

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debra Anoff, Principal

Katherine Carter & Anthony Esposito, Assistant Principal

Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

**7075 Montgomery Road
Elkridge, MD 21075
410-313-5006**

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ees.hcpss.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

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.

Kodak Moments and Memories:

We are very excited about the variety of activities we have planned this year. These activities include but are not limited to our “Fall Into Words Parade”, the 5th grade musical, a variety of field trips, and our end of the year 5th grade closing ceremony. As you take pictures of your children at school events throughout the year, please remember you may be capturing other children. These children may or may not have permission to be photographed publically. We ask that you respect the privacy of others and not post photos (of any child other than your own) on social media.

Coffee & Conversation with Administration:

We are very excited to provide an opportunity for you to come with questions, ideas and suggestions. This is an informal opportunity to share a cup of coffee and chat with the parents of our students. Please feel free to bring siblings.

Winter is Coming Soon!

With colder weather around the corner we would like to remind parents to please label their child’s clothing including: jackets, hats, gloves, etc. This will help insure that misplaced clothing items can be returned to their owners. Thank you!

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.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!

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.

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 one of these policies.

Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media (Policy 8080)

Students must act in a responsible, civil, ethical, and appropriate manner when using technology for HCPSS-sanctioned activities. Students may not reveal personally identifiable information (e.g., home phone numbers, addresses, or social security numbers) except in specific circumstances where such information is required to complete academic assignments. In such circumstances, prior written consent from the parent or legal guardian of the student is required. Schools will identify times and places for online activities. Schools will also ensure that signed HCPSS parent permission forms (Responsible Use of Technology Agreement/Internet Use Permission Form) for each student are collected and kept on file. Students will access only those network resources for which they have obtained permission, using the account assigned to them. Students will not create, access, download, store, or print content that: Depicts profanity, obscenity, the use of weapons, terrorism, or violence. Promotes use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products. Contains sexually suggestive messages. Is sexually explicit or obscene. Depicts gang affiliation. Contains language or symbols that demean an identifiable person or group or otherwise infringe on the rights of others. Causes or is likely to cause a disruption to school activities or the orderly operation of the school. Contains rude, or discourteous expressions inconsistent with civil discourse or behavior. Constitutes bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation in violation of Policy 1040 Safe School Environments, or Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation. If a student, while using HCPSS-sanctioned technology or social media, discovers that another student may be the target of bullying, stalking or other harmful behavior, the student must report the findings to a teacher or administrator. The school system reserves the right to enable or disable interactive features on social media to remove content that is inconsistent with the stated purpose, mission, and guidelines posted for the use of social media. The school system may access, monitor, archive, audit, purge or disclose the public contents of material that is created, stored or Accessed through personal social media when possible and permitted by law.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, November 15

Coffee and Conversation with Administration 10:00 AM

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)

Friday, October 31

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

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

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 next Friday.

EES PTA Yardsale

REMINDER: The EES PTA is hosting a yard sale this **Saturday, October 4th from 8 am - 12 pm**. If you have junk you would like to turn into cash, please sign up. \$15 buys you 2 spots in the school's annex lot to sell your items. Friends, family members, neighbors, are all welcome to participate! A flyer has been posted to the Elkridge Elementary School PTA Facebook page. Thank you for your support!

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!

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.

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 Assistants 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.

Howard Community College

Busy Parents Guide to Family Nutrition can help you revitalize your and your family's health. Students will learn secrets and recipes to revitalize your health and life. Tues., Sept. 23- Oct. 21, 7 to 9 p.m. at Centennial High School. \$119. For a full course description and registration information, visit coned.howardcc.edu/nutrition. For more information about the courses listed above, please call Rosemary Muir at 443-518-4404 or email rmuir@howardcc.edu.

Howard County Recreation and Parks

Rock School: Drums, Guitar, Keyboard, or Vocals, this class meets Sat., Oct 4. To register by phone, please call Recreation and Parks at 410-313-7275. For more information, please contact Kori Jones at kjones@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4609. [ES](#), [MS](#), [HS](#)

Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Dept

Ellicott City Fire Dept. Open House, Oct. 4, 1-4 p.m., 4150 Montgomery Road. For further info please call 410-313-2600. [ES](#), [MS](#), [HS](#)