



Pot Spring Press

Principal's Message

Finally winter is over and spring is beginning to pop up all over the area. Spring is a very busy time in our school. We begin the planning process for the next school year by looking at student performance, evaluating staffing needs and reviewing a variety of pieces of information to make decisions about student placement. Pot Spring's staffing for the 08-09 school year has been allocated. Our staffing allocation for next year will be similar to this year with the exception of a reduction of one classroom teaching position. Next year we have been staffed to have 4 classes at every grade level in grades K-5 with the exception of third grade where we will have 3 classes. The remainder of our staffing allotment is very close to what we currently have this year. We

are very fortunate that BCPS continues to staff us at a high level.

Each spring there is considerable discussion about the placement of children in classes for the next school year. This is a matter we do not take lightly at Pot Spring, as the staff and I will spend countless hours forming well-balanced classes in which all children will have the opportunity to learn and grow in their academic and social skills. Many factors are taken into consideration in this thoughtful process. Classes are organized by clustering students into groups based on either their reading or math ability. We want to allow for flexibility within each group without having an unmanageable range of ability within each class. Teacher recommendations for grouping are critical. Each

grade level works together to share information about student achievement, quality of work, level of independence, etc. Other factors include performance on assessments, learning styles, boy/girl ratios, specific services needed (i.e. speech, ESOL), self development skills, and any possible unfavorable student/student chemistry. As you can imagine, it is not possible to honor specific requests for teachers for grades K-5. If you have specific information about your child that would be helpful as grouping decisions are made, please share it with your child's classroom teacher. The more we know about our students the better chance we have of making decisions to ensure that all of our boys and girls will continue to be successful learners in the next school year.

POT SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Volume 8

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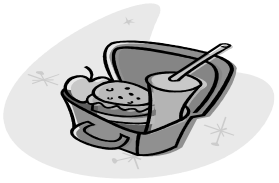
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Save the Date

I know next year seems a long way off, but I want you to get a very important date on your calendar before the end of this year. We will again hold our **Back to School Night** before the students return to school. Our Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, August 21st. The evening will begin with a family picnic on the grounds behind the school from 5:00-6:00 pm. We will hold a brief PTA meeting at 6:00 pm followed by family visits to the classrooms to meet the teachers and learn about the program of instruction for that year. This will be our only back to school night.

Healthy Lunches



We are trying to develop healthy eating habits with

our students and we need your help. Please do not send sodas into school as part of your child's lunch. In addition, Baltimore County Schools does not permit elementary students to

use the soda and snack vending machines in the building. We appreciate your support of this school and county policy.

Parent Conferences

The third marking period ends on April 18th and report cards will be sent home on May 5th. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please check

the "conference requested" box on the outside of the report card envelope before you return it to school. Our goal at Pot Spring is to have parent conferences with 100% of our

parents this year.



Electronic Games in School

We have a school policy that prohibits the use of hand held electronic games, iPods or MP3 players in school for several reasons. These items can be very expensive. In addition they can be broken or lost quite

easily. We also request that students do not bring their WebKins to school for the same reasons. Please remind your child about this policy. If a child brings an electronic game, iPod,

WebKin or MP3 player to school, it will be confiscated and returned when a parent comes to the school to pick it up. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Mr. Hester's Summer Sports Camp

Mr. Hester's Summer Sports Camp is now registering. Registration forms were sent home with each student. Capture the flag, dodge ball, scooters, soccer, water balloons and your PE game favorites will all be included. New for this year is "Whittle Week" where all the climbing bars, swings, and ropes will be set back up. Space in each camp is limited, first come first served. Each camp runs from 9 am-12 pm. For more information or for additional registration forms, email Mr. Hester at chester@bcps.org.

Camp Dates:

June 23rd - June 27th Students ages 9-12

June 30th - July 3rd "Whittle Week". Students ages 7-11

July 7th - July 11th Students ages 6-8

Breakfast Tips For Parents

No time for breakfast?
Don't like breakfast food? Did you know breakfast is served every morning in our school cafeteria?

These are reasons we hear people "skip" breakfast. But think about this:

- Breakfast eaters are less likely to have weight problems.

- Children who eat breakfast have improved problem-solving skills and attention spans.

- Breakfast is generally the meal that gives people the most nutrients for the least fat and calories.

If you are a breakfast skipper - now is the time to change. If

you eat breakfast, your children are more likely to eat as well. If your child does not eat breakfast, chances are that he/she has not eaten for 18 hours. How much learning do you think will take place before lunchtime? Please make sure your child comes to school with all the necessary tools for learning.

Activities Cancelled When Schools Close Early

As per notification from the Baltimore County Public Schools, when schools close early due to weather, the following policy is in effect:

Whenever schools close early or if schools remain open until the end of the school day, but evening activities are cancelled, **ALL** after school pro-

grams are also cancelled. This includes Open Door, Play Centers, Recreation and Parks, etc.

Special Transfer Application Period

"In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5140, STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance, Baltimore County Public Schools will be accepting Applications for Special Transfer for the 2008/2009 school year from parent(s)/guardian(s) who are requesting special transfers within the school system. Applications are available in all Baltimore County Public Schools and should be completed and submitted to the requested school principal between April 1, 2008 and June 1, 2008. Additionally, Policy and Rule 5140, as well as a copy of the Application for Special Transfer, are accessible via the Baltimore County Public Schools web site, www.bcps.org."

Change of Address

If your address changes during the school year, Baltimore County Public Schools policy states that you have 10 days to provide your child's school with your new proof of residence. This documentation would consist of a copy of a lease, signed deed or signed settlement papers and three pieces of business mail received at your new address.

Mrs. Aghalarov's Summer Art Camp

Registration for Mrs. Aghalarov's Summer Art Camp at Pot Spring has begun! There is still room in each class, so please return registration forms as soon as possible. Extra forms can be found in the art room and can be returned to school or mailed to: Pot Spring Elementary, Attn: Mrs. Aghalarov, 2410 Springlake Drive, Timonium, MD 21093.

June 23rd-27th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. - upcoming 2nd & 3rd graders

July 7th-11th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. - upcoming 4th graders

July 14th-18th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. - upcoming 5th graders

July 21st-25th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. - upcoming 6th graders

Congratulations!!!!

Congratulations to Yan Jen L. and Grant G.! Their artwork has been displayed at the Baltimore Museum of Art for the "Art is for Everyone" Exhibition.

Thanks for representing Pot Spring Elementary at such an important event!

Volunteer Tea

Mark your calendars for the annual Pot Spring Volunteer Tea on Thursday, April 24th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The staff at Pot Spring Elementary is so fortunate to have so many dedicated parent volunteers that we want to celebrate! Please come and enjoy a morning of student entertainment, award certificates, cake and punch. Please look for an invitation in your child's folder and let us know if you can attend.

Ridgely Middle School Parent Articulation Meeting

Ridgely Middle School will host an open house for parents of incoming 6th grade students on Wednesday, April 16th from 6:30-9:30 p.m. You will be able to talk with staff, students and other parents to learn about the middle school experience at Ridgely. This open house is designed for parents and guardians, not students.

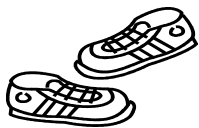
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on Thursday, April 17th. If your child will be five years of age by September 1, 2008, please contact the school office at 410-887-7648 to receive a registration packet. First graders who will be entering Pot Spring may also register at this time.

Pre-Kindergarten Screening

Pre-Kindergarten screening for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd. If your child will be four years of age by September 1, 2008 and you are interested in having him/her screened, please contact the school office at 410-887-7648.

Appropriate Spring Apparel



As the weather improves and the temperature rises, it is important that you discuss guidelines for appropriate apparel with your children. There is no written dress code for elementary schools in Baltimore County; however, students are encouraged to wear clothing that is comfortable and shoes that are safe. Children spend recess time outside on fair weather days, and they should be wearing shoes that will protect their feet. Tennis shoes are recommended since they protect feet from injury and insect bites. Slip-on sandals, flip-flops, and other open shoes are not recommended for school for safety reasons. To maintain a focus on instruction, children should not wear short shorts, short skirts, or revealing tops. Tee shirts containing inappropriate content should not be worn to school. We thank you for your support in this matter that encourages a positive climate to continue here at Pot Spring.

Bad Checks

Issuers of dishonored checks presented to Baltimore County Public Schools will be given 10 days to submit full payment of the amount of the check plus actual bank charges incurred by BCPS by means of a money order, cashier's check, or cash. If this payment is not received by the end of 10 days, the issuer will need to submit full payment of the amount of the check plus \$35.00. If payment is not received at the end of the 10-day period, BCPS will turn over the dishonored check, and all other available information related to this check, to the State's Attorney for criminal prosecution. If the dishonored check is turned over to the State's Attorney for collection, schools will not accept restitution from the check issuer. The funds will be remitted to the school by the State's Attorney's Office.



Central Area Education Advisory Council (CAEAC)

The Central Area Educational Advisory Council (CAEAC) of Baltimore County Public Schools is pleased to present an informational meeting to discuss the Math Curriculum. The meeting will be held on April 17th at Riderwood Elementary School at 7 p.m. For directions or questions, please call the Central Area Office at 410-887-3172.

Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee

The Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee is pleased to present an informational meeting on Monday, April 14th. The topic of the meeting is Conversations with Dr. Hairston. The meeting will be held at the ESS Building, room 114, at 6901 Charles Street from 7-9 p.m.

PTA Corner

We want to make our time here at Pot Spring the best possible experience for you and your children. If we can help you in anyway, please call or email any of us! Our directory supplement has all the contact information for the PTA board and com-

mittee chairs. Also, we are growing our PTA Website. Visit www.potspringpta.org. If you can help make this site bigger and better contact Melissa W. at mbwhatley@comcast.net.

Carol J., President
Carol N., Vice President of Communi-

cations

Maryann C., Vice President of Programs and Events

March K., Vice President of Volunteers

Carol P., Treasurer

Melissa W., Secretary

Erin McGeehan and Melissa Whatley are Elected as PTA Vice President and Secretary

Erin McGeehan was elected to the position of Vice President of Programs and Events. She will shadow Maryann Carter through June.

Melissa Whatley was elected to a second term as Secretary. Both positions are two year terms and will

start at the end of the current school year. Congratulations to Erin and Melissa!

Spring Fling is Saturday, May 10th 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 10th - Event Chairpersons: Carol and Jim Purvis

Spring Fling is just around the corner. We are looking forward to another huge celebration. It is Pot Spring's biggest event of the year. Help in any way you can from working a game for an hour or two to helping to run the cotton candy machine.

Set-up and clean-up are always extra important ways to help. There are so many ways to volunteer. Contact Jim P. at jamespurvis@verizon.net or 410-560-0283.

Each volunteer will get five game tickets for each hour of volunteering.

Bring your entire family. Spread the word to friends and neighbors. There will be games,

crafts, yummy lunch food, tie-dying and more. There is fun for everyone.

This year we are having an international bake table. We would love to have some of your unique and tasty family deserts to sell at the bake sale. Whether it is an old family recipe or a classic favorite like chocolate chip cookies, rice crispy treats, and brownies, we welcome your donations. Please contact Christy Furnari or Carol Purvis to donate your baked goods.

Two popular attractions are the class basket auction and the silent auction. Each class pulls together a terrific class basket with their own unique theme to be auc-

tioned. It is a terrific Pot Spring tradition. Donna Petrelli is chairing the class baskets. Contact her with any questions.

Karen Fisher and Michelle Bell are chairing the silent auction. There will be plenty of fun and useful items to bid on. Bring your check-books for this part of the Spring Fling so you can treat yourself to a new hair cut or a dinner out - or better yet, you are sure to find a special gift for Mom (Mother's Day is the next day)! Remember, auction donations are always welcome! Contact Michelle Bell at bell@constellation.com with the name of the organization. She has copies of the "request for donation letter."

Pot Spring Spirit Day is Friday, April 18th

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 18th! Have the kids wear blue and white or Pot Spring Spirit Wear! Show your school spirit! Go to: www.myteammall.com/potspringbluebirds to see our spirit wear apparel and accessories. If the items don't come in by Spirit Day, they will look great at the Spring Fling!

Kindergarten Round-Up is Thursday, April 17th

Our theme for Kindergarten Registration is - "I Think I Can"! We are excited to welcome our new families to Pot Spring! The PTA will support Pot Spring at Kindergarten and First

Grade Registration with an information table, present a welcome packet, offer refreshments and give tours. Please join us by volunteering your time. We will have a morning and af-

ternoon shift. Contact Carol N. at 410-560-0434 or bcrmnorton@yahoo.com.

Family Environmental Learning Night

Look around, there are birdfeeders made by our Pot Spring children, from recycled products proudly on display at about 200 Pot Spring households! The PTA was proud to

support our school with this project on Environmental Learning Night. Many thanks to Carol J., who organized our part of the evening. A spe-

cial thank you goes out to Mr. Jeff F. and Anna for their instrumental help with the eco-friendly birdfeeders.

Yearbook

Tracy Kilcoyne - Chairperson

The yearbook committee is busy. They are working hard to create another fantastic Pot Spring Yearbook. Make sure to order your yearbooks. They are \$18.00. But, the memories last a lifetime!

Box Top Update

Box Tops are happening at Pot Spring!

March Class Totals: (This figure represents the number of Box Tops collected, not the monetary value of the collection. Monetary value will be tabulated at the end of the year.)

Pre-K and K - 172

1st Grade - 278

2nd Grade - 130

3rd Grade - 138

4th Grade - 291

5th Grade - 111

Take Home Folders

The PTA has a limited supply of additional Take Home folders (the red, white and blue 2-pocket folders used to transport homework and notices from school to home) available for purchase on a 1st-come basis. If your existing folder is worn, a new Take Home folder can be purchased from the office for \$1.00.