



# Berkshire Bulletin

Volume I, Issue 8  
Vicky Ciulla, Principal  
Mary Ann Clinton, Assistant Principal

May 4, 2009  
Heather Wendt, PTA President  
Telephone: (410) 887-7008

Baltimore County  
Public Schools

Visit us on our  
website:

[www.bcps.org/schools/  
ces/berkshire](http://www.bcps.org/schools/ces/berkshire)

## Calendar of Events:

### MAY:

- May 4-8:** Nurse Appreciation Week/Teacher Appreciation Week  
**May 5:** PreK Field Trip to Rosedale Library, 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
**May 6:** PreK Field Trip to Rosedale Library, 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
**May 11:** PreK/Kindergarten Conference Day, No Pre-K or Kindergarten classes for students  
**May 11:** Southeast Advisory Meeting, Mars Estates, 7:30 p.m.  
**May 12:** Kindergarten Evening Conferences, 3:30-6:30 p.m.  
**May 13:** PreK Registration, 9:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. (Berkshire students)  
**May 13:** ECO Club Meeting, Café., 3:30-4:30  
**May 14:** PreK Registration, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Colgate students)  
**May 19:** Volunteer Breakfast, Gym, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
**May 20:** ESOL Ice Cream Social, 4:00-5:00  
**May 20:** PTA Skateland Night, 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
**May 25:** Memorial Day, School Closed  
**May 28:** Field Day, Grades K-2, 1:00-3:00  
Field Day, Grades 3-5, 9:00-11:00  
**May 29:** Field Day Rain Date

### JUNE:

- June 2:** Talent Show, Gym, 6:30 p.m.  
**June 3:** Kindergarten Field Trip, 9:30-1:30  
**June 4:** Spring Concert, 6:30 p.m.  
**June 11:** Schools close 3 hours early  
**June 12:** Last Day of School; Schools close 3 hours early

## From the Desk of Mrs. Ciulla:



*Intervention Adventure: Free Fun and Learning for Students  
This Summer At Berkshire  
Elementary!*

**Only 30 seats left!**

*Please do not wait and lose your child's spot!*

Mathematics and reading instruction will be provided on a daily basis in a hands-on format. Instruction will be individualized to address areas of students' academic strengths and needs within small classroom settings with a maximum class size of 10. Acceleration, reinforcement, and enrichment will be provided based on current educational performance data. Pre-tests and post-tests will be administered in order to determine each student's academic progress at the conclusion of the program. This information will be provided to each child's 2009-2010 classroom teacher. Each student will receive a summer school report card. Summer school will begin at 8:30 AM and conclude at 11:30 AM daily. Sessions will be held Monday through Friday from July 7, 2009 through August 7, 2009. Daily attendance is mandatory. Free breakfast will be provided. There are only 30 seats left.

## From the Desk of Mrs. Ciulla (Cont.)

**We are very proud to proclaim that your children are taught by certified and highly qualified teachers.**



*Students who are enrolled in summer school will also receive continuing tutoring for 6 weeks in the fall and 6 weeks in the spring after school, free of charge.*

*If you are interested in having your child attend summer school, please contact us at 410-887-7008 as soon as possible.*

*We have 8 classes that will be limited to 10 students per class. Please do not wait and lose your child's spot!*



### ATTENDANCE & ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.....

Many, many thanks to those parents and guardians who have been working so very hard to help their child improve or maintain their daily attendance, punctuality, and academic achievement.

We have the fourth quarter celebration coming up on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 9:00 AM. I hope to see many more students and parents at this awards celebration. The theme for this event will be **"Surfing the Wave to Success!"**

### PTA



**COME ONE AND COME ALL!**



**North Point Skateland Night to be held on May 20th from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m.**

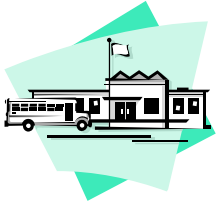


**Hold the Date!**

The Berkshire Talent Show will be held on June 2, 2009, beginning at 6:30 in the gym.

## From the Desk of Mrs. Ciulla (cont.):

### Pre-Kindergarten Registration



Pre-kindergarten registration for the 2009-2010 school year will be held:

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

From 9:00 until 3:00 PM at Berkshire Elementary School

Families must prove residency prior to proceeding with the screening and registration process. *NEW FINANCIAL GUIDELINES MUST BE MET IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD TO QUALIFY FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSES.*

Call 410-887-7008 to make an appointment to prove residency, meet the financial criteria, and proceed with registration.

### EARLY ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Thank you for dropping your students off in the lower parking lot loop. We remind parents to drop off and proceed on so that other parents will not be blocked as they try to exit the loop.

Please remember that only parents and guardians with handicapped tags are able to drop students off in the faculty lot. (upper lot)

We truly appreciate your cooperation with this procedure. In this way, your children will remain safe and we can provide a smooth arrival and dismissal.



In order to insure the safety of each of your children, anyone picking up your child **must be on the emergency card and must have photo identification.** Your child will not be released without the aforementioned. Thank you for updating the Emergency Cards that were just sent home with your child's report card. Please be certain to return these with your child to his or her homeroom teacher.

From the Desk of Mrs. Ciulla (cont.):



**Verification of Residency for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning to middle school!**

Please visit Berkshire during one of the following times to prove residency:

- May 4, 2009 : 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- May 5, 2009: 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- May 6, 2009: 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- May 7, 2009 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- May 11, 2009 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM
- May 18, 2009 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Please remember that without verifying your residency, your child will not be admitted to middle school. Please take care of it this year so that your child’s middle school transition can be as smooth as possible.

**APPRECIATION**

My sincere thanks for all that you do for your children in support of their development as good students and citizens.

Heartfelt thanks to our wonderful volunteers. You are an asset to Berkshire Elementary and we appreciate all of your hard work!

My best,

Vicky Ciulla  
Principal



**SPRING CONCERT**

Spring Concert is Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

All band and chorus students must attend!

Attire: Black shorts/skirts/or pants, and any Berkshire shirt. If you do not have a Berkshire shirt, wear any white shirt.

---

---

## Grade Level Happenings:

### Pre-Kindergarten:

The end of the school year is getting close! This is our last full month of Pre-K. This month we will be taking a trip to Storyville at the Rosedale Library. We hope you can join us! We also wanted to give you plenty of notice about our end of the year picnic. The Pre-K picnics will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, please remember to keep sending in your child's library book on Wednesdays.

In April, we finished up learning about our five senses and now we are moving on to **Unit 7, At the Farm**. In this unit, we will learn about farms and the different types of farm animals. We will add the words **at**, **with**, and **had** to our sight word vocabulary. We have already learned 18 letter sounds this year and this month we will be learning the sounds for the letters **J**, **X**, **Z**, and **O**. Thank you for continuing to practice these letters at home! Each student has really blossomed thanks to your help!



### Kindergarten:

Our Kindergarteners are blooming just like spring flowers. They have learned so much so far this school year. Our boys and girls' are growing mentally and physically every passing day. Their knowledge of letters, sounds, and sight words has increased and their writing and spelling have improved as well. Furthermore, our Kindergarteners are learning a lot about life cycles of insects and plants through books, stories, and observations.

In Shared Reading we have been observing the endings of words that are found in our stories. Some of these endings include -ing, -ed, -s. We have also been noticing punctuation marks and their meanings. Children use these punctuation marks to read with expression.

Math class finds us working on addition and subtraction. Children will be using different strategies to help them add and subtract, which include putting objects in groups, playing games that require adding and taking away objects from groups, and using colored tiles.

Just a reminder that Kindergarten students do not have school on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> because it is conference day. Thanks for all of your support at home – remember to keep reading each night with your child and to check your child's folder every night for news and notes!

### First Grade:

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of the school year! The first graders have been working hard this Spring and have learned so much. We are proud to show our fourth grade reading buddies how well our reading has grown during our school wide "Spring Buds" activity. We continue to use our phonics and reading strategies while we practice our fluency and expression. Mrs. Sturm and Ms. Wittman are also proud to see the students using *perceptive* and *persistent* behaviors during the Primary Talent Unit "Wiggly Worms." The first graders have been enthusiastically creating, observing, and evaluating a worm habitat. This module is a fun filled learning experience that challenges students to develop their higher level thinking skills while participating in a hands on investigation. Finally, first graders will apply their learning as they practice concepts involving money, measurement, probability, and time. Please continue to have students practice their basic addition facts daily until they are mastered. We hope to see the first graders continue to put forth a great effort each day as they use their Stop and Think steps and social skills. Thank you for your continued home support. Let's have a successful last term!



## Grade Level Happenings:

### Second Grade:

Spring has been a busy time of learning for students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade! They have grown in so many areas this year and we hope to see this success continue during the month of May. Ms. Lescallett and Ms. Steinberg would like to congratulate all the students who participated in the *Math Madness* Incentive Program during the month of April. Way to go! Second graders are now blooming with enthusiasm for reading during our “*Spring Buds*” time each week with their friends in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. During May we will be learning all about *Time, Data, and Graphs* as well as *Measurement and Probability* concepts in math. In reading, we will finish our *Family Time* theme (5) and then will read creative stories about the arts and music during our *Talent Show* theme (6). Some comprehension skills we will be working on while reading are making judgments & generalizations, sequence of events, and author’s viewpoint. Finally, second graders will be *Exploring the Environment* during the month of May as they complete their second *Primary Talent Development (PTD)* module. Students will self select and offer solutions to a community environmental problem. This module will focus on showing resourcefulness and leadership in a variety of activities. Thank you for your support and we know second graders will continue to shine with their learning and good choices during the month of May!

### Third Grade:

It’s almost the end of the year and we are working hard to get your kids ready for 4<sup>th</sup> grade!

#### Reading:

- This month we’ll be focusing on a combination of all our reading skills and strategies in order to review and prepare for 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- We will be continuing our hard work on the Reading Research Lab. Our classes are very excited to publish our books as a result of our research.
- *Grammar Focus:* Adjectives and Adverbs

#### Math:

Students will be working on the following skills; fractions, measurement, probability, decimals, multiplying and divided greater numbers. Please continue to study all the math facts DAILY. These skills are essential for next year in 4th grade.

#### Science:

Congratulations to the winners for our Safe Racer competition. They will be traveling to the County-Wide competition on May 16th. Good Luck!! Everyone worked extremely hard on this project and the cars turned out great! Thank you to everyone who donated material to help with Safe Racer. We really appreciate your efforts!

\*\*Be on the look out for information about our end of the year picnic.\*\*

### Fourth Grade:

The 4th grade is progressing wonderfully through the fourth quarter! With the end of a successful STEM Fair, students are beginning to learn about the Explorers and the Colonies of America in content. We are also beginning our Reading Research Lab books on Native Americans, Dinosaurs, and Space. We would like to thank you for your continuous support throughout the school year!

### Fifth Grade:

What a wonderful job our fifth graders did on their STEM Fair projects. It was very hard to choose only 3 as our winners. We would like to thank so many of the parents who worked diligently with their children at home, meeting the deadline of the projects. This can be a stressful time and knowing that so many of our 5th grade parents were there to help made a big difference. Our field trip to Marshy Point/Miami Beach was wonderful. After days of raining, the sun came out just in time. Thanks again to you parents for your attendance on this trip. We had many parents attend and you all were a big help. We hope you enjoyed the trip as much as we all did. We are coming toward the end of a wonderful school year. Soon you will be receiving information about our end-of-the-year festivities. Look for that information by May 11th.



## Library News:

### Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award Program

All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were invited to read at least 3 of the 10 nominated chapter books for the *Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award*. The following girls and boys attended the annual *Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award* Voting Party by qualifying as judges and turning in their reading diaries: Toni B., Breannah G., Jill V., Darian H., Emily R., Eddie K., Courtney R., Sabrina S., Tiffany W., Louie H., Austin D., Courtney C. (read 9 books), Mya C., Matthew S., Melanie H., Jessalyn N., Laniea C., Kevin J., Erin T (read 8 books) and Deirra H.

Sabrina C., Tyler B., Kaitlyn K., Jayla B. and Frank R. qualified as judges by reading at least three of the nominated books. They also voted.

Berkshire's choice for the winner and the 2009 winner will be announced in the next bulletin. K-5<sup>th</sup> graders voted for their favorite picture books during library. See the winners in the next bulletin.



### Library Book Bags

In order to check out books from the Berkshire library, students must have a plastic bag to protect the books. At the beginning of the school year every student who returned a *Safe Place Contract* was given a plastic draw string bag. Students who no longer have their bags may use any plastic bag to protect their books. Replacement library bags may be purchased in the library for 25¢. As we say in the library, "No bag, no books."

---

## From the Health Suite:

The News Media have been reporting on Measles in the past few weeks. Maryland has its first outbreak since 2001 with a fourth case being diagnosed in Montgomery County.

This is a highly contagious virus characterized by a red skin rash. It is spread by droplets in the air. It can take as long as 21 days to develop symptoms after exposure. These symptoms include: a red rash starting on the face and neck which spreads over the body, high fever, runny nose, red eyes, and red spots with white and blue centers in the mouth. There is no treatment, so the virus must run its course.

Immunizations provide protection from this disease. It is important to keep your child's well visit appointments. Children are scheduled for their first vaccine between 12-15 months. A second dose is given between 4-5 years of age. Most adults born in this country have acquired immunity by having the disease or receiving a vaccine in childhood. If traveling out of the country to areas where the virus is active, it is a good idea for adults to receive a booster vaccine.

Health officials feel this outbreak will not continue to spread. If any of these symptoms develop or you feel you may have been exposed to a person with the disease you should contact your health care provider before going to their office or an Emergency Room due to the possibility of spreading the virus to others.



## *VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST DONATIONS*

*Do you own or manage your business? Would you like to make a tax free donation to Berkshire Elementary School!*

On May 19, 2009, we will be honoring the hard working volunteers who unselfishly give their time and energy to our students and our school. To show our appreciation to our wonderful volunteers, we are asking local businesses for donations to be given as door prizes at our celebration. If you would like to be part of our celebration by making a donation, we will recognize your business during our celebration and in our school's monthly parent newsletter. Merchandise, gift certificates, and donations of food are all welcome. Any donation your establishment can afford us would be greatly appreciated. We thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Steck at [lsteck@bcps.org](mailto:lsteck@bcps.org), or call 410-887-7008.



# THANK YOU

---

---