

# PAS WEEKLY

[pennalexander.philasd.org](http://pennalexander.philasd.org) | Ms. Wapner, Principal | 215-400-7760

## Upcoming Events:

### Giving Tuesday

Tue., December 3

### SEED #1 Workshop

Tue., December 3, 6pm

### Ballroom Dancing Culminating Event (5GR)

Wed., December 4

### Toy Swap and Movie Night (HSA Sponsored)

Wed., December 4, 6-8pm

### FACE Workshop Scholastic Spotlight on Reading (K-5)

Thurs., December 5, 6pm  
Wed., Dec. 18, 8:30am-NESP  
(NonEnglish Speaking Parents)

### Prospective Family Open House

Fri., December 6, 9:30am

### Pretzel \$1 & DressDown Day \$1 (Pajama Day for CHOP)

Fri., December 6

### Winter Concert

Tues., Dec. 10, 6pm K-1GR  
Tues., Dec. 10, 7pm 2-3GR

### Interim Reports 4-8GR

Mon., Dec. 16

### Winter Concert 4-8GR

Tues., Dec. 17, 6pm

### NonEnglish Speaking Parents Chat & Chew

Wed., Dec. 18, 8:30am

## Giving Tuesday

Memories are made each day at PAS because of your support and generosity—whether it is author celebrations in kindergarten, baby chicks in second grade, the rice celebration in third grade, the annual Ballroom Dancing Program in fifth grade or attending the hit musical Hamilton this year for the eighth graders - these events and memories could not be made without your support.



Help us reach our goal of \$23,000. A group of anonymous donors have already contributed \$11,000. Any amount matters and donating is easy: use the enclosed form, donate online at [pennalexanderschool.org](http://pennalexanderschool.org), Venmo, or via Facebook. We look forward to your participation.

## Reminder - SEEDS Workshop #1 - December 3, 6pm

The Henry C. Lea School (Lea) and Penn Alexander will host a series of conversations across our community as part of the National SEED Project. SEED stands for “Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity,” and it prepares participants to connect our lives to one another and to society at large by acknowledging systems of oppression, power, and privilege. Our “SEED Community Conversations” will include personal reflection, learning experiences, and opportunities to hear others’ stories. and to listen to others’ voices. Dinner and childcare provided.

## Dress In Your PJ’s - Friday, Dec. 6

Support research funding at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia by donating \$1 to wear your pajamas on Friday.



## Science Fair - Request for Judges

Come out to support our junior scientists at Penn Alexander and share your love of science by being a science fair judge at the annual PAS Science Fair for Grades 4-5. No experience necessary. Listen to students present their projects, and chat about the scientific method in action.

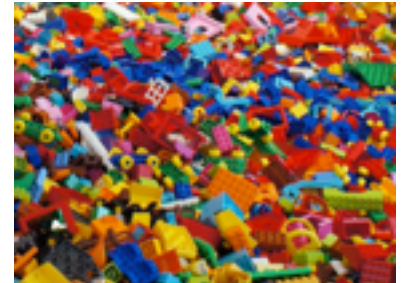


The Lower School Science Fair (Grades 4-5) is Wednesday, **December 18**, 9am to 10:30am in the PAS atrium.

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/PASsciencefairjudgesSignUp>

## Save the Date - Toy Swap and Movie Night

You are invited to the 2nd annual Toy Swap and Movie Night on Wednesday, **December 4** from 6-8pm in the PAS lunchroom. Clear out your closets and bring your cast-off toys, books, puzzles and more for an old-fashioned toy swap. See enclosed flier for details.



## Potluck Book Discussions - Sign up to Participate!

**Equity Circle** invites the PAS community to participate in the Around the Table potluck book discussions. It is not necessary to have read the books to participate.

### Next Scheduled Potlucks:

Sunday, **December 8**, 6.30pm - 8pm at PAS family home

Thursday, **December 12**, 7.30pm - 9.30pm at PAS family home

See attached flier for dates and times and to sign up or sign up online at

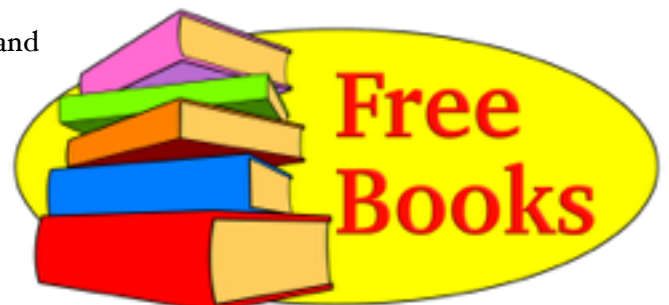
<https://tinyurl.com/AroundtheTable2019SignUp>



## FACE Workshop - Scholastic: Spotlight on Reading K-2

This workshop on **December 5** is designed to extend literacy learning in the home. Attendees will participate in literacy-rich activities and learn a variety of strategies and tools they can use to nurture and strengthen their child's love of reading and writing. This session uses the interactive read-aloud process to model skills and strategies for families to use with their children to help them get the most out of the book.

Parents/Guardians will receive a Family Tip Sheet with strategies and tools they can build and reinforce positive routines at home to help strengthen and nurture their children's reading and writing skills, AND three (3) grade level books!





## PAS Community Profile: Ms. Kara Durant

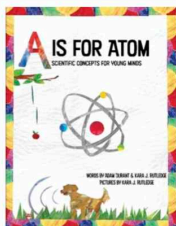
One thing about Penn Alexander is that within the cacophony of the exceptional, everyday greatness abounds. One place, and one person who contributes to the lives of our children and our community in countless ways is Ms. Kara Durant in the Art Room. In both her personal and professional endeavors she is constantly bridging concepts, mediums, ideas and lives. Kara grew up in Mt. Airy and attended Germantown Friends for her K-12 education. Kara studied Psychology at Wesleyan and pursued her love of art through a masters in Art Education from Moore College of Art and Design. Kara's career at PAS started 6 years ago when she supported the arts at PAS as a teaching artist through her "Art on a Cart." Today you can find her on the third floor in the 3 year old art classroom.

Ms. Durant's approach is offering students a space that offers open-ended exploration through structured choice. Kara likes to provide students with a fuller scope of why they are doing particular projects or techniques, what is the history of the artist, technique or process to help create connections or students. You can see this in her integration of observational drawings that connect science and art, her 1st grade project on still life connecting student's farm field trip learnings with art, supporting the 8th graders in their alchemy of the themes of innovation, community and leadership into a mural installation currently on display at Penn GSE, or walking into the art classroom to hear her reading students art history as they work.

Not only does Kara create opportunities for students to thrive in the classroom but she also creates outside PAS walls being a self-published author of Jaro and Frog, co-author of A is for Atom with her husband a Science educator, illustrator of Humpy Saves the day by author Doug Farrell, father of our previous Principal Mr. Michael Farrell.

Be sure to say hello to Ms. Durant and congratulate her on the birth of Samuel Ross!

You can see Ms. Durant's Art Cart [blog](#) or her books at [here](#)



Favorite color: **BLUE**

Favorite Food: Thai



# GIVING TUESDAY

## @ Penn Alexander

**Once again, PAS will participate in #GivingTuesday on December 3, 2019.**

This day of generosity was created to remind all of us about the importance of organizations most dear and near to our hearts during the frenzy of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

On Tuesday, December 3, we invite you, along with your family and friends, to join the nation in this day of generosity by making a donation of any size to the PAS HSA at [https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/giving\\_tuesday/](https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/giving_tuesday/) using the #GivingTuesday donation option or by returning the slip below with your donation. Feel free to do it sooner, too!

**Anonymous donors will match the first \$11,000 we raise on December 3.**  
**Help us reach our overall Giving Tuesday goal of \$23,000.**  
**Every donation helps.**

**We will also collect donations through our Facebook #GivingTuesday campaign. Please share the fundraising campaign with family and friends.**

-----RETURN TO MAIN OFFICE-----

\_\_\_ Yes, I support #GivingTuesday @ PAS with a tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is a check payable to Penn Alexander HSA

Pay by credit card.

Name on credit card (Visa/MasterCard only) \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for the PAS HSA to charge my credit card for the total amount listed above.

Signature of card holder \_\_\_\_\_



# SHREK

## THE MUSICAL JR.

Dear Penn Alexander Community,

We have exciting news! After many years of producing top-notch performances, Penn Alexander School will be performing **Shrek The Musical, Jr.** this spring! The show has engaged and excited audiences for years, and will be an excellent experience for this year's cast. The script is demanding for school students, but we believe the talent exists at Penn Alexander to deliver a performance of this magnitude. A team of teachers and volunteers are ready to support the production in conjunction with parents and community.

Every year the Penn Alexander School staff has worked hard to improve the theater program, but also the experience of our performers. There are many elements that are necessary for producing a show, and every part is as important as the others. Without the dedicated teachers, parents, actors, musicians, artists, and crew we could not provide an entertaining experience for our audience.

We expect, as usual, that the auditions will be very competitive. While **Shrek, Jr.** has a large cast there are never enough cast parts for all those who wish to be on the stage. We will have openings in the cast, chorus, and crew that we will fill with as many students as possible.

**CAST:** Auditions will be open to students in **Grades 5 to 8.**

**CREW:** Stage crew is open to students in **Grades 5 to 8.**

**CHORUS:** Singers will be chosen from the lower school choir (**grades 3 to 5**).

**There will be an informational meeting on DECEMBER 5th from 3:15-4:00 for CAST and CREW.** On this day, students may sign up for an audition day and pick up audition materials. If you cannot attend the meeting, please see Ms. Larese or Ms. Lam for materials **after** the meeting.

**CAST AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER SCHOOL ON  
DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
FROM 3:00 TO 5:00 P.M.**

We look forward to putting on a fantastic show for you this year!

Sincerely,  
Tia Larese, Director &  
Taylor Lam, Musical Director



 SCHOLASTIC

LITERACY  
EVENTS



Spotlight on Reading

Reading and  
Writing Connection

Scholastic Literacy  
Events Summer Reading

PENN  
ALEXANDER  
SCHOOL

PARENT NAME:

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STUDENT NAME:

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PHONE:

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EMAIL:

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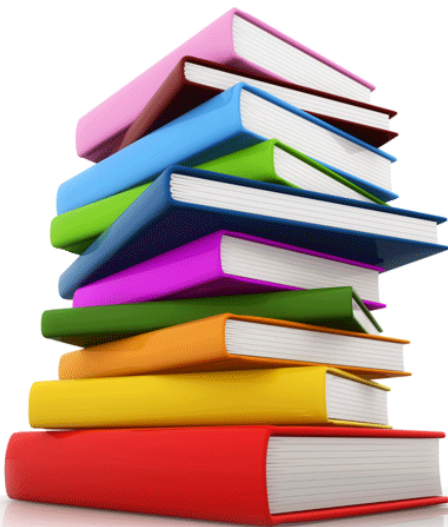
# Parent Workshop!!

## Grades K-2 ND

December 5, 2019, 6pm  
&

December 18, 2019, 8:30am  
(for NonEnglish Speaking Parents)

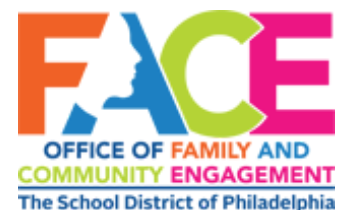
### All Parents & Family Members Are Invited



## Free Books! Fun!

## Childcare!

4209 SPRUCE STREET  
(ENTER ON 43RD STREET,  
ACROSS FROM CVS)





You're invited to the 2nd annual  
PAS HSA & Equity Circle

# TOY SWAP & MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, December 4  
6:00 - 8:00 pm - Pizza for purchase  
PAS cafeteria (enter via blacktop)

**Clear out your closets! Empty your basements!  
Bring your cast-off toys in good condition -  
books, puzzles and more - for an old-fashioned  
toy swap. (No gift-wrapped toys)**

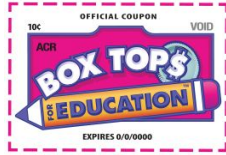
Starting **Wednesday, November 20**, drop items in the  
toy bin outside the main office or bring them to the  
event on December 4.

**Bring 1, 5, 10 or 100 toys!**

Earn up to 5 tickets to swap. Or buy tickets for \$1  
Leftover toys will be sent to the Nesting House

## Partners





## Easy Ways to Help raise money for Penn Alexander

**Box Tops** <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>

**Three ways to participate** in this fundraising opportunity:

1. Box Tops has gone **Clipless! Download the BoxTops for Education app** on your mobile device to scan receipts that contain eligible items. (When registering, choose 19104 zip code and select Sadie Alexander) *Don't forget to register your **ShopRite and Sam's Club cards** for bonus points and have friends and family participate.*
2. **Clip Box Tops** from your household products and send them into school in an envelope.
3. **Don't have time** to either scan or clip coupons but still want to make an impact and help support our afterschool programs? Make a one-time donation of \$45 by cash or check (made out to PAS HSA) and send this donation with the personal information below to the school's office:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Classroom \_\_\_\_\_ Box Tops Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, the **Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5%** of the price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

**If you shop on Amazon, bookmark [smile.amazon.com/](https://smile.amazon.com/) instead,** and choose *Home and School Association of Penn Alexander School* as your charity.

A percentage of every purchase will go to PAS.

Share the information about both of these programs with neighbors and extended family members. They are open to everyone.





PAJAMA  
DAY

## SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

We are excited to announce that Penn Alexander is participating in Pajama Day to raise funds for Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)! On **Friday, December 6**, we invite all students to wear their favorite school-appropriate pajamas and bring in an optional donation to help raise money for the children and families cared for at CHOP. If you would like to make a gift by check, please make it payable to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and put “Pajama Day” on the memo line. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Giving back and creating a sense of community are important to us at Penn Alexander. By supporting Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, you are helping to create breakthroughs for sick and injured kids right here in our community *and* all around the world. CHOP is a charitable organization that has been serving families and advancing pediatrics since 1855.

We thank you in advance for helping us make this effort a success by saying YAY to Pajama Day! Every dollar makes a difference in the life of a child at CHOP.

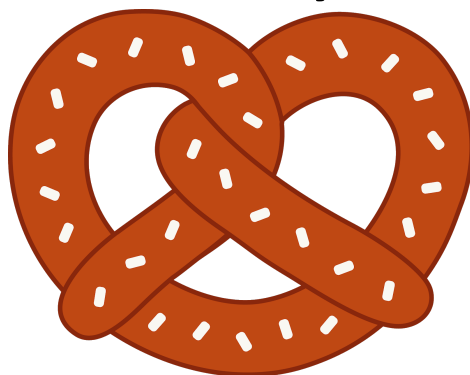
Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Rabbitt'.

Lisa Rabbitt

Associate Director, School and Youth Programs

**Pretzel Day! \$1**



**Dress Down Day! \$1  
Friday!**



The Henry C. Lea Elementary School (Lea) and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Penn Partnership School (PAS) will be hosting a series of conversations across our community as part of the National SEED Project (<https://nationalseedproject.org/>).

SEED stands for “Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity,” and it prepares participants to **connect our lives to one another and to society at large by acknowledging systems of oppression, power, and privilege.** Our “SEED Community Conversations” will include personal reflection, learning experiences, and opportunities to hear others’ stories and to listen to others’ voices.

**All members of the Lea, PAS, and wider community are invited to participate.** While it is not required, we encourage you to attend *all* of the community conversations if possible. The dates, times, and locations are in the table below, and we hope to see you at SEED!

Session	Date	Location
SEED #1	<b>December 3, 2019</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Penn Alexander School, 4209 Spruce Street <i>PAS Atrium</i>
SEED #2	<b>January 14, 2020</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Lea Elementary School, 4700 Locust Street <i>Lea School Library (enter via Locust Street)</i>
SEED #3	<b>February 25, 2020</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Penn Alexander School, 4209 Spruce Street <i>PAS Atrium</i>
SEED #4	<b>April 21, 2020</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Lea Elementary School, 4700 Locust Street <i>Lea School Library (enter via Locust Street)</i>
SEED Celebration	<b>June 9, 2020</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	TBD!

<b>Please RSVP!</b>	<p>Follow this link to complete a brief survey:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://tinyurl.com/RSVP-Lea-PAS-SEED-1920" style="color: blue; text-decoration: underline;">https://tinyurl.com/RSVP-Lea-PAS-SEED-1920</a></p>
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If you have any questions, please contact Lea’s Community Partnerships Coordinator, Rich Liuzzi, at [rjliuzzi@gse.upenn.edu](mailto:rjliuzzi@gse.upenn.edu) or 215-400-7660.

# The Penn Alexander Equity Circle invites you

## AROUND<sup>the</sup> TABLE

For the past three summers, the PAS Equity Circle has invited parents and caregivers to read selected books that deepen our commitment to Equity, in particular racial justice, in our school community, and beyond. In continuing the work that was coordinated by the Equity Circle last year, and building off selected summer readings, you are invited to participate in our Around the Table initiative. This initiative will connect members of our community over potluck meals, hosted by PAS families in homes and at PAS, to discuss these texts and explore connections as we work towards building a stronger, more inclusive, welcoming, and equitable community. **Having read the books is not required for participation in the potluck, only an interest in the conversation and in building a healthy and safe community for all. For those who would like to read a copy of the book, please stop by the office to check one out.** Middle school students are invited to join their families for these potlucks as well.

### NEXT SCHEDULED POTLUCKS:

- Tuesday November 19th, from 6pm-8pm at Penn Alexander
- Thursday, November 21st, 6-8pm at PAS family home
- Sunday, December 8th, 6.30pm - 8pm at PAS family home
- Thursday, December 12th, 7.30pm - 9.30pm at PAS family home
- **More to come!**

**Please complete and return the form attached or sign-up using the link below if you are interested in joining.**



<https://tinyurl.com/AroundtheTable2019SignUp>

The first book is How We Fight White Supremacy by Akiba Solomon & Kenrya Rankin. In this book, leading organizers, artists, journalists, comedians, and filmmakers offer wisdom on how they fight White supremacy.

The second, Just Mercy, Adapted for Young Adults by Bryan Stevenson, is an extraordinary narrative of criminal justice, blackness, and race in America, adapted for young adults.

*The Penn Alexander Equity Circle shares values, stories, and truths, taking concrete action to build a strong, inclusive community that welcomes and supports all families, all religions, all gender and sexual identities, all abilities, and all cultural and economic backgrounds.*



البُستان  
Al-Bustan  
Seeds of Culture

# أَهْلًا *AHLAN!* open house

Come meet Al-Bustan's team!  
Enjoy a celebratory evening of  
art, music, food, and mingling.

**Art exhibit by Tremain Smith**

**Date: Friday, Dec 6, 2019**

**Time: 5:00-9:00 PM**

**Place: 3645 Lancaster Ave**



البُستان  
Al-Bustan  
Seeds of Culture

Cover art by Moffet School student Duaa  
Medium: paint on silk

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture is excited to have an administrative and programming hub on Lancaster Ave. We look forward to building relationships with neighboring residents, businesses, and organizations as we co-create a welcoming cultural space for all.

## NEED EVENT SPACE?

A portion of our space is available for rent as a flexible event venue for anyone interested in holding meetings, workshops, or other activities. Contact us at [space@albustanseeds.org](mailto:space@albustanseeds.org)

Rooted in Arab arts and language, Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture offers artistic and educational programming that enriches cross-cultural understanding and celebrates diversity.

[albustanseeds.org](http://albustanseeds.org)  
[@albustanseeds](https://www.instagram.com/albustanseeds)

267-809-3668  
[info@albustanseeds.org](mailto:info@albustanseeds.org)









# Holiday Open House

**Saturday, Dec. 7**  
**2 to 6 PM**

Stop by the SHCA Center on Saturday, December 7 for **complimentary cider, mulled wine, hot cocoa and other treats** while you mingle with friends and neighbors. Meet SHCA board and committee members and learn more about SHCA and community volunteer opportunities.

Winter  
crafts for  
kids!

Raffle  
Prizes

**Visitors are eligible for a free SHCA membership just for stopping by!** Join today and help SHCA support local schools, cultural events and activities, and neighborhood improvement efforts.

**Spruce Hill Center**  
**257 South 45th Street**

