How does my child react to trying something new?
- Talk to your child before the conference
 - What does your child want to know?
- Be prepared to share information
 - Any changes inside the home (ie. Divorce, new sibling)?
 - Your child's favorite subjects

How to Have a Successful Parent/Teacher Conference

- During the conference
 - Ask to see work samples
 - Take notes
 - Be clear on the teacher's expectations before you leave
- Debrief with your child
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher

BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

Every October, schools and organizations across the country recognize “National Bullying Prevention Month.” The goal is to encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real, or perceived, power imbalance. Both kids who are bullied and those who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Bullying can occur during or after school hours. While much of it happens in person, it can also happen online.

This year, the Paulding County School District updated its bullying policy to include potential punishments for those students found bullying their classmates online, even if the bullying took place outside of school and/or not on school-issued technology.

[Paulding County School District's Bullying Policy](#)

There are many warning signs that may show someone is being bullied or bullying others. Those warning signs can also point to other issues or problems, such as depression or substance abuse.

Signs a Child is Being Bullied:

- ◆ Unexplainable injuries
- ◆ Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics or jewelry
- ◆ Frequent headaches or stomachaches, feeling sick or faking illness
- ◆ Changes in eating habits, like skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home hungry because they skipped lunch.
- ◆ Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- ◆ Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- ◆ Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- ◆ Feelings of helplessness or decreased self-esteem
- ◆ Self-destructive behaviors, such as running away from home, harming themselves or talking about suicide

Signs a Child is Bullying Others:

- ◆ Gets into physical or verbal fights
- ◆ Has friends who bully others
- ◆ Is increasingly aggressive
- ◆ Gets sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently
- ◆ Has unexplained extra money or new belongings
- ◆ Blames others for their problems
- ◆ Doesn't accept responsibility for their actions
- ◆ Is competitive and worries about their reputation or popularity

Less than half (40%) of kids who are bullied ask for help. Many of these kids feel helpless or humiliated.

If you suspect your child is being bullied, or is bullying others, talk to your school's counselor. They have resources that can help.

Source: www.stopbullying.gov

**HELP
STOP
BULLYING!**

Stand up and speak out!

HOW TO HELP STOP BULLYING

Monday, October 5

Blue Shirt Day

Every year on the first Monday in October, STOMP Out Bullying™ holds its signature campaign of Blue Shirt Day™. Watch for public service announcements featuring celebrities.

Week of October 13th

Make friends with someone you don't know

If you've ever been isolated at school, you know what it is like to feel left out. Use this week to meet someone new. Invite them to sit at your lunch table or join you in an after school activity.

Be a leader. Take action. Don't let anyone at school be isolated.

Week of October 20th

STAND UP for Others Week

If you see someone being bullied, be brave and STAND UP for them. Bullies have been known to back off when others stand up for victims. If you don't feel safe, get the help of an adult.

Week of October 27th

- ◆ Create positive messages on post-its and hand them out at school
- ◆ Create anti-bullying videos and share them
- ◆ Create an act of kindness every day and challenge others to do the same. Make kindness go viral!

Did you know?

- 160,000 students avoid school each day for fear of being bullied.
- Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE 2013

The Paulding County School District is very excited to have the opportunity to offer the Microsoft Office 2013 suite to all Paulding County students FREE OF CHARGE!

Through the support of Microsoft, we are able to offer five copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 client for each faculty and staff member (may download on five personal computers) and five copies of the mobile app for MS Office (may install on five personal mobile devices). Each copy can be installed on a variety of devices and platforms.

To get started, go to: <https://products.office.com/en-US/student>

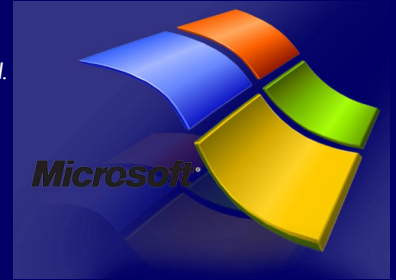
Click on "Find Out More," then "Find Out If You're Eligible." From there, enter your student's student ID (lunch number) + @paulding.k12.ga.us. (ie. 12345@paulding.k12.ga.us).

Passwords are as follows:

Middle and High School students: Use the password your student uses to login to the computer at school.

Elementary students: The password is set to the student ID number (lunch number)

You can find step-by-step directions in the "Find It Fast" section of the District's website.



*"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."
- Mark Twain*

TRANSITION TUESDAYS

There are many exciting opportunities coming up to learn about the transition from high school to post-secondary life. We explore these in our monthly "Transition Tuesdays" meetings.

October's Topic:
Guardianship and Conservatorship
October 20th
Hiram High School Cafeteria
6 to 8 p.m.

Childcare and dinner are provided with an RSVP. If you want to receive meeting reminders and updates via text message, please sign up for the Transition Parent Group. Text @pewittpcsd to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying "unsubscribe @pewittpcsd." If you have trouble using 81010, try texting @pewittpcsd to 470-235-4271 instead.

For a complete look at this year's Transition Tuesdays lineup, go to: <http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=373>

VISION

The vision of the Paulding County School District is to provide a safe, healthy, supportive environment focused on learning and committed to high academic achievement. Through the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, students will be prepared as life-long learners and as participating, contributing members of our dynamic and diverse community.

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