Dear Dogwood Elementary Families,

This month’s snow fall caught many by surprise….closing schools and government offices for an entire week! I cannot remember a winter that we have used so many snow days at one time; and its’ not over! By now you know that the new “Puxatawny Phil” did not see his shadow, so it is predicted that we will have an early spring! I don’t know about you, but I am ready!

Report cards will go home on February 8th. Please sign the envelope and return the envelope to school. Please check the box on your child’s report card, or contact your child’s teacher if you would like to schedule a conference to discuss your child’s progress. Well! It is hard to believe that on February 9th we will have been in school for 100 days. Our boys and girls will be celebrating this milestone in a variety of ways.

Reminder school will be closed on February 15th for President’s Day. We are excited about starting the second half of the school year with all of our families. Our student have begun MAP (Maryland Assessment and Performance test) testing. It is very important for students to be present at school during this testing period. Because of the snow, we have limited time for make-up testing.

Parents, mark your calendars. Our Family STEM Night at the Lakeshore Store has been rescheduled for February 26th from 6pm-8pm. Lakeshore is located in Towson at 1620 East Joppa Road. Come enjoy interactive STEM activities for both students, parents, giveaways and prizes. The top classroom with the highest attendance will receive a $150 for their teacher, and a $75 certificate for second highest attendance. For more information contact Mrs. Jones at tjones@bcps.org. Math and reading instruction should capture the students’ attention, stimulate their thinking, provide them with strategies to become problem solvers, effective communicators, and enable them to apply their learning to real-life problems or situations.
February is also Black History Month. Every day on morning announcements, our students will listen to excerpts about the many contributions of famous African American inventors, athletes, educators, musicians, scientist, or entertainers. Our special area teachers will highlight a famous African American related to their specialized field. In addition, we will have a special cultural arts performance by a Brazilian dance company.

Parents, I need your help! Please do not drop off your child(ren) before 8:30 unless they are participating as a classroom helper, library aide or safety. Teachers are not on duty until 8:30, therefore, students cannot be supervised. It is a safety violation. When schools are delayed two hours, students should not arrive until 10:30, again teachers are not on duty until that time. If you have any questions regarding our before care program please contact Dogwood Daycare.

Parents, we also need your help with early dismissals. Teachers have so much instruction to complete during each lesson. When students are pulled from the class prior to the end of the school day, which is 3:10, they do not have adequate time to complete their classwork or assessment. Without the teacher being able to observe students understanding at this point in the lesson, the teacher is not able to adequately assess their understanding, and provide a grade that reflect their understanding. Please help us to continue to help your children, and try to make doctors' appointments before or after school.

Please check our website at Dogwoodes.bcps.org. for current updates and school-wide events. In addition, visit our Parent Corner for a list of tips and educational resources.
Happy February Dogwood Family! We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable “snowcation”. Literacy is one of the major building blocks in education. Here are a few tips to strengthen your child’s skills in language and literacy at school and at home:

- Encourage your children to read daily. Ask them to describe what they may see in pictures, as well as describe the story in various stages.

- Read with your child. If they see you reading, they will begin to model your behavior. Kids love the additional interaction and attention from their parents.

- Encourage your children to draw pictures or write a few sentences to describe the book or story they are reading. In addition, discuss their interpretation and provide positive feedback.

- Another engaging activity is to read a book and watch the corresponding video. Have your child compare the similarities and differences.

- Discover what your child is interested and tap into it! Select books and magazines that spark their attention. Whether it’s a Pokemon adventure, literature on Maya Angelou, the Bubble Guppies, or a book on dirty bikes, spark their interest! This will make reading appealing, engaging, and not seem like a boring task.

- Literacy can even be developed in the home as well. Describing household tasks as you perform them, or discussing the steps in preparing a meal assist in building vocabulary, sequencing, question and answer, and cause and effect.

- Visit your local library for various literary activities and free resources.

- OUR LENDING LIBRARY IS OPEN!! Please visit Parent Services or contact Mrs. Jones at tjones19@bcps.org for more details.

- Utilize BCPS’s Parent University for numerous academic resources. Please visit http://www.bcps.org/parentu/academics/.

- Log into BCPS One under BCPS Digital Content for additional websites and resources. If you need access to BCPS One, please contact Mr. Connelly at nconnelly2@bcps.org.

JOIN THE DOGWOOD PARENTS LISTSERVE!!!
*Please email Mrs. Jones at tjones19@bcps.org. Please include your name, student’s name, grade level, and email address.
Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Facebook: Dogwood Elementary School BCPS
Twitter: @Dogwood_ES
February is Black History Month. During this time, we pay homage to numerous contributions and achievements of African Americans past and present. In celebration of Black History Month, here are a list of suggested reading materials, websites, videos, and museums to utilize with you students at home.

**Select Reading List for Students**

“Cassie’s Colorful Day” by Faith Ringgold  
Ages: 0-4

“Counting to Tar Beach” by Faith Ringgold  
Ages: 0-4

“Nappy Hair” by Carolivia Herron  
Ages: 4-8

“Something Beautiful” by Sharon Dennis Wyeth  
Ages: 5-8

“Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963” by Paul Curtis  
Ages: 10-up

**Black History Websites for Kids**

http://pbskids.org/aaworld/
http://www.timeforkids.com/minisite/black-history-month
https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/black-history-month?gclid=CKif9LW26MoCFUFehgodGHQJ7g  
http://www.pbs.org/parents/special/blackhistory.html
http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/blackhistory

**Black History Videos for Children**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9rQ544fDqI  
http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month/videos  
http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/blackhistory
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtKY4bLUXC0&list=PLjnL2NSDUL6bxhLT7Dajl--XkzqUTC8EK

**Museums**

http://rflewismuseum.org/  
http://greatblacksinwax.org/  
http://visitmaryland.org/pages/africanamericanheritage.aspx?gclid=CJ-12q7JlbQCFY-d4AodOEkAxQ
Mark Your Calendars

➢ Feb. 8th: Report Card Distribution
Please check student folders

➢ Feb. 8th: PTA Meeting (starting at 6pm)
Your voice matters. Come out and support!

➢ Feb. 15th: School Closed for students and staff
Observation of President’s Day

➢ Feb. 17th: Parent University Workshop (6pm-7pm)
**RSVP is required for this event**
Please email Mrs. Jones at tjones19@bcps.org to RSVP for this event

➢ Feb. 19th: PTA Heart to Heart Dance (6:30pm-9:30pm)

➢ Feb. 24th: Black History Month Assembly (students only)
Dancing African Warriors

➢ Feb. 26th: Dogwood Family STEM Night (6pm-8pm)
*Lakeshore Store Towson*
*1620 E Joppa Rd, Towson, MD 21286*
Come enjoy interactive STEM activities for students and parents, giveaways and prizes. The top classroom with the highest attendance will receive a $150 for their teacher, and a $75 certificate for second highest attendance. For more information contact Mrs. Jones at tjones@bcps.org

➢ Feb. 29th: Sparking Excitement Around Everyday Math Workshop

*Presentation by VAEL, Inc.*

*(6pm-8pm) RSVP required for this event*

Please email Mrs. Jones at tjones19@bcps.org to RSVP for this event
Dear Kindergarten Families,

Happy February! As the 2015-2016 school year enters its' mid-year phase, we want to encourage you to remain active members in the academic success of your child. Please continue to read 15 minutes nightly, practice sight words, complete homework, practice number recognition, practice letter sound recognition, blending, writing numbers, counting, and please engage your children in conversations that require them to think critically in all areas (reading, math, etc.).

Here’s what’s happening in Kindergarten this month:

February Fun!:

• On Tuesday, February 9th (date changed, due to snow days), we will be celebrating our 100th Day of School. All kindergarten students are asked to create 100th Day Projects at home. Please have your child collect and display 100 items on poster board. Please label all projects with your child’s name, and a catchy title. All projects are due in class on February 9, 2016, and will be on display for all to enjoy.

• Our Kindergarten Classes will be celebrating Black history month. This will include reading and discussing information about a variety of notable African Americans. Please ask your child about the people that he/she is learning about in school. Additional information will be sent home regarding these activities.

• Each teacher will celebrate Valentine’s Day in her own classroom. We will be making fun crafts, cards, etc. Information regarding each teacher’s celebration plans will be sent home with your child in his/her Take Home Folder.

Winter Weather/Early Closings/Emergency Info

• If you have not done so already, please update your emergency contact information with your child’s teacher. It is critical that we have updated information in order to reach you in case of an emergency or weather related early closing.

Helpful Reminders:

• Please send in a snack DAILY for your child. A snack should include an edible and a beverage. Snacks should include healthy choices.
• Please be certain that your little one comes to school dressed for the cold winter weather. Please send them in hats, gloves, and any winter gear which will keep them warm.

• **Please be certain to send in notes when your child is absent.** The note should indicate the date and the specific reason for the absence (i.e., child was ill; death in the family, etc). The note is due on the day that your child returns to school.

  
  Thank You,
  
  The Kindergarten Team
  
  (Mrs. Cumbo, Ms. Sanders, Ms. Sparzak, Ms. Halperin, Mrs. Jackson)

---

First grade news—

The 100th day of school will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 9th. We will celebrate Valentine’s Day on Friday, February 12th. More details to follow.

Reading- We will identify how animals are unique using nonfiction books. We will identify unique details about bats, bees, fish, and other wild animals. We will identify the topic and main details for our readings. We will also identify the author’s purpose, compare texts, make connections, evaluate, and identify text features.

Math- We will sort a group of objects according to a given attribute, represent a set of data with two categories, interpret a variety of data representations with two categories, and describe a set of data including how many are in each group, which group is greater, and how many people responded to the survey.
News from the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade Team,

Happy February! We hope everyone had a wonderful snow week off and stayed safe and warm! We are continuing with our fourth Language Arts unit called “Unique” where we explore literary and informational texts and discover the qualities of uniqueness. We are making text connections and compare and contrast the unique qualities of two texts. In math we have begun our fourth unit called Data Analysis. We will be collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. In addition, we are learning different ways to represent the data. We are doing very well using our devices on a daily basis. There are many resources on BCPSOne and the students are learning more about how to research and express themselves digitally. The students also love playing on DreamBox. This is a wonderful resource to support your child’s math progression. Please encourage your child to play on DreamBox whenever possible.

Important Notes:

* There has been a change in report cards: Report Cards will be going home on Monday, February 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2016.

*Our 100\textsuperscript{th} day of school is approaching! We will be celebrating this special day in class.

* Please dress your child for the weather. We will be going outside, weather permitting. Students need coats, scarves, hats, mittens, etc.

* Please send in extra tissue boxes and hand sanitizer, if possible.

*Please make sure your child is on time to school each day. Instruction begins at 8:50am.

*If your child is sick, please make sure to send in a note so it is an excused absence.

*If you need to change the way your child goes home, please remember to send a note or call the school (410-887-6808).

Thank you for all of your support,

The Second Grade Team
Ms. Regan- kregan2@bcps.org
Ms. Silver- jsilver@bcps.org
Ms. Talerico- mtalerico@bcps.org
Ms. Torrence- atorrence@bcps.org
Mrs. Weil- aweil@bcps.org
Welcome back to school 3rd grade! This February in math we are continuing to work with Multiplication and Division. We are using both operations to solve multistep problems as it relates to topics such as area and perimeter. We are working on persevering through challenging tasks and problems using all we have learned this year. As MAP testing approaches please continue to promote independence and praise for working through hard assignments. This will set students up for success! In RLA we are moving on to our Historical Perspectives Unit! We will be looking back in US history to understand topics such as Westward Expansion and reading biographies to tell us about the people that lived during this exciting time! Please continue to read with your child for 20 minutes every day as well as practicing their multiplication facts! Be sure to check BCPS One for weekly or biweekly updates on your child’s grades.
4th Grade Survives Snowmageddon!

Ready for more snow – or not so much?!? As the winds and flakes swirl around, teachers grade and plan. Here’s what’s coming up this month in 4th grade:

Language Arts: In Unit 3 – “Taking a Stand” – we are examining the essential questions “How do people determine right from wrong?” and “What motivates people to stand up for what is right?” Students will research various issues in order to form an opinion, and will learn how to express and support that opinion in a paragraph, essay or visually interesting infographic. Please continue to have your child read for at least 15 minutes every day – including weekends, holidays and snow days!

Math: As we look back, we realize just how successful our students have been with both multiplication and division! We move on to fractions. Our study of fractions, like that of multiplication and division, is first based on models – area models and number lines.

Social Studies/Science: Study of fossils or Earliest Americans continues. All classes had the treat of a special Space lesson this first week in February when we visited the county’s Starlab. Starlab is an inflatable planetarium that visits our school every 3 years.

BCPSOne: Do you know Dreambox? If you have the internet at home, please have your child go to Dreambox several times each week. Dreambox is our math support program that is tailored to each child’s individual needs. Students sign on through BCPSOne. Half an hour a day will result in a dramatic improvement in number sense and basic math skills. Check it out! Please continue to monitor grades through BCPSOne.
5th Grade News...
Here are your February reminders:

❖ Continue to monitor student progress on BCPS One. Grades are constantly being entered into BCPS One. If there are significant drops in student’s grades, please contact your child’s teacher. Also, confer with students on daily assignments. In addition, all academic information is updated on Class Dojo daily. Please review Dojo points and messages daily.

❖ Please continue to monitor Class Dojo. In addition, please check student backpacks for any missing assignments that have not been turned in to the teachers. In addition, all academic information is updated on Class Dojo daily. Please review Dojo points and messages daily.

❖ In addition, please log onto BCPS One to have students log in to DreamBox.

❖ Parents, please check homework daily. Homework is due the next day, and is graded on a daily basis.

❖ 5th grade students will not receive extra credit assignments. Please continue to submit daily assignments in on time

❖ Please visit www.mdk12.org to have students practice PARCC release tests. This portal will also allow you to see the rigor that is required to complete and pass the test.

-Your 5th Grade Team
**Strep Throat**

Common symptoms of *strep throat* in children and adults include:

- Severe and sudden sore throat without coughing, sneezing, or other cold-like symptoms.
- Pain or difficulty with swallowing.
- Fever over 101 F; lower fevers may indicate a [viral infection](#) and not strep.
- Swollen *lymph nodes* in the neck.
- White or yellow spots or coating on the *throat and tonsils*.
- Bright red throat or dark red spots on the roof of the mouth at the back near the throat.

Strep throat usually does **not** occur with cold-like symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, or a runny or stuffy nose. The more coldlike symptoms you have, the less likely it is that your sore throat is a strep infection.

In some cases of strep infection, a skin rash develops and spreads over the neck and chest and eventually over the whole body. The rash feels rough like sandpaper. This condition is called *[scarlet fever](#)*. Scarlet fever is treated with antibiotic and is not dangerous if treated
Counselor’s Corner

The character trait of the month is: COOPERATION

Cooperation means working together. Students can show cooperation by demonstrating teamwork, following the school rules, resolving conflicts, compromising, being patient, and showing good sportsmanship.

Parents: Work on cooperation skills by playing games with your children. Practice taking turns, effective communication, and good sportsmanship skills.

Reminders: Please make sure you are sending in notes when your child is absent!
The character trait of the month is: 

**RESPECT**

Respect means treating others the way you want to be treated. Showing respect means following directions, using polite manners, sharing, listening, helping others, showing kindness and following the Dogwood Dream!

**Parents:** Ask your child to give you examples of how they can show respect both in school and at home. Always make sure to model appropriate behavior! Show your child you have teamed up with their teacher to make this year the best one yet!

**Reminders:** Fifth grade parents – please make sure you attend all magnet school assessments! 😊

The character trait of the month is: 

**KINDNESS**

Kindness means being nice to others! Students can show kindness by
being thoughtful and showing compassion towards others. Students can be caring, giving, helpful, and generous by helping others in need.

**Parents:** Have your child pick out a small toy to donate to a local shelter and/or church for the holidays! Discuss the importance of giving and thinking about others!

**Reminder:** Please contact Mrs. Purcell if you would like to discuss Villa Maria counseling services for your child! 😊