

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debra Anoff, Principal

Katherine Carter & Anthony Esposito, Assistant Principal

Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

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ees.hcpss.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Earlier this week I was in a kindergarten class while they were working on calendar skills and I learned that students have now been in school for over 30 days this year. That thirty-day mark is an important milestone in the school year. We are now well into the regular routines of school. First quarter interim reports came home with all students last week and the end of the month marks the end of the first marking period. Mr. Esposito, Mrs. Carter, and I have been having some excellent conversations with teachers about student progress and are very impressed with what we are seeing and hearing.

MAP Testing:

Today is the final day of our fall MAP testing. Some students will work on make-up testing next week, but a majority of students will have finished both the math and reading portions of the test by the end of the day today. We anticipate that the MAP parent report will be ready to be sent home with first quarter report cards in early November. We will have an EES MAP Information Night on Tuesday, October 21st at 6:00 PM.

Fall Into Words Parade:

We want to share with you some important information about our "Fall Into Words" parade scheduled for Friday, October 31st. The parade will begin at 10:00 AM with our 5th graders leading us.

As you design/buy your child's costume, we ask that you avoid any costumes that perpetuate violence, have any blood, gore, scary masks, or contain any type of weapons. Props that come with costumes that are "play weapons" are not allowed in school. This includes but is not limited to toy guns, knives, swords, sickles, pitchforks, etc. We ask that everyone come with a creative word that describes the costume or outfit your child is wearing. No worries, we can help with that creative word if students are in need of assistance.

We also know that some of our families do not participate in this October parade. We will be hosting an alternate activity for those students. On October 31st we will have a regular school following the parade, so we are encouraging families to send their children to school! If you prefer that your child does not take part in the parade, please send a note to your child's teacher or contact Mrs. Anoff at debra_anoff@hcpss.org.

Debra Anoff, Principal

ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATIONS

You can now receive e-mail notifications from the family portal when your child is marked absent. First, log into your family portal account (the login id and password are the same as the emergency card system) using the attached link <http://hcpss.me/fp/>. Click on the top tab labeled "family". Next click on the side tab labeled "notification". Check the box under the label "subscribe" next to attendance. Please note that e-mail notifications are not sent out until 11:00.

DISCRETIONARY ABSENCES

According to the HCPSS Attendance Policy the only lawful reasons for student absences are: death in the immediate family, illness of the student, court summons, hazardous weather conditions, observance of a religious holiday, state emergency, and suspension. If you are planning on taking your child out of school for any other reason please fill out a discretionary absence form. The first three days of the absence will be marked as lawful/ excused, any additional days will be marked as unlawful/unexcused. The discretionary absence form can be found at www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/absence_request.pdf.



OCTOBER COUNSELOR CORNER

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Mrs. Tacka and Miss Cooley discuss bullying vs. conflict, empowering the bystander and conflict resolution skills throughout the school year to teach students the definitions and skills needed to manage bullying and conflict situations. Here are some helpful websites if you are interested in any additional information...

www.stopbullying.gov

www.netsmartz.org

www.cyberbullying.us

Our monthly school character trait is **Responsibility**, one of our 3 school rules. This is a great skill to teach at home. Here are some ideas to help encourage your child to gain this important character trait...

- Assign an age appropriate chore to each individual in the house (create a fun chore wheel or chart to keep track of your progress)
- Ask your child to empty their own backpack and show you their take home folder/agenda (students in grades 3-5, check to make sure they have filled in their agenda book)
- Model responsible tasks such as making a grocery list/budget with your child, placing work/school items in a designated spot so they do not get misplaced, and/or pack your lunches together!

HCPSS: LET'S GO HoCo 5K RACE

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is excited to host Let's Go HoCo, its inaugural 5K race and 1 mile fun run on Sunday, October 12 in Columbia. The race is a great way to bring together students, families, staff and Howard County community members to promote health and wellness. The race will include beginners, intermediate and professional level athletes. View event information and register today at www.hcpss5k.com.

FLUMIST CLINIC AT ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY

On the morning of **Tuesday, November 18 2014**, the Howard County Health Department, in cooperation with the Howard County Public School system, will be offering influenza vaccinations to our students. Consent forms will be sent home, as we get closer to the date. We will need parent volunteers the morning of the school's annual FluMist clinic. If you are available for all or any part of that time and would like to help, please contact Marianne Jones at Marianne_jones@hcpss.org or Jennifer Tucker at Jennifer_tucker@hcpss.org.

MARKET DAY – OCTOBER SALE

NEW this month and sounds delicious, Greek Yogurt Apple Cakes, Orange Chicken dinner in 15 minutes, and Fire-Roasted Root Vegetables. FREE Chicken Gems with \$90 online purchase. Enter promo code OCTBONUS. Frequent Buyer program qualification continues through November. Give back with Baby Baked Potatoes, Market Day will make a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation for each order. Visit marketday.com by 11 PM on Friday, October 17th. If you haven't already, don't forget to use your welcome coupon code for additional savings. For additional information contact Jenny Whitebloom at (410) 313-5040 or jennifer_eley-whitebloom@hcpss.org. Don't forget special Thanksgiving items coming in November!

GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Howard County GT Education Program Parent Academy is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM @ Hammond High School. The evening will begin with an overview of GT Program offerings at the elementary, middle, and high school levels presented by GT staff and Howard County students. Immediately following the general session, parents and community members will have an opportunity to meet by level for a question and answer session.

Math Support

In HCPSS, elementary mathematics content is organized by grade level. Secondary mathematics content is organized by course. The goal of the preK-12 elementary mathematics program in Howard County is that every student will graduate college and career ready. <http://www.hcpss.org/academics/mathematics/>



IMPORTANT POLICY INFORMATION

A Student/Parent Handbook 2014-2015 was sent home to every family the first day of school with important policies for parents and student to become familiar with. We would like to communicate some of these policies.

STUDENT ASSAULT AND/OR BATTERY ON STAFF (Policy 9270)

In order for learning to take place, the school environment must be safe and orderly. Therefore, any assault and/or battery by a student on a school staff member is strictly forbidden. An assault may be physical, oral or written. Battery I is the unlawful touching of another person by the aggressor and battery II involves unlawful touching plus a display of blatant disregard for the safety of the staff member other Consequences for an assault violation range from suspension to expulsion. A battery I violation results in suspension of up to 45 days. A first battery II offense results in a suspension of at least 45 days and may result in expulsion. A second battery II offense results in expulsion. A student who violates this policy is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the duration of a suspension.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION (Policy 2010)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of contributions of students in the regular meetings of the Board and encourages this participation by establishing the position of Student Member to the Board of Education of Howard County and by establishing the position of student representative in each high school. The Student Member is elected by a plurality of student voters in Grades 6 through 11 countywide and serves a one-year term beginning with the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Board in July. Student representatives are elected in their high schools and serve a one-year term.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, October 15

Coffee and Conversation with Administration 10:00 AM

Thursday, October 16

Donuts for Dad 8:30 AM (Cafeteria)

Friday, October 17

MSEA Convention—School Closed

Monday, October 20

Fall Picture Day (Individual and Yearbook Portraits)

Tuesday, October 21

Fall Picture Day (Individual and Yearbook Portraits)

Wednesday, October 29

PTA Restaurant Night @ Red Robin (5 PM - 9 PM)

Friday, October 31

Fall Into Words Parade 10:00 AM

End of 1st Quarter

Monday, November 3

Professional Learning/Work Day~ Schools Closed for Students

Tuesday, November 3

General Election Day~ Schools & Offices Closed

Wednesday, November 5

EES PTA Meeting 6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 12

Report Cards go home today



November 17th -21st
American Education Week

Tuesday, November 18
Flue Mist Day at EES
Picture Retakes

Wednesday, November 19
5th Grade Musical 6:00 PM

Thursday, November 20
5th Grade Musical 6:00 PM

Monday, November 24
Parent/Teacher Conferences
EES Turkey Trot

Tuesday, November 25
Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, November 26
Schools Closed for Students

November 27th & November 28th
Thanksgiving Holiday~ Schools Closed for Students

PTA NEWS

Family Fall Festival

Elkridge Elementary's PTA will be hosting its First Annual Family Fall Festival on Friday, October 24, 2014 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. Please join us for a fun-filled evening. There will be: a costume parade, crafts, games, pumpkin raffles, a fall photo area, cake walks, food, chances to win prizes, and a chance to go trick or treating at our first annual Trunk or Treat competition. So feel free to come in costume (or not) and enjoy our fall celebration. Like all of our family fun nights, admission is free. Food sales and raffle tickets will also be available. Look for more details in the flyer coming home with your students today.

PTA Restaurant Night

Please join us for the October PTA Restaurant night. It will be held at Red Robin on Wednesday, October 29th from 5pm-9pm.

Direct Donation Campaign

Flyers for our direct donation campaign went home the week of October 13th. If you did not receive a flyer, please email eespta@hotmail.com. Extra flyers can also be found on our website. So far we've reached 20% of our goal of \$15,000. Please encourage family and friends that they can also help make a difference! Remember 100% of monies donated is tax deductible!

EES Holiday Shoppe

The 7th Annual EES Holiday Shoppe will be Friday, December 5th from 6:30-9:00. The PTA is currently looking for a wide variety of vendors to help make this night a success. Products can include fine art, crafts, jewelry, clothing, accessories, pottery, photography, specialty foods and more! Please email eespta@hotmail.com for more information!

Winter Coat Drive (October 1st - 29th) for those in need in our community

HCPSS Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs) in cooperation with PTA Council of Howard County and other community organizations are sponsoring this annual coat drive to provide students in our own school community (and their families) who are in need of winter coats, gloves, hats, etc. Please make sure any donations are clean and ready to wear! The donation box can be found in the cafeteria until Wednesday, October 29th.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

The following events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

STEM FAMILY NIGHT

Experience the amazing world of science, technology, engineering and math! See what area schools have to offer in STEM! Come to Arundel Mills, The Roundhouse Food Court, on **Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 6pm – 8pm**. The Fort Meade Alliance is hosting this free event.

Healthy Howard

Door to Healthcare, a project of Healthy Howard and we provide FREE help in choosing affordable, quality health coverage. The Door provides practical answers about new changes in health care, personal support for making the right choice and assistance with signing up for health insurance. Our certified Navigators and Assisters are available for in-person assistance and to guide you and your family through the process of becoming insured. To learn more, visit www.doortohealthcare.org or call us at [855-288-3667](tel:855-288-3667).

Maryland Judiciary

Judiciary Contest for Young Artists Helps Promote Peacemaking

The Maryland Judiciary is asking young artists to help promote peacemaking in its annual Conflict Resolution Student Bookmark Art Contest. The contest, for Maryland students, grades K-8; helps celebrate Conflict Resolution Day, which is Thursday, Oct. 16. For more information contact Alecia Parker, 410-260-3540, or alecia.parker@mdcourts.gov.