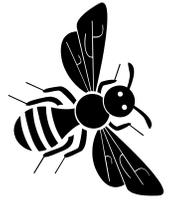




BEELINE



Catonsville Elementary

January 2012

Linda Miller, Principal

Arlene Moore, Asst. Principal



Principal's Corner



Congratulations to Lacey M., Jacob B., Hallie S., Penelope K. and Simon B. for their FISH! nominations!! These students should be commended for "being there", "making their day" and "choosing their attitude"!

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy new year!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

January

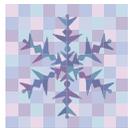
- 5 PTA Meeting 7:00pm
- 11 Walk/Bike/Carpool/Ride the Bus to School
- 13 Purple Friday
- 16 No School-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- 19 Family Reading Night (Snow day January 26)
- 20 Second Quarter Ends
- 23 No School for Students-Professional Development Day

Upcoming Events:

- Report Card Distribution: February 2
- Parent Focus Group: February 2 6:00pm
- MSA Testing Grades 3-4-5: March 12-21
- Spring Break: April 2-9
- STEM Fair (Grades 3, 4, 5): April 19

News from the Office....

January



Inclement Weather and School Closings/Delays

As we are in the season of winter, there is a chance of late openings or school closings due to inclement weather. Please listen to your radio or television for news about these events. If you have internet access, you may go to www.bcps.org for this information. In addition, more detailed information about school closings is available in the *C.E.S. Parent/Student Handbook*. Please **DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL**.



School's Out Notification

If there is a countywide closing of schools, parents are notified through the local media, Baltimore County Public School website and through the BCPS information line (410-887-5555). In addition, you can register at www.schoolsout.com to be notified by email.



Moving? Change of Address?

During the school year, if your address (and/or other contact information) changes, parents are required to notify the school office **WITHIN 10 DAYS**. In addition, if you are moving and know that your child will be transferring to a new school, withdraw and transfer papers are needed. Please notify the office as soon as possible and allow office staff time to prepare all documents.



Student Lunch Accounts Available Online

Parents may access their child's lunch account online. This is a way to check the balance or add money to the account. Parents can sign up for this option at MyLunchMoney.com.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

News from the Office continued....



Cold Weather and Heat

Just a reminder about the heating system as the weather turns colder...

During the school day, Baltimore County Public Schools maintains the classroom temperature at a range of **68-70** degrees. (Please keep in mind that this may not be as warm as the temperature in your home.)

The units are meant to circulate fresh, outside air throughout the day.

Please be sure to dress your children for the weather. If your child feels chilly in school, it is a good idea to keep a sweater or sweatshirt in his/her locker. In addition, keep in mind that your child travels to and from the learning cottage and go outside for recess on a regular basis.



Donations Still Being Accepted

Donations of gently used board games, *Legos*, playing cards, etc. are needed for each grade level teacher to be used for indoor recess. Donations may be made directly to your child's teacher and/or grade level.



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Mrs. Stinnett in grade two!



Electronic Newsletter

Help us "Go Green!" **Sign up today to receive the Beeline electronically!** You can register and read the newsletter using the link from the school's website, <http://catonsvillees.bcps.org/>.

Art Units of Study for January

Kindergarten- A sculpture unit will be introduced with the discovery of working with clay. They will be creating as a final piece, a ceramic bird.

First Grade- They are continuing on creating a seasonal landscape of their choice using tempera paint.

Second Grade- Using the color wheel they will demonstrate the knowledge of mixing cool colors to paint a winter landscape.

Third Grade- Peter Max is the theme that the students will be trying to imitate using acrylics as a painting medium.

Fourth Grade- After completing a printing lesson on the Ancient Chinese Warriors, painting will be introduced at this time.

Fifth Grade- They are still working on their unit of creating a ceramic shoe sculpture. This has been a real challenge, and they coming along beautifully!

My AT art students are beginning to really challenge themselves and their creative juices. They are in the midst of exploring in all media. Stay tuned for their first display coming up at the end of January!

Instrumental Music Units of Study for January

5th Grade: Our instrumental music students have wonderful reading skills. They will be bringing home practice sheet music with familiar tunes.

4th Grade: The students have begun the string unit and are playing the violin until March. They are very attentive and trying their very best. We will be note reading and playing with a CD musical accompaniment starting in January.

Music Units of Study for January

General Music Spotlight on 3rd Grade:

It's recorder time! Toward the end of January, students in third grade will begin playing recorders, synthesizing their knowledge of reading pitches, rhythms, and correct playing techniques. The students will go through a program called "Recorder Karate," in which they master songs in order to gain different colored "belts" (little pieces of yarn) for their recorders. Recorders are a great stepping stone into 4th grade exploratory music in which they learn how to play band and orchestra instruments.

LITERATURE NIGHT

Please join us on Thursday, January 19, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm for an evening filled with exciting literature activities. Some of the activities available will include Karma Dogs, Jeopardy, Reading Under the Stars, a Bookwalk, and the Swap Shop. Christine Peter, a representative from the Resource Center will be here to share ideas for helping your children improve their skills at home.

Pre-K Units of Study for January

Both Pre-K classes have had a very restful vacation, and are ready to come back and learn many new and exciting concepts for the 2012 school year! During the month of January the Pre-K classes will be discussing the following concepts:

Language Arts: The children will continue working in **unit 4: "Helping Hands."** The children will continue to review High Frequency words such as: **my, the, and, a, in, on, is.** The new High Frequency Word they will learn is: **are.** We will use these words along with rebus picture cards to make new sentences. The P.M. children recently came home with the pre-decodable story, "**The Fire truck.**" The A.M. class will read, "**The Fire truck**" this week. Look for the last pre-decodable story to come home. It is called, "**The Letters.**" The children will continue to read new literature selections about community workers. They will also review poems in our big book, "**Over in the Meadow.**" We will be identifying rhyming words, letters in the beginning and end of words, along with their sounds. The children will be receiving journals to write in. This will be very exciting and enjoyable. The children will be encouraged to write their names, letters, High Frequency Words, and many other words. They will also draw lots of lovely pictures that will coincide with their writing.

Mathematics: The children will begin **Theme 5: "Animals Everywhere."** During this unit the children will sort objects by color, size, and type. They will also learn to estimate and graph information they have learned. As the children describe the attributes of objects, such as color, size, or type, they determine sorting methods. For ex; when working with a set of colored bears, they may sort all of the green bears into "big green bears", and "little green bears." It is important for children to name the sorting rule, and to resort their objects in other ways. The children will also learn that making a graph shows visually the relationship between groups. They will learn to compare groups using one-to-one correspondence between columns or rows. In addition, the children will create graphs using concrete objects, pictures, and even themselves!

Important dates:

January 16th: Schools closed. Dr. Martin Luther King's B-Day.

January 23rd: Schools closed. This is a professional development day for teachers.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lakata, Mrs. Elliott & Ms. Mary

Kindergarten Units of Study for January

We hope everyone had a restful and relaxing Winter Break. In Kindergarten, we are ready to get back to our hard work to continue learning new skills!

Open Court- We will continue working on associating the sounds to the letters of the alphabet. The letters that we will be focusing on are: Oo, Bb, Cc, Dd and Nn. We will work on identifying words that begin with the same letter sound. We will be playing word games by blending words together with the puppet. We will be working on blending beginning and ending sounds. We will also work on segmenting words into sounds. We will read the Open Court books; Where Is It? Follow the Leader, Hats, The Pot, and The Nest. The sight words in these stories are: *this, no, it, go, who, has, this, and is.* Please continue working on these words at home.

Shared Reading- We will be reading the big books, The Mitten , Bear Facts, and Winter's Gift, and The Jacket I Wear in the Snow. We will take picture walks to develop an understanding of the story and make predictions. Also, as we read the stories we will make connections about the stories to our life experiences. We will retell stories by acting them out. Also, we will identify the beginning, middle and ending of the stories by sequencing the events of the story.

We will continue to observe punctuation and develop an understanding of the different reasons for the punctuation marks. We will locate the question mark throughout the story. We will concentrate on understanding the difference between fiction and non-fiction selections. Small group instruction continues. The children are beginning their Guided Reading Groups.

We are now beginning the unit for Primary Talent Development. We will be documenting the behaviors perceptive and communicative as the children demonstrate them. This unit will last approximately two weeks and then we will resume our regular schedule.

Mathematics- We are continuing our *Everyday Counts Program* which addresses patterns, the calendar, counting the days that we have been in school, graphing and estimation. . Also during Math time, we will begin working on the unit *Measuring and Counting.* This investigation works on measuring and comparing lengths, counting and finding the total after a small amount is added to a set, working on story problems, comparing numbers and investigating different ways to make numbers (5 and 5 is 10, 6 and 4 is 10, etc.)

1st Grade Units of Study for January

Reading

Theme 3: *Let's Look Around!*

Skills: topic/main idea/details; summarizing; making predictions; categorize & classify; questioning

Theme 4: *Let's Be Friends*

Skills: drawing conclusions; compare & contrast; sequence of events; summarize; monitor/clarify

Language Arts

Writing a personal narrative

Math

Unit 5: *Geometry & Fractions*

- Identifying solid figures ~ Flat surfaces & vertices ~ Relating plane shapes to solid figures ~ 2-D shapes
- Congruent shapes ~ Symmetry ~ Slides, flips, turns ~ Equal parts - fractions

Fractions of a set

Begin Unit 6: *Counting to 100*

Science: (Ms. DeLuca will be teaching these units)

Finish Unit 2: *Observing and Describing*, Begin Unit 3: *Observing the Earth & Sky*

Social Studies: (Ms. Stewart will be teaching these units)

Finish Unit 2: *At Home with My Family*, Begin Unit 3: *Living in the Community*

Health: (Ms. Bert will be teaching these units)

Finish Module 2: *Healthy Living Part 1*, Begin Module 3: *Healthy Living Part 2*

Home Connection

- Read books to your child.
- Visit the Scott-Foresman math website.
- Look for 2-D and 3-D shapes in the real world.

2nd Grade Units of Study for January

Reading: We are still working on reading Theme 3 *Around Town*. However, we are going to take a short break in this theme to work more on higher level reading concept skills that will challenge students to learn and think more cognitively.

**We are still using Book-It this month, so please make sure your child is still continuing to read each night!!*

Math: We are on Unit 5 **Two Digit Addition**. In this new unit, they will learn how to trade 10 ones for 1 ten to solve problems like $27 + 43$, where there are too many ones to fit in the ones part to answer. They will also learn how to solve money problems. Here are some math words that we will be using throughout this unit: *regroup, two-digit number, data*.

**Remember to work with your child on their math pack every Wednesday.*

Writing: We are working continuing working on learning verbs such as helping verbs, past, present, and future tense verbs, action verbs, and pronouns in verbs. This month, we will start the process of writing a research paper.

****Due to the colder weather approaching, second grade has decided to stop rotating classes for modules. So each homeroom teacher will be teaching all units of Science, Health, and Social Studies.****

Science: The new unit in science is ***If...Then***. In this unit, students will be wondering and exploring the world around them. They will learn more about chemistry concepts such as the structure of matter, conservation of matter, physical properties, and physical and chemical changes. They will also investigate physics concepts of energy and electricity.

Health: The new unit in Health is ***Illness, Drugs, and Decisions***. We will be understanding and applying good health practices to help prevent the spread of illness and diseases. **Vocabulary Words: illness, disease, symptoms, germs, medicine, dosage,**

Social Studies: The new unit is called ***Economics in the Community***. Students will learn about goods and services that are produced in the community as well as in different parts of the world. They will also learn about natural and human resources and how they are used in and out of the community. **Vocabulary Words: community services, taxes, goods, services, productions, natural resources, human resources, factory, business, banks, income, and product.**

3rd Grade Units of Study for January

Reading: 3rd Grade – Theme 4: Animal Habitats – Students will focus on the strategies of evaluating the text, summarizing the text, and monitoring understanding as they are reading. The skills that students will be focusing on are fact and opinion, identifying the main idea and details, making generalizations, comparing and contrasting, and author’s viewpoint.

***New in January** – Students will given weekly reading homework on Mondays. Homework should be turned in with everything completed on Fridays. All homework is related to the National Geographic Articles that your child will be bringing home. Please keep these articles in a safe place at home.

GT Reading: Novel: Each Little Bird That Sings by Deborah Wiles – Students will focus on elements of narrative text, analyzing characters, interpreting figurative language and meaning, and drawing conclusions. While reading this story, students will be expected to complete homework relating to this book. Please make sure that your child brings the book back to school with him/her each day!

Language: Students will focus on revision strategies and applying these strategies into their daily writing. Additionally, students will be learning about pronouns and how they are used in writing. Students will work on writing a set of instructions as their next writing piece.

Math: Students will begin Unit 5: Multiplication Concepts and Facts. Students will be expected to learn the basic multiplication facts up to 9. Students will take timed tests to measure how quickly and accurately they are able to recall these facts. Please take the time to practice these facts with your child at home. Be on the lookout for information coming home about ways you can support your child at home with learning their multiplication facts!

Science: Students will be participating in the Safe Racer unit. Students will learn about the design process as they design and create a competitive racer. Students will complete distance and safety trials. They will use the data from these trials to make modifications to improve their racers. Students will compete in a school competition that will eventually lead to one team of students representing our school at the Baltimore County competition.

Important Information: Permission slips will be coming home in January for our trip to the CCBC Planetarium. Unfortunately, there is not room on this trip for parent chaperones. Please email Miss McGowan if you have any questions – mmcgowan2@bcps.org.

4th Grade Units of Study for January

Reading

Theme 3: That’s Amazing

Skills: Compare/Contrast (Book project with different versions of Cinderella stories), Fantasy vs. Reality

Lattea Reading: Poetry Unit

Skills: reading/writing poetry, identifying types of poems, identifying poetry elements, figurative language,

Lattea Language: Unit 4: Adjectives, Descriptive Writing Piece

Holmes Language: Unit 3: Verbs, Descriptive Writing Piece

Shaffer Language: Unit 4: Adjectives, Descriptive Writing Piece

Math: Unit 6: Dividing

Skills: dividing 2-digit numbers, dividing 3-digit numbers, zero in the quotient, dividing money, divisibility rules

GT Math: Unit 5: Geometry

Skills: Classifying Triangles, Measuring Angles (protractors), Classifying Polygons, Attributes of Solid (3-D) Figures

Science (Shaffer): Fossil Detectives

Science (Holmes): Too Hot to Handle (Science Fair Unit)

Social Studies: Unit 2: The Earliest Americans

Congratulations to Luis C., Shareese S., Helen W., Anaiya W., and Peyton D. for earning 100% on their Unit 5 Math test!

5th Grade Units of Study for January

Reading:

Mrs. Wilson (orange), Ms. Ruskowski, and Mr. Pardoe:

Theme 3: Voices of the Revolution

- ~ Cause and Effect
- ~ Following Directions

Theme 4: Person to Person

- ~Noting Details
- ~Problem Solving and Decision Making

Mrs. Wilson:

Red Group- Witch of Blackbird Pond

- ~Problem Solving and Decision Making
- ~Personal Connections
- ~Characters Actions and Plot

Language

All of the fifth grade classes will be working on grammar skills, verbs

Math

Mrs. Wilson, Ms. Ruskowski (green), and Mr. Pardoe:

- ~Unit 5 – Geometry
- ~Unit 6 – Fraction Concepts

Ms. Ruskowski (blue)

- ~Unit 6- Adding and Subtracting Fractions
- ~ Unit 7- Multiplying and Dividing Fractions

Science

Mrs. Wilson: Pendulums

Ms. Ruskowski: Weather the Weather/ Wee Beasties

Social Studies

Mr. Pardoe- Unit 2: Revolutionary War

Notes from your favorite librarian:



Literature night is January 19th from 7-8 pm

We have started to look at the Black-Eyed Susan nominees there are picture books for K-5 and chapter books for 4th & 5th grades. Here is the website if you'd like to know what your children are talking about.

http://www.maslmd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=70

Please take the time to send us your email if you haven't already.

Kindergarten has been terrific about taking books out and returning them. Please work with your child on remembering their library day. There are some disappointed faces if they can't check out a book.

1st grade is learning about story elements by using Black-Eyed Susan books.

2nd grade is learning about story elements by using Black-Eyed Susan books.

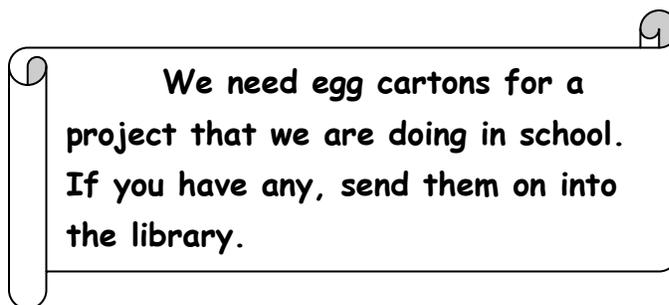
3rd grade is working on text features and story elements by using Black-Eyed Susan books.

4th grade is working on text features and story elements by using Black-Eyed Susan books.

5th graders are learning about copyright issues in print and online publishing and working on more complex story elements, (climax, rising action, etc) by using Black-Eyed Susan books.

If you are interested in seeing what is on the library wiki, just shoot me an email and I will grant you permission to take a look. As always, feel free to visit the library at any time, or shoot me an email if you have any questions.

rkaufman2@bcps.org



Environmental Committee

288 students participated in the Walk, Bike, Ride the Bus to School day, down from 324 in November. The winners of the contest were:

- Sohaib in Pre K rode the bus.
- Jordan E. in first grade rode the bus.
- Declan C. in fifth grade rode the bus.

Our next event is Wednesday, January 11th.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE:

From the Children's Health Tip of the Day of Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania
(accessed at newsletters@email.chop.edu 2/26/08)

Research shows that children who don't get an adequate amount of sleep have more medical problems, as well as social and emotional problems.

Sleep shortage risk #1 -- Obesity and diabetes

Inadequate sleep time can increase a child's risk of being overweight or obese, according to a study that appeared in the journal *Obesity*. The study reported that children with the shortest sleep duration had a 92 percent higher risk of being overweight or obese compared to children with longer sleep duration.

Experts explain that a lack of sleep can cause a child to overeat due to a change in the levels of hormones which regulate hunger.

In addition, the American Diabetes Association warns that not getting enough shut-eye can increase the risk for type 2 diabetes. The association says that sleep deprivation may affect the body's ability to metabolize sugar and prompt development of insulin-resistance, a well-known risk factor for diabetes.

Sleep shortage risk #2 -- Physical development and general health problems

Researchers have found that sleep deprivation can hamper a child's growth, as the highest levels of growth hormone are released into the bloodstream during deep sleep. Lack of sleep can also affect a child's immunity to illness because the immune boosting substance called interleukin-1 is released during sleep.

Sleep shortage risk #3 -- Accidents

A lack of sleep has an adverse affect on motor skills, leading to accidents. The National Center on Sleep Disorders Research reports that bicycle injuries and accidents on playground equipment are more likely to occur when a child hasn't had sufficient rest. The danger increases as the child reaches the teen years as drowsy drivers take the wheel.

Sleep shortage risk #4 -- Emotional well-being issues

Sleep-deprived children tend to perform poorly in school and exhibit more behavior problems than well-rested children. Tired children have problems with cognition, memory and reaction time, and tend to become more easily frustrated by challenges of the school day. In addition, they have a harder time controlling their emotions and may become a behavior problem.

How much sleep does your child need?

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests the following timetable for healthy sleeping:

- Newborns: 14 to 18 hours
- Toddlers: 10 to 14 hours
- Kindergarteners: 8 to 12 hours
- School-aged children: 8 to 10 hours
- Teenagers: 9 to 11 hours

Guidelines for a good night's sleep

To help your child get a better night's rest:

- Make electronics -- including television, computers, video games and cell phones -- off limits an hour before bedtime.
- Create a bedtime routine that includes 15 to 30 minutes of calm, relaxing activities such as a warm bath and bedtime story. Older children can unwind with a good book or soothing music.
- Reduce or eliminate caffeine from your child's diet; restrict food and drink containing caffeine at least six hours before bedtime.
- Establish a regular sleep schedule. Plan a daily schedule that includes enough sleep time to fulfill the requirements of the age group.
- Strive for a balanced schedule. Help students avoid an overloaded schedule that can lead to stress, a major contributor to sleep problems.

Please feel free to contact me about this article or any other concern at 410-887-1079 or at ljablon@bcps.org

If your child borrowed clothing from the Health Suite, please return them as soon as possible. I am running out of clothing for children in the upper grades. Thanks.

Please be sure to let me know if there is a change in any of your telephone numbers: home, work or cell.

Lisa Simon Jablon, RN
School Nurse