



From the desk of our Principal
Mrs. Betty Pettiford

The weather is getting colder, the days are getting shorter, and flu season is upon us. We want to thank all of our parents who participate in our flu mist vaccination. We had over 200 students participate in the program.

I want to personally thank everyone who participated in our Claire's fundraiser. It was a huge success. These funds will be used towards an electronic marquee sign.

A special thank you to all our parents who came out to see their child(ren) participate in our "Harvest Day Parade and Festival." We had a beautiful day, and it was good to see so many parents support this event.

Our new car rider procedure is going well. The purpose of this change was to alleviate the chaos, long lines, and ensure student safety and security. With Dogwood being a 100% bus school, our school was not designed to handle the large influx of car riders. Thank you for your patience and flexibility.

Report cards will be distributed on November 12th. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance, please schedule a conference with your child's teacher. Communication between home and school is necessary in order to support the whole child.

Our first "Family and Friends" day will be held on November 11th at Chik-fil-a on Baltimore National Pike. Please have family and friend mention Dogwood, and we will receive proceeds from the sale anytime between 10:00am to 8:00pm. Proceeds will go towards an electronic marquee for our school. We look forward to seeing you. Calling all Parents!! American Education week begins November 16th through November 20th. You will receive a day and time for your child(ren) grade; however, you are welcome to visit at any time. On Friday, November 20, we invite all Grandparents to attend our Grandparents Breakfast and visit their grandchild(ren)

in their classroom. This is an opportunity for you to observe your child's instructional program. We look forward to seeing you! You must RSVP your attendance. Only grandparents who RSVP will be allowed to attend.

I would like to remind parents of our sign out procedures for students picked up for early dismissal. We ask that parents send a note to school stating that your child(ren) are being picked up for early dismissal or changing to a car rider. Please arrive prior to 2:50pm, otherwise your child will be dismissed as a car rider at regular dismissal time. Instruction and assessments are still going on up until 3:00pm. This classroom interruption causes a disruption to the instructional program.

Don't forget to join our PTA.....The cost is only \$10.00, and your support goes a long way to provide cultural and enrichment activities for your children.

As we reflect upon the Thanksgiving season, I feel so thankful to have supportive parents like you; who send their students to school every day ready to learn. From our family to yours.....Have a festive and bountiful Thanksgiving.



PTA PAW PRINTS

It's hard to believe that November is here already! So much has been done... but we have so much work left to do!

Please continue to support our school's uniform initiative. Uniform's help to create a cohesive learning environment and helps to diminish negative factors, such as bullying that can plague a school.

Our Purple Pride t-shirt fundraiser was such a success that we will offer one last chance to order shirts. Shirts will be on sale until Friday, November 6 @ 3:00pm (Please see the attached form). Unfortunately, in order to ensure a quick turn-around time, we will not be able to accept any orders after the deadline.

Did you come out for Fit Friday? We had a great turn out and parents and students alike learned new ways to get active and learned healthy snack alternatives! Please join us November 23 as Fit Friday becomes "Get Moving Monday"! Same time... 6-8pm. Join us for exciting fitness activities for the whole family as well as healthy snack alternatives that everyone can enjoy! We will also have free prizes and giveaways. This will be an event you won't want to miss!

Have you joined the PTA? It's not too late. Memberships are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. Can't make it to the meetings? Meeting minutes can be found on the website. There are also plenty of PTA sponsored fundraisers and programs that you can volunteer to support.

UPCOMING THIS MONTH:

- ✓ PTA General Body Meeting: Monday, November 2, 2015; 6:00 pm
- ✓ American Education Week: November 16-20, 2015 Stop past the PTA nook for light refreshments.
- ✓ *Get Moving Monday* (A Monday rendition of Fit Friday 😊) : November 23, 2015; 6:00-8:00 pm Come dressed to break a sweat!

We HOPE TO HAVE ALL PAWS ON DECK!!!

KINDERGARTEN

This month, the kindergarten students are working very hard! We are continuously working on letter identification, letter sound correlation, and identifying sounds in the initial, medial, and final positions.

In reading, we will cover the following themes: A World of Bugs, Rules to Go By, Sounds around Us, and Thanksgiving. Each day, we continue to develop our reading skills by learning and applying various reading strategies.

During the month of November, we will complete Unit 2 of our mathematics program: Counting and Comparing. We will begin working in Unit 3: Patterns and Functions: What Comes Next?

Helpful Reminders:

Conference Day is November 13. Please complete and return the appointment signups for your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Please send in a snack for your child DAILY.

Check your child's communication folder each day for important information.

Due to the change in weather, please send in a change of clothes for your child that are weather appropriate,

If your child is absent from school, they must bring in an excuse note when they return to school.

Important Dates to Remember

November 13: Conference Day: No school for students.

November 16-20: American Education Week

November 20: Polar Express Field Trip Money is due

November 26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday: School closed



1st Grade

November will be an exciting month for first grade! We have started our Geometry unit in Math, and are concentrating on two-dimensional shapes and the relationships between them. As students sort and describe groups of shapes, they begin to distinguish specific attributes of triangles and quadrilaterals. Ask your child if they notice any of these shapes in the environment around them.

In Reading, we are exploring elements of nonfiction texts and how reading these texts help us to explore and understand our world. Students will gain an understanding that nonfiction reading is “reading for information” and nonfiction writing is “writing to teach.” We will read nonfiction texts to identify the main topic, use illustrations and details to describe the key ideas, and distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

Please note that first graders do not receive report cards for the first quarter. Instead of report cards, you will be having a conference with your child’s teacher.

2nd Grade

Dear Second Grade Families:

November is here and we are excited to be moving into the second quarter! In reading, we have just finished up learning about Cycles in Our Natural World and we will be moving into Unit 3: Live and Learn. Students will be learning about wild weather, magnets and friendship in this unit!



Math has been busy and exciting as we have been learning all about geometry. Ask your student if they can identify 2D and 3D shapes at home! (trapezoid, squares, triangles, rectangular prisms and spheres).

Here are some important reminders for the month of November!

- The field trip to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore will be on Thursday, November 5, 2015. We will be departing from school at 9:15, and we will return to school at 1:30.
- If your child is bringing a lunch from home make sure that it is in a paper bag or another bag that can be thrown away.
- Rain or shine the trip will still go on, so bring comfy walking shoes!

If you have any questions please contact your child's homeroom teacher!

Thank you,

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

3rd Grade

Hello 3rd grade families! This November in math we are working on place value, estimating to the nearest ten and hundred as well as adding and subtracting up to three digit numbers. We are working on regrouping this year. This is a new concept for students, please be sure to practice with them at home. In reading we are in our second unit. We are reading fables, folktales, and myths to find the moral of these stories. Students will be able to tell you the moral and WHY they think so. We have also been talking about lessons we learn in our everyday life and will be writing our own fable to teach a lesson to some of the younger students in our school. Please continue working with your child on reading everyday to an adult and independently as well as continuing memorizing their multiplication facts. These are both skills they need to master in order to continue their success in the future! Thanks!



4th Grade

News from Your 4th Grade Team

ELA: In the next few weeks, students will be finishing with the book *Wonder* and will be working on the culminating event. Please continue to have students read for 15 minutes a night to work on fluency.



Math: The 4th grade students have begun the multiplication unit. In this unit students are working on skills and strategies to multiply one digit numbers by 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers. At home, please work on basic multiplication facts to help improve student fluency with facts.

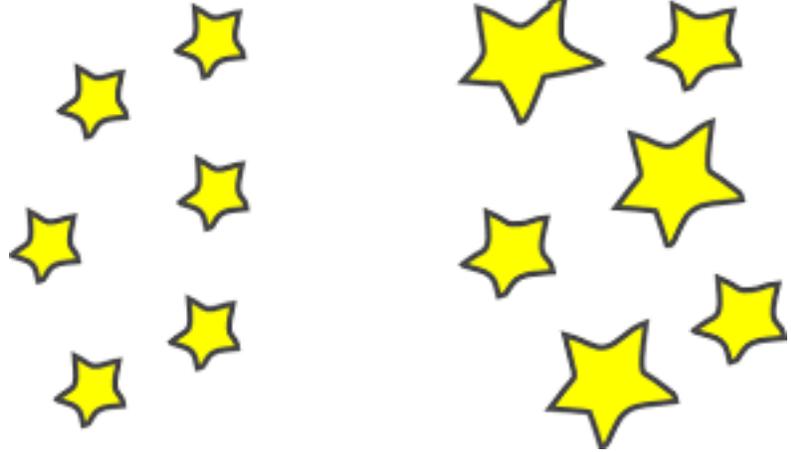
Social Studies/Science: Students are now working on their second unit of either science or social studies. During this unit, students are working with another 4th grade teachers on the new skills. If you have any questions, feel free to email your homeroom teacher.

BCPSOne: All students and parents should have access to BCPS One. Again, this is an online tool for students and parents. Parents can use this tool to check the teacher's gradebook. Please access this gradebook weekly to monitor your child's grades.

5th Grade News...

We are excited to begin our Second Quarter! Here are a few reminders:

- ❖ Please continue to monitor student progress on BCPS One. In addition, all academic information is updated on Class Dojo daily. Please review Dojo points and messages daily.



- ❖ Parents, please check homework daily. Homework is due the next day, and is graded on a daily basis.
- ❖ For consistency in reading, please continue to reading for the required 30 minutes per day, and provide documentation in student reading logs.
- ❖ Please continue to review multiplication and division facts. As math concepts increase in difficult, this will be essential in student success.
- ❖ 5th grade students will not receive extra credit assignments. Please continue to submit daily assignments in on time.

Special Announcement

Students will attend a performance of the Nutcracker Thursday, December 3rd at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School. At this time, chaperones are *not* required due to limited space.

School Counselor

Beginning **Thursday, October 29th- Tuesday November 10th** we will be beginning our canned food drive. The non-perishable canned goods will be donated to Epworth United Methodist Church. Please encourage your students and remind them to bring in canned goods. Let's see who can collect the most cans! Thank you for your participation!

Jennifer L. Fischer, M.Ed., NCC
School Counselor



Let's Dance

Brownie Troop #1966

Presents their 1st Annual Fall Harvest Dance!!!!

Calling all 1st, 2nd and 3rd Graders

*FACE PAINTING *PHOTO BOOTH
*INSTAGRAM PHOTO FRAME
*DJ

This event is open to all children in grades 1-3. They do not have to attend Dogwood Elementary School.

Tickets will be on sale: Monday November 2, 2015

Please see School Social Worker, *Mrs. Johnson for tickets*

Date: Friday November 20, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Dogwood Elementary (GYM) Tickets: \$5.00 per person
Refreshments will be sold!!!
Come show us your best Whip and Nae-Nae!!!

Hand Washing Saves Lives

Did you know that the very simple activity of frequent handwashing has the potential to save more lives than any single vaccine or medical intervention²⁻⁴? It is one of the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrheal diseases and pneumonia, which cause more than 3.5 million deaths worldwide in children under the age of 5 every year⁵. Although people around the world clean their hands with water, very few use soap to wash their hands.



When should you wash your hands?

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After touching garbage

What is the right way to wash your hands?

- Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
- Rub your hands together to make a lather and scrub them well; be sure to scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Continue rubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry.



Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of germs on them. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do **not** eliminate all types of germs.

Hand sanitizers are not effective when hands are visibly dirty.

How should you use hand sanitizer?

- Apply the product to the palm of one hand.
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

Information from the CDC and found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HandWashing/>

Dogwood Elementary School Spirit Night



At



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015

10:30am-8:00pm

Chick-Fil-A

5668 Baltimore National Pike

Catonsville, MD 21228

**Purchase a large fry or premium side and a medium drink and
receive one free entrée with school I.D. or report card.**

10% of your total will go to the school's Electronic Marquee Fund.

**Please be sure to mention Dogwood Elementary Fundraiser with
your purchase to ensure proceeds go to the school.**

Physical Education

In November, your child will have a wonderful opportunity to climb on the **Movement Education** equipment. This equipment is on loan from Baltimore County Public Schools. The equipment includes: A frames, bridges, ladders, cargo nets and much more. Due to the nature of this activity, **TENNIS SHOES ARE A MUST!** Students wearing Ugg boots and any other type of boots will not be allowed to climb on the equipment. Please feel free to come in for a visit and watch your child climb on the Movement Education equipment. Plan on a Family Fun night, Wednesday December 9th. More information will come home soon.

physical education



"every child is a winner when they try their very best!"



Parent Corner

Parent conferences are November 13th. Here is a list of tips for effective conferencing:

- Questions to ask your child's teacher:
 - What are my child's strengths and weaknesses? (Reading, Math, etc.)
 - How is my child's classroom performance? (Academic & Behavioral)
 - What supports can I offer at home?
(Also speak with school Parent Service Coordinator for further educational support)
 - How does my child interact with others?

- Create a folder with student work samples (Ask teacher if they have samples). Samples should include the following:
 - Homework
 - Classwork
 - Quizzes
 - Tests

Following parent teacher conference, confer information with your child:

- Make it a point to talk in a quiet location
- Start with the positives! Provide positive feedback/reinforcement.
- For unsatisfactory grades, ask questions so you and your child understand how a grade was earned. (i.e. Was the work difficult? Were assignments submitted on time? Do you need extra help? Do you ask questions during class?).
- Set sustainable goals for the next marking period.

**Please visit the following sites via BCPS One for the Parent's Guide to
Elementary Report Cards**

Parent's Guide:

[http://www.bcps.org/parents/ReportCard/
Parent_Guide_English_and_Translations/
Parent_Guide_for_the_Elementary_Report_Card_ENGLISH.pdf](http://www.bcps.org/parents/ReportCard/Parent_Guide_English_and_Translations/Parent_Guide_for_the_Elementary_Report_Card_ENGLISH.pdf)

Parent's Guide by Grade Level and Various Languages:

<http://www.bcps.org/parents/ReportCard/default.html>

Parent-Teacher Conference Guide:

[http://www.bcps.org/equity/publications/pdf/Parent-Teacher-Conference-
Brochure.pdf](http://www.bcps.org/equity/publications/pdf/Parent-Teacher-Conference-Brochure.pdf)



American Education Week is coming up November 16th- 20th. Here is a list of scheduled activities for the week:

Dogwood Open House

Parents, join us for our annual open house. Come in and be a part of the educational experience!

Pre-K and Kindergarten - Monday 9am-11am

1st and 2nd grades - Tuesday 9am-11am

3rd and 4th grades - Wednesday 9am-11am

4th and 5th grades - Thursday 9am-11am

Wednesday, November 18th Parent Math Workshop (6pm-8pm).

Light refreshments provided.

Friday, November 20th (9am-11am) Grandparent's Day

(RSVPs required by 11/18/15 at 10am)

Special Presentation from Mrs. Cinnamon Brown Mack of VAEL, Inc.



- ✓ Please check BCPS One regularly to monitor student grades and assignments.
- ✓ OUR LENDING LIBRARY IS OPEN!! Please visit Parent Services for details.
- ✓ Parents, please note, students are not allowed to switch buses without prior authorization. Please notify the school/bus company with written notice or a telephone call.
- ✓ In the interest of student safety, students should not be dropped off unsupervised in the morning before 8:25am. Dogwood staffing duties begin at 8:30am.



Mark Your Calendars

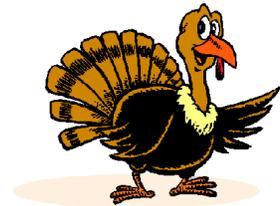
- November 13th: Conference Day (No school for students)
- November 16th -20th: American Education Week
- November 18th: Claire's Fundraiser orders will be in and ready for pickup

Pickup will begin at 3:30pm-6:00pm. Orders must be picked up on this date due to lack of storage space.

- November 20th: Brownie Troop 1966 Harvest Dance (Grades 1-3)
Dogwood Elementary from 6pm-8pm
Tickets are selling fast! Please see Mrs. Johnson for details.

- November 23rd: PTA Get Moving Monday! (6pm-8pm)
Fitness for the whole family!
Dogwood Gymnasium

- November 26th-27th: THANKSGIVING BREAK (SCHOOL CLOSED)



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter 😊

Facebook: Dogwood Elementary School



Twitter: @Dogwood_ES 