



# Perry Hall Elementary School

## Gator Gazette



Thursday, September 3, 2009

Principal – Mrs. Bergin  
dbergin@bcps.org

PTA President – Christy Kerr

Assistant Principal – Mrs. Hill  
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### Greetings from Administrative Team

Welcome back to a new school year! We welcome all of new families and are delighted to see all of our friends from last year. It was wonderful to see so many of our families at our Meet and Greet last week. This week our students have come into the building responsibly and ready to go. This says a great deal about how caring and dedicated our Perry Hall families and community are. Mrs. Hill and I are most proud to be associated with all of you!

This year our staff looks forward to sharing our school wide behavior program which was developed this summer by some very dedicated staff members. You will be hearing all about this program at Back to School Night and through communication with your child's teacher. We will use our school planners to communicate your child's behavior on a daily basis, so be on the look out for the color stamp your child comes home with every day. Our planners contain lots of information about Perry Hall, and we hope you and your child will find these very helpful in communicating daily to and from school.

The most recent Maryland State Assessment results reveal that our students are demonstrating higher than ever student achievement! The teachers, staff, students, and families of Perry Hall Elementary have much to celebrate as we look at the progress that is being made each day and year in our school. These successes would not happen without your continued support of our instructional program. Thank you for sending us students who come to school each day, on time, ready to learn! More information related to our assessment data will be shared with you during our Back to School Night, which will be held on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM. You may also visit the website for the Maryland State Department of

Education at [www.mdreportcard.org](http://www.mdreportcard.org) for detailed assessment information.

It is our hope that you will find time this year to volunteer in your child's classroom or for one of our PTA committees. We are glad to have you no matter how much or little time you can spare. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Volunteer Training Sessions. Look for a training date that will fit your schedule and join us!

Please be sure to keep in touch with your child's teacher this year. All of our teachers have email, and will happily share their email addresses with you. Keeping the lines of communication open will keep you and your child's teacher informed and "in the know".

### Perry Hall Volunteers

Once again this school year all volunteers, including those attending field trips, *must* attend a Volunteer Training before they can work with our students or go on a field trip. Please check our newsletter and calendar for these important dates and be sure to attend one of them. Keep in mind that there may be field trips scheduled for later on in the year that parents and grandparents may want to attend. We look forward to seeing you a Volunteer Training in the near future. Perry Hall Gators love their volunteers!!!

### School Security Reminders

All visitors to our building must register in the school office immediately upon entering. All visitors will be required to present valid identification. You are strongly discouraged from picking up your child/children before the end of the school day unless they are sick. Students will not be dismissed with anyone except their parents or their parents' designee, as indicated on the emergency cards. All exterior doors will be locked all day. These policies will be strictly enforced for your children's safety.

### **Student Drop Off and Pick Up**

Our parking lot is set up for drop and go of your students. Parents who drop off and pick up students each day are asked to not to park in the faculty parking lot. As you know, we have a very large staff that need to park in these spaces and may be coming into the building as students are being dropped off. If you need to walk your child into the building, please park on Joppa Rd. and not in our parking lot. If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please form one line and follow the staff members' instructions that are outside on duty to help this line run smoothly. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

### **Thursday Envelopes**

Great news! Perry Hall will again provide Thursday Envelopes that are indestructible. Each Thursday, teachers will place important school and classroom information in the envelope for your review. Simply sign the envelope, and return it to school the next day. This is another effort to help us stay in touch with our parents!

### **Gator Gazette**

Our *Gator Gazette* will be sent home the first Thursday of each month. Each issue will contain important and timely school information, school news, PTA news and a monthly calendar. Please be sure to watch for it each month and read it carefully. This year, beginning in October you will have an opportunity to receive the monthly newsletter through email by simply filling out the form sent home this week. Please be sure to inform us if anything changes with your email address. Thank you for helping Perry Hall in its efforts to go GREEN this year!

### **Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation**

On July 1, 2008, the Maryland General Assembly directed the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the local school systems, to develop and adopt a model policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation in schools. The Maryland State Board of Education approved its model policy on February 24, 2009.

As a result of MSDE's model policy, the Board of Education of Baltimore County approved the new Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5580, "Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation," which can substantially interfere with a student's educational opportunities, or any acts of retaliation against those who report instances of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

The "*Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form*" is used to track alleged instances of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. The form is available at your local school or on the Baltimore County Public Schools' Web site under the "Student" and "Parent" tabs. You may contact the school for additional information or assistance at any time. This form will be mailed to your home this week as well.

### **Attendance: Key to Your Student's Success**

Schools are responsible for teaching your child, but schools cannot do their job if your child is absent. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Research shows that

attendance is the single most important factor in school success! Please remember to send in an absence note once your child returns to school.

### **Inclement Weather Policy – Emergency School Closings**

If weather dictates the possibility of school being closed or closing early, please listen to the radio or tune into your favorite television station. Please do not call the school. Our phone lines need to remain open to handle any potential emergencies. You should discuss your early school-closing plan with your child/children so he/she will know exactly what to do. The "Inclement Weather Emergency Form" was sent home with your child this week. Please complete it with your child and return it to his/her teacher. *Please note that breakfast will not be served on days when there is a delayed opening (i.e. 1-2 hours late) or days when schools are dismissed three hours early.*

### **Opt Out Preferences – Please Read Carefully**

There are many parts of the school day that are routine for our students. These include having yearbooks, having good work displayed in the classroom, and using technology to enhance their learning. The BCPS internet is filtered and does not allow students to access websites that include inappropriate content for children. This year parents are asked to complete the **Opt Out Form** that was mailed home this week only IF they DO NOT want the school to allow their child to use telecommunications (computer, internet, etc); be photographed (including yearbooks), or have their work displayed in any fashion in our outside the school. In addition, parents can use the form mailed home this week to opt out of having their child's directory information shared with anyone in or outside the school.

#### **BOX TOP CONTEST**

**Welcome Back Gators!!** Hope everyone was collecting over the summer. We are having our first contest and it will run from September 7<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The top five collectors will win a Webkinz stuff animal. We are collecting Box Tops, Campbell's labels, Tyson labels, and Coke Rewards. Please make sure you have your name and teachers name is on the Ziploc bag. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at [rickhohlbein@verizon.net](mailto:rickhohlbein@verizon.net) or call me at 443-527-4951. Good luck to everyone.

Michele Hohlbein  
Fundraiser Coordinator

### Volunteers during Lunch

The PTA is looking for volunteers during lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. for the school year to assist students in kindergarten, first and second grade in the lunch line, with condiments and in opening packages. Volunteers would support positive behaviors and be a friendly face to our students during the lunch period. This is a non-paid volunteer activity. There are already paid lunch assistants in the cafeteria and dining area. The volunteers are extra hands to assist our students as the lunch period is short and the number of students dining is large. Interested volunteers should email Jody Darrell at [madisons.mommy@comcast.net](mailto:madisons.mommy@comcast.net) with telephone contact information and preferred day(s) to volunteer. All volunteers must complete the Volunteer Training to participate. Assignment of volunteer positions will depend on the number of interested volunteers.

### Counselor's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Perry Hall Elementary for another great year, and extend a special welcome to the new students who are joining us. This month I will be visiting your child's classroom to talk about my role in the building and explain the services and programs that will be available to the students this year. I will also be inviting new students to join me for "New Student Luncheons" at the end of the month.

Here are some of the things I do throughout the year:

...Teach classroom lessons on guidance topics such as conflict resolution, respect and responsibility, handling angry feelings, friendship, bullying, career awareness, child abuse awareness, etc.

...Run small counseling groups for students with concerns such as changing families, making friends, grief and loss, stress, and more.

...Counsel individual students confidentially as needed.

...Consult with teachers and parents to help meet individual student needs.

...Coordinate referrals to school and community resources. For your convenience, Emily Garrison, LCSW, from Key Point Health Services, will continue to provide counseling services during the school day to students and families who qualify.

...Implement school-wide programs such as our new Character Ed and student behavior program, Career Day, Red Ribbon Week, etc.

Guidance services are available to all students. Please feel free to call me at 410-887-5105 if you have any concerns about your child. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to work with your child!  
Kathy Cooney, NCC, School Counselor

### **Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents**

Magnet school brochures will be coming home the week of Sept 15. Please review for important open house dates and changes.

Students at Perry Hall Elementary are now able to go to any of the magnet programs. Check out the EXPO for details:

**BCPS Magnet EXPO**  
**Saturday, October 3, 2009**  
**Crowne Plaza Lobby, Timonium**  
**10:00am – 2:00pm**

### Nurse's Notes

#### For the Health of It!

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer. In the Thursday folders was an informational sheet from the Baltimore County Health Department regarding influenza. Please read this important information.

#### **Review the following playground rules with your children.**

- Keep your eyes ahead. Watch out for other people.
- Take turns. Wait.
- Remember the safety zones. Watch where you walk. (Area surrounding equipment to avoid, preventing being hit accidentally by a classmate hanging or swinging on the equipment).
- No pushing or shoving.
- No loose ties on clothing.
- No hanging necklaces or earrings.
- Wear the right shoes – no open toes, no heels. Shoes worn for gym class are best.
- Tie your shoes.
- Look before you leap. Ask yourself – "Is the area clear of people?" STOP! LOOK! CLEAR ----GO!
- Use the bathroom before you go outside.
- Follow these easy rules to have fun, be safe, and stay healthy!
- More on healthy eating later.

I am looking forward to working with all the students and families at Perry Hall Elementary. Go Healthy Gators!

Environmental thought for the week:

Fluorescent Lightbulbs

**Use soft-white compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs),** not traditional

incandescents **BECAUSE** if every American household replaced one standard bulb with a CFL, we could save enough energy to power 3

million homes a year.