

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debra Anoff, Principal

Katherine Carter & Anthony Esposito, Assistant Principal

Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

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Elkridge, MD 21075
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ees.hcpss.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

FALL INTO WORDS PARADE:

We wanted to remind parents of 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

Congratulations to our very own Donald Burnette!

We are proud to announce the publication of Donald Burnette’s first children’s book, Grandfather’s Words. Donald is an inspiration to all of our aspiring authors, both young and old. **Way to go, Donald!**

PICK-A-TIME

Look for directions coming home in your child’s Friday folder today to sign on to Pick-A-Time to register for upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences for the end of November. Our school will be using this web-based application for conferences on November 24 and 25. Parents with Internet access will be able to schedule their appointments, print their schedules, and have an e-mail reminder sent to them. To access this program, click on the scheduling link on the county web site www.hcpss.org. This program is easy to use and can be accessed at your convenience beginning on Saturday, November 1 at 9:30am.

NEW HCPSS MOBILE APP NOW AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD

We are excited to announce that we have launched a new HCPSS mobile app in the Apple App Store and Google Play store. The app has four main components that support HCPSS communications:

- **News:** Within the app, provides parents with an easy way to read news items generated from the HCPSS website and school websites. Parents can select which schools to see news from.
- **Calendars:** Provides parents with an easy way to add system wide and school events directly to their calendars.
- **School Contact:** Provides parents with an easy way to contact their schools.
- **Connect:** Provides direct access to Superintendent information, Board of Education information, HCPSS Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.



5th Grade Musical / November 19 & 20

Coming soon! Our 5th graders will be presenting "Aladdin Jr." on November 19 and 20 at 6 pm in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to come see the story of the poor boy from the streets, the Princess, and the Genie who helps them all! Tickets are not required but 5th grade parents must choose one night only to attend. Children should be at both performances. More information will come home about this the week before the show. Show t-shirt order forms for 5th graders are being sent home today, so please look for that in your child's folder! T-shirts are \$7.00 each and forms are due by November 5. Looking forward to seeing you all at our performance!

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

As we enter into flu season, this is a reminder that good hand washing and covering sneezes and coughs with tissues and sleeves are essential steps to preventing the spread of "germs." Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of other children) is most important of all. For this reason, we ask you to please:

- Call the school nurse to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat, or the flu etc. Please provide any documentation from your physician about diagnosis and release to return to school. (Ear and sinus infections, while often a reason for keeping a child home, are usually not contagious.)
- Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of over 100.0. A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear but he/she will still be contagious to others. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school!
- Have your children wash their hands properly after using the restrooms and prior to eating.
- If the doctor prescribes medication for your child, please make sure he/she takes it as directed-which means the right amount at the right time and without missing doses.

Thank you very much for helping keep all our students healthy!

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.netismartz.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!



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION with HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education of Howard County regularly holds *Coffee & Conversation* sessions at schools throughout the county. These meetings provide citizens with an opportunity to share a cup of coffee and chat informally with Board members. The meetings are held in various regions of the county, but interested persons from throughout the county are invited to attend any or all of the meetings. The next *Coffee & Conversation* will be held Saturday, November 15th, 9:30-11 a.m. here at Clemens Crossing Elementary in the cafeteria.

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 tap 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.

NATURE CENTER FAMILY SCOPE OUT THE NIGHT SKY

Don't miss your family's chance on Saturday night, **Nov 1**, to make your own Galileoscope (\$50 value), see a planetarium presentation and handle moon rocks at Robinson Nature Center! Have fun, and learn about the night sky together at the Scope Out the Night Sky program. This program is in partnership with the MD Science Center and supported by a grant through the Howard County Arts Council. **\$24 per family**. For information or to pre-register to secure your family's spot, call 410-313-0400. See photos from the last event at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hocorec/sets/72157643027158875/>. Where: Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044 When: Saturday, November 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM Recommended ages: 8 years and up. Info: 410-313-0400 or www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCprograms.htm

HOWARD COUNTY PUMPKIN' CHUNKIN' COMPETITION

Come support HCPSS students, and join us at Robinson Nature Center on Sunday, **Nov 2nd from 2 to 3:30 PM** for the first **Howard County Pumpkin' Chunkin' competition**. Teams from HCPSS high schools and middle schools have designed catapults to launch pumpkins and compete for prizes. Come out to support your favorite team and see some pumpkins fly! **Free with Robinson annual pass or daily admission**. No registration necessary.

Where: **Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044**

When: **Sunday, November 2 from 2PM to 3:30 PM**

Info: 410-313-0400 or www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCpumpkinlaunch.htm

Halloween Safety Tips from Poison Centers:

Before you go trick-or-treating:

1. Feed your children to help cut the urge to snack on the route.
2. Bring your own candy, so children won't eat unchecked treats.

After you return home:

3. Carefully check all treats before allowing your child to eat them.
4. Only eat candy from original, unopened and undamaged wrappers.
5. Throw away candy if wrappers are faded, torn, or show signs of re-wrapping.
6. When in doubt, throw it out!
7. To reach the poison experts 24 hours a day, call the Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.



FLUMIST CLINIC AT ELKBRIDGE 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!

MATH

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 USE AND POSSESSION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS (Policy 9240)

The use or possession of any tobacco product or cigarette rolling papers by students is prohibited in school buildings, in school vehicles, on school property and at school bus stops at all times. For a first violation, the student and his/her parent will receive referral information on a tobacco use cessation program administered by a public health agency or private provider. In addition, the student will be assigned to the Tobacco Management Class held as part of the HCPSS Saturday school program. Failure to attend the Tobacco Management Class will result in an out-of-school suspension for one school day.

STUDENTS CHARGED WITH COMMUNITY OR REPORTABLE OFFENSES (Policy 9280)

The presence in school of a student who has been charged with a reportable offense or an offense related to membership in A criminal gang may compromise the safety and well being of students and/or staff, and may disrupt the educational process in the school. Students who are considered by school administrators to have engaged in community offenses may raise similar concerns. Maryland law requires law enforcement agencies to inform the superintendents of local school systems when a student has been charged with a reportable offense or an offense related to membership in a criminal gang. The information is then shared with the principal of the school the student attends, who conducts an investigation.

A student may be disciplined under this policy when the school system has evidence of the offense in addition to the notice of charges and when the student's presence in school raises concerns for the safety and well being of students and/or staff or the order and general welfare of the school. If it is determined that the student poses no threat to the safety and well being of students and staff, no further action is necessary.

However, if deemed appropriate, the student may be disciplined and/or assigned to an alternative educational placement pending adjudication. If the student is suspended from school, the principal will promptly inform the student's parent(s) of the suspension. If the decision is made to place the student in an alternative educational setting, the student may not participate in extracurricular and school-related activities of his or her home school during the time in the alternative placement. While in the alternative placement, the student's performance and status related to any legal proceedings will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Adjustments are made as appropriate.



DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Saturday, November 15

Board of Education Coffee & Conversation @ Clemens Crossing Elementary, 9:30 am – 11 am

November 17th -21st

American Education Week

Tuesday, November 18

Special Person's Day – Kindergarten 9:30 – 10:30 (Details coming soon!)

Special Person's Day – 5th Grade 11:00 – 12:00 (Details coming soon!)

Flue Mist Day at EES

Picture Retakes

Wednesday, November 19

Special Person's Day – 3rd Grade 9:30 – 10:30 (Details coming soon!)

Special Person's Day – 4th Grade 9:30 – 10:30 (Details coming soon!)

5th Grade Musical 6:00 PM

Thursday, November 20

Special Person's Day – 1st Grade 10:30 – 11:30am (Details coming soon!)

Special Person's Day – 2nd Grade 10:00 – 11:00am (Details coming soon!)

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

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.

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.

SUPERSQUAD CHEERLEADING

Join SuperSquads Cheerleading today! It's not too late! Practices are once a week after school for 1.25 hours. Contact supersquadsinfo@verizon.net, www.supersquads.org or 410-796-2244 for more information. You can register online or by mail.

REBUILDING TOGETHER HOWARD COUNTY

Free Home Repairs Available, Volunteers from Rebuilding Together Howard County work to repair homes for low-income homeowners and their families. All types of free repairs are provided to include plumbing, electrical, carpentry, new appliance installation, painting and the list goes on. A simple application is all you need to apply. Call **410-381-3338** or go on line at www.rebuildingtogetherhowardcounty.org to get your application. Since 1992, over 700 Howard County homes have been repaired free of charge. The deadline for applying is Dec. 31.

HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Annual Symphony of Lights, Symphony Woods off of Broken Land Parkway in Columbia, Md. Wed.-Mon., 6-10 p.m. starting Nov. 17 -Jan. 4. In addition to nightly drive throughs, Symphony of Lights offers special events. Event information is available by calling the Symphony of Lights Information Line at 410-740-7666 or by visiting www.hcgh.org/symphonyoflights.

CUB SCOUTS

Sign your son up today. Now is the time to sign up your son for one of the nation's foremost youth development programs. Cub scouting is the elementary school age division of the Boy Scouts of America.

Each elementary school in Howard County has a Cub Scout Pack. If you are unsure about which pack you belong in, go to www.beascout.org and type in your ZIP code. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Joe Azzarello, jazzarello@baltimorebsa.org.

MESSAGE OF HOPE FOUNDATION

Message of Hope Happy Hope Bags We need your help collecting the following items. Crayons, colored pencils, playing cards, stickers, coloring books, notepads (small), Playdoh (Hasbro) Slinky (Plastic), kids toothbrushes, toothpaste, chapstick, book lights and iTunes gift cards. For more information visit <http://messageofhopefoundation.org/> or call 888-201-4673.

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).

YMCA TURKEY TROT CHARITY 5K



A walk/run benefiting the Y of Central Maryland's *Give Every Child a Chance* campaign - Thanksgiving Morning, Nov. 26, 8:30 a.m., Long Gate Shopping Center, Ellicott City. Register today at ymaryland.org