

Prettyboy Press



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Principal

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November 2009

From the Principal

The first marking period is coming to an end this week. Teachers will be looking for any missing assignments, so please contact your child's teacher if you have questions about what is missing. This quarter has just flown by, but we have many exciting activities planned for November!

Please plan to join us during American Education Week, Nov. 16th-19th. The schedule is included in this newsletter. Your child will be so proud to see you in their classroom. Please browse the Scholastic Book Fair prior to visiting your child's class that week. Your children will come with their class to browse and purchase books. All proceeds benefit our technology fund.

On November 12th, we will be holding our first annual Tech Trek. Students are being asked to solicit pledges from their friends and families for a walk/run on the outdoor track that Mrs. Chenoweth will set up. We are trying to increase the technology available in each classroom so that every class can enjoy a document camera and LCD projector. If each child raises \$27, we will reach our goal of \$12,600! Please consider helping us raise funds for technology! The top earner will receive a \$25 savings bond, and certificates will go to the top three earners in each class! Please come and cheer for your children on November 12th during their specials time. Thank you for all you do to support the teaching and learning at Prettyboy!

Calendar of Events

November 3

Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – ESS Building

November 5	First Marking Period Ends Chick Fil A Night – Shrewsbury, PA – 5:00-8:00 p.m.
November 6	Assessment/Professional Development Day- Schools Closed for Students
November 9-13	SGA Food Drive
November 16-20	American Education Week Clothing Drive
November 12	Tech Trek Picture Retakes
November 13	Crazy Sock Day
November 16	Visitation Grades 4 and 5
November 17	Visitation Grades 2 and 3 Board of Education Work Session – 6:30 p.m. – ESS Building
November 18	Visitation Grade 1
November 19	Visitation Kindergarten Distribution of Report Cards
November 23	Elementary Conference Day – School Closed for Elementary Students
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools Closed
December 1	Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – ESS Building

American Education Week

We invite you to come and join us during American Education Week. This year's theme is Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and our Responsibility.

November 16
November 17
November 18
November 19

Visitation Grades 4 and 5
Visitation Grades 2 and 3
Visitation Grade 1
Visitation Kindergarten

Visitation is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or lunch which ever comes first. Please remember:

- Younger siblings should not attend American Education Week
- Cell phones should be turned off
- Food or drink should not be brought into the classroom
- Sign-in for fourth grade parents will be in the main building

Be sure to look for the invitation your child will be bringing home. We look forward to seeing you during visitation.

Report Cards

The web page containing report card information for parents is now posted on the BCPS public web site. You can find report card information at the following address <http://www.bcps.org/parents/ReportCard/default.html>. The report card information page contains the Parent Guide to the Elementary Report Card in English and in five additional languages. This guide can be downloaded and saved by right-clicking on the link. You may also do the following: open the internet, enter www.bcps.org, click on the Parents/Families tab, scroll down to Guides and Resources on the left side of the screen, and click on Elementary Report Card Information.

Student Absences

When a student is absent from school, a signed note is to be sent upon the student's return to the homeroom teacher. We CANNOT accept email's from parents/guardians, unless they are able to scan their signature on the note. All notes MUST have a parent/guardian signature, the student's name, date, and reason for the absence.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will be on Thursday, November 12th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If your child was absent on picture day, please have them come to the office and pick up an envelope to return on the day of retakes. If your child needs to have their picture retaken, have them bring their picture packet on November 12th. Students who were absent on picture day will have their picture taken for the yearbook. If you want to order a picture package or have pictures retaken, your child must have the envelope with money or their picture packet. Please DO NOT send the picture packets in until the day of retakes.

Chick Fil A Night

Please come to the Shrewsbury Chick Fil A on November 5th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. for dinner or a snack. Prettyboy receives a portion of all proceeds to support our technology fund. The class with the most receipts turned in will win the large stuffed Chick Fil A cow to keep in their classroom.

Classroom Treats

Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition has prepared a pamphlet outlining healthy tips for party/holiday celebrations. The link to this pamphlet is <http://www.bcps.org/offices/ofns/pdf/brochures/Healthy-School-Environment.pdf>. Please remember that **baked goods should be limited to those purchased through a commercial food establishment and come with an ingredients list**. Please be reminded that **only healthy snacks (no cakes, large cupcakes, cookies, brownies, etc.) should be sent for classroom celebrations**. Goodie bags with pencils, stickers, etc. are welcome. Talk to your child's teacher with specific questions. Please be sure to send a note to your child's teacher if you are planning to send something for a birthday celebration.

Book Fair

Our Annual Book Fair will be held during American Education Week. Students will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair on Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th. A schedule of when each class will have the opportunity to purchase books will be coming home with your children. On Wednesday, November 18th, the Book Fair will be open in the evening from 6:00-8:00 p. m. for those families who are unable to come during the day. All profits will go towards our technology endeavors.

2010 Census

Councilman Bryan McIntire has sent a warning from the Better Business Bureau advising people to be cautious so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft during the Census reporting. The concern is telling the difference between a U. S. Census worker and a con artist. U. S. Census workers will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions, and never invite anyone into your home. Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U. S. census. Census workers may contact you by telephone, but will not contact you by email.

Magnet Application Deadline

The application deadline for fifth grade students applying for magnet programs for the sixth grade is **Monday, November 30, 2009**. Applications must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the Office of Magnet Programs by November 30, 2009 in order to be considered for the programs. Applications after the deadline will not be processed.

Additional information about the BCPS magnet programs is available at www.bcps.org/offices/omp or by calling the Office of Magnet Programs at 410-887-4127.

Magnet School Brochures are available through our school. Please contact the school office at 410-887-1900 if you would like an additional brochure.

MAC Recycling

Prettyboy Elementary School will be participating in the M-A-C Recycling Used Clothing Collection Fundraiser. This program supports the DARE Program and our school's technology fund. The bins will be at Prettyboy from November 9th through November 20th in the cafeteria and by the display case. Students may bring in bags of wearable and used clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, linens, and stuffed animals. Old sneakers and jogging shoes are especially needed. Please bag shoes separately.

Lost and Found

We will dispose of lost and found items quarterly this year. Make sure that all belonging are labeled with your child's name. Our lost and found is located in the cafeteria. Please encourage your children to look in the boxes if they have lost anything.

Community Connection

The Baltimore County H1N1 Community Connection Network is a great source of current information about H1N1. This is a free registry where you can receive updates on H1N1, vaccine clinic schedules and any other critical information.

The address is: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health/index.html>

Have a Question about College?

On Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 pm at Dumbarton Middle School, the Baltimore County Central Area Educational Advisory Committee will host guest speaker Chip Saltsman. He will answer all your questions about college. He has spoken at Dulaney and Pikesville High Schools with rave reviews. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Laura Mullen at lmullen4@verizon.net or just show up.

Weather Related School Closings and Delays

If inclement weather should cause schools to have a delayed opening or early closing, or to close for the day, announcements will be made on all major Baltimore radio and television stations. All school closing and late opening announcements for Baltimore County schools are made by the school system's Office of Transportation. The current school calendar provides seven days for inclement weather. If additional days are necessary, they will be added to the end of the school year. Weather emergencies such as snow, ice, and flooding may cause disruption in school operations and result in school closings, delayed openings, or early dismissals.

The weather contingency plan adds student instructional days to the end of the scheduled school year if schools are closed for more than seven days due to inclement weather. Please refer to the School Information Calendar for more specific information about this process.

Public Announcements

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on local radio and television stations and other media, including the Internet. Please check the **BCPS Web Home Page** (www.bcps.org), **The Education Channel - Comcast Cable Channel 73**, and **BCPS Telephone Information 410-887-5555**.

If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is usually made by 5:30 a.m. If schools are closing one or two hours early, the announcement is usually made by 10:30 a.m. If schools must close 3 hours early, the announcement is usually made by 10:00 a.m.

Delayed Opening of School

Schools may open one or two hours late, and all operations including bus transportation are delayed by one or two hours from the regular schedule.

Early Dismissal

Schools may be closed one, two, or three hours early, and all operations including bus transportation will be activated accordingly. When schools close one hour early, lunch will be served. When schools close two or three hours early, every attempt will be made to serve lunch. School and community activities for the afternoon and evening are also cancelled.

Weekend and Evening Program Cancellations

The cancellation of evening or weekend programs and activities is driven by the announcement of the Baltimore County Snow Emergency Plan. If the Baltimore County Snow Emergency Plan is in effect or going into effect during the time of a program, the school facility will be closed and the activities cancelled.

If snow emergency plans are lifted during the weekend, opening of the facility will be contingent on clearing of the parking lots and sidewalks. The local school administrator and the Department of Facilities will make this decision for school activities. The Department of Recreation and Parks community supervisor, in consultation with the Department of Facilities, will make the decision for recreational programs.

Hereford Zone Information

Due to the size of Baltimore County, there can be great variation in the nature and degree of the weather situation, and to accommodate the greatest difference, the schools in the Hereford Zone have been identified as a separate unit for the purposes of declaring weather emergencies. The following schools are the only schools included in the Hereford Zone:

Hereford High School	Jacksonville	Sparks Elementary
Hereford Middle	Prettyboy Elementary	
Seventh District	Fifth District	

Different procedures apply for the schools in the Hereford Zone. Any weather-related changes that are announced for the Hereford Zone apply to all students living in the Hereford Zone **even if they attend school outside of the Hereford area.**

Bus Route Closures: In the case of a delayed opening or an early closing, some parts of our bus routes may not be served at all even though schools are open. Typically this applies to areas or roads that are on steep hills. The decision to avoid certain roads will be made by individual bus drivers who must operate on those roadways. Drivers will inform students regarding alternative stops in preparation for inclement weather. The following roads are those most likely to be avoided on those days:

Bernoudy	Cotter	Gore Mill	Masemore	Resh Mill	St. Paul
Big Falls	Dairy	Gunpowder	North Ruhl	Slab Bridge	Valley Mill
Cooper Falls	Kidds Schoolhouse		Oakland	Spookhill	

Counselor's Corner
Hope Baier

Student Government Association (SGA)

The elections for Prettyboy Elementary's Student Government Association are now complete. The class officers for 2009-2010 are:

President	Campbell Carr
Vice President	Brooke Hammann
Secretary	Abby Spurrier
Treasurer	Brandon Smith

Thank you to all of the fifth graders who ran for office. You are to be commended for your courage to deliver a speech to the entire student body, as well as your willingness to help our school. Students who ran for office may act as classroom representatives and participate in monthly SGA meetings.

The purpose of the SGA is to promote school spirit, as well as participate in service projects that benefit the school and community. During the meetings, students discuss and vote on ideas such as spirit days, food drives, etc. If you have a suggestion for the SGA, please contact Mrs. Baier.

The first service project that the SGA is sponsoring is a food drive. Children may bring in nonperishable food items and paper products. Items collected will be donated to local food banks. The drive will be held from November 9th to November 13th.

Classroom Guidance

For the month of October, classroom guidance activities have focused on Personal Safety including fire safety and stranger danger. Students are strongly encouraged to learn their address and phone number as well as additional phone numbers such as a parent's work or cell phone, and the name and number of a trusted neighbor or family member is also encouraged.

Literacy Link

By: Bette Hobner



Thank you to the Grade 5 Book-A-Lunch Clubs

I would like to send a special thank you to all of the grade five Book Club leaders who are graciously giving their precious time during the months of October and November. This year we have 15 grade five clubs. The leaders are **Elise Griffey, Alison Seitz, Polly Keller, Marisa Gorsuch, Kathy Miles, Joyce Hohner, Kara Hammann, Shawn Sanders, Beth Vancura, Darby Kooker, Amy Rhein, Ilene Goodson, Deborah Maude, Mary Ann Reott, Tara Westra, and Beth Easton.**

Our students really enjoy these clubs and are greatly enriched by the experience. We are very fortunate that we have such great leaders who make it happen. We hope to have the grade four clubs beginning in December and continuing into January.

Visiting Author

Thanks to our generous PTA, award winning author, **Carole Weatherford** will be visiting Prettyboy Elementary for the entire day on Friday, December 4, 2009. Mr. Finckel and I will be sending out a flyer about possible book purchases for autographing. If you would like to find out more about Ms. Weatherford, please go to her website at <http://caroleweatherford.com>.

Becoming Strategic (Thinking) Readers

Current research is always exploring ways to help our students to become more strategic or thinking readers. At Prettyboy Elementary, we are using this research to teach our students words such as **Metacognition** (what it means to think about what you are thinking) and **Schema** (the background knowledge that is already in your brain). In the classroom, our teachers are explicitly teaching the **metacognitive strategies** such as **inferring and visualizing, questioning, monitoring comprehension, making connections, determining importance, summarizing and synthesizing**. We are helping our students to understand that **TEXT + THINKING = REAL READING**. As a parent, asking the following questions will help you to monitor your child's thinking when he/she is doing his/her personal reading:

- **Does the situation in this book remind you of another story or similar situation in your life? Can you make a text to text connection or text to self connection?**
- **From the actions of the character, can you infer what the character might be feeling or thinking?**
- **What kind of movie is going on in your brain when you are reading this story?**
- **As you were reading, were there any questions that you asked yourself?**
- **What do you think is the most important idea that the author is trying to tell us?**

Future Events

Winter Reading Program- Our Winter Reading Program, as part of the Strive for 25 Initiative, will take place during the month of February. The theme this year will be **The Amazing Race**. Look for more details from the Literacy Committee coming out in January.

Guest Reader's Day- We will once again have our guest reader day in March to recognize the culmination of our Winter Program. Our Literacy Team will be sending out letters to our guests during the months of December and January. If you are interested in being a guest or know of anyone who may be interested in doing this, please call me or Mr. Finckel at the school at 410-887-1900.

Until next month-----Happy Fall Reading!!!!!!

Primary Grades Parent Information Night

The Department of Professional Development, Parent Support Services, and the Office of Special Programs K-12 will host an information night on Thursday, November 12th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Timonium Elementary School. This program is for parents of students in PreK through Grade two. The program will address: 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, and the GT review and referral process.

If You or Your Child Has Influenza-Like Illness

- **Stay home if you or your child is sick** until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of a fever-reducing medicine). Keeping sick students at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes. Clean hands** with soap and water after coughing or sneezing. Handwashing is your first line of defense.
- **Keep sick household members in a separate room** (a sick room) in the house as much as possible to limit contact with household members who are not sick. Consider designating a single person as the main caregiver for the sick person.
- **Monitor the health of the sick child and any other household members** by checking for fever and other symptoms of flu. A fever is a temperature taken with a thermometer that is equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). If you are not able to measure a temperature, the sick person might have a fever if he or she feels warm, has a flushed appearance, or is sweating or shivering.

Watch for emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention. These warning signs include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
 - Bluish or gray skin color
 - Not drinking enough fluids
 - Not urinating or no tears when crying
 - Severe or persistent vomiting
 - Not waking up or not interacting
 - Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
 - Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
 - Sudden dizziness
 - Confusion
 - Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- **Check with your doctor about any special care** needed for household members who may be at higher risk for complications from flu. This includes children under the age of 5 years, pregnant women, people of any age who have chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), and people age 65 years and older.

- **Ask your doctor about antiviral medicines or fever-reducing medicines** for sick household members. Do not give aspirin to children or teenagers; it can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's syndrome.
- **Make sure sick household members get plenty of rest and drink clear fluids** (such as water, broth, sports drinks, electrolyte beverages for infants) to keep from being dehydrated.
- The following website <http://www.baltimorecountymed.gov/agencies/health/resources/swinefu.html> is a valuable resource for flu update information.

(source: www.flu.gov)