

NEWS FROM THE NEST

November Parent Bulletin
2009/2010



"We are a professional learning community that does whatever it takes to take a hand, open a mind, touch a heart, and shape the future."

Principal: *J. Scott Palmer*

PTA President: *Tami Yu*

Assistant Principal: *Amy Hansen*

Administrative Secretary: *Jeanne Stillmock*

Calendar of Events

Nov. 5	First Marking Period Ends
Nov. 6	School Closed for Students - Professional Development Day
Nov. 12	Picture Make-Up/Retake Day
Nov. 16-20	American Education Week
Nov. 19	Distribution of Report Cards
Nov. 23	School Closed for Elementary Students – Elementary Conference Day
Nov. 26-27	School Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

Principal's Message

Homework and Report Card Grades

Did you know that homework accounts for 10%-15% of your child's report card grade? Students that take responsibility for completing their homework each night perform much better in school. Homework expectations reinforce the importance of learning and also aids in developing conscientious learners. Here are a few suggestions in supporting your child with homework.

- Homework is assigned to reinforce and practice the skills or concepts taught throughout the school day. Homework also provides feedback to the teachers as to which concepts may be causing student confusion. Please provide your student with a quiet place to complete their homework independently. Upon completion, review of your child's homework will aid him/her with correction of errors.
- Homework should be done at the same level of quality as class work. If you think your child's work is messy or incomplete, have them do the work over. We are trying to hold our students to a high standard and we want to strive for this standard in the completion of all work.
- Positive work habits are being developed so your child will continue with success throughout his/her schooling. All written responses should encompass complete sentences with correct spelling and punctuation.
- Accountability leads to success! Be sure to check your student's homework each night. This will help you see what areas they may be struggling with. When a

student knows that a parent/guardian will hold them accountable, they will do a better job completing all work.

Report cards will be distributed on Thursday, November 19, 2009. Understandably, children are excited about their first report card of the school year. Here are some helpful hints to keep in mind:

- Report cards are designed to be an official communication of academic progress between school and home. Please be sure to take the time to review this document with your student. Thoroughly reviewing this document says a great deal to children when parents take the time to share in their child's success.
- Try to maintain a positive outlook regarding this report. Although you are encouraged to identify goals for improvement, it is equally important to celebrate areas of success.
- **All Baltimore County elementary schools will be closed on Monday, November 23, 2009 so that parents have a convenient opportunity to conference with teachers.** Students' accompanying parents to school on conference day must be supervised by parents at all times.
- Remember that first grade students will not receive a report card at the completion of the first marking period. Instead, parents must schedule a conference with their student's teacher.

All students are required to bring back their report card envelopes signed by a parent/guardian. Envelopes are expected back in school on Friday, November 19, 2009 or envelopes may be returned to teachers following the conference.

American Education Week Schedule – November 16 – 20

All visits – 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Monday – Grades 2 and 5

Tuesday – Grade 1

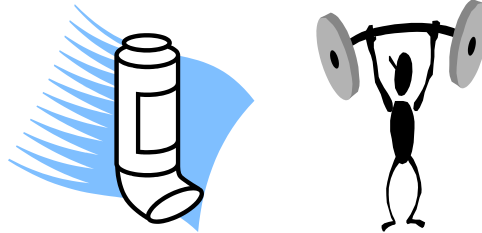
Wednesday – PreK, K, and Grade 4 Afternoon PreK – 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday – Grade 3

Friday – Grandparents' Day (On this day grandparents may park on faculty and staff parking lots.)



A Healthy Body Builds a Strong Mind for Learning



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH, 2009
6:30PM-8:00PM
IN THE CAFETERIA

Information on asthma, allergies and specific triggers as well as healthy eating and exercise will be discussed.

Also Included:

- H1N1 Flu Update
- FREE Gym Passes
- FREE Pedometers
- FREE Homework passes (good for night of the event only!)
- FREE Blood Pressure Screenings
- FREE Body Fat Analysis (adults only)
- FREE Peak Flow Analysis

Dinner will be provided!

Franklin Square Community Outreach will be here to share exciting Healthy Body Building Information!

If you have any questions please contact Leah Johnson the school nurse at 410-933-9024

Instrumental Music Parent Night

On **Monday, November 16**, all 5th grade parents of instrumental music students will have the opportunity to have their child be their teacher and learn how to play their instrument!

No EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY

All that is necessary is enthusiasm, your child, your child's **instrument, music and lesson book**. The schedule for the parent instrument lesson night is as follows:

5:30 – 6:00 Strings
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6:30 – 7:00 Flute
7:00 – 7:30 Clarinet
7:30 – 8:00 Trumpet
8:00 – 8:30 Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba
8:30 – 9:00 Percussion

Your 5th grade instrumental music student was given information that should have come home. If you have questions please call the school or contact Mrs. Schmitt, the Instrumental Music Teacher by email at bschmitt@bcps.org

Primary Grades Parent Information Night

Attention: All parents of students in Pre-K through Grade Two, you are invited to attend ...

Primary Grades Parent Information Night

Hosted by
Department of Professional Development
Parent Support Services
and the
Office of Special Programs K-12

**Monday, November 23, 2009
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

**Gunpowder Elementary School
9540 Holiday Manor Road
Baltimore, MD 21236**

(Directions: Go North on US Rt. 1 –Belair Road, Turn left onto Klausmier Road, Go .2 mile on Klausmier Road and turn right onto Holiday Manor Road, the school is on your left.)

The following topics will be addressed:

- **Nurturing early learning behaviors**
- **Curriculum/Programs for all Kindergarten to second grade students**
- **Primary Talent Development (PTD)**
- **Primary Achievement and Curriculum Enrichment (PACE)**
- **Where does GT fit in**
- **The GT referral and review process**