

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Hats off to our PTA for organizing two great events! Our first annual Fall Festival was amazing! Over 400 people attended this event with 20 cars for Trunk or Treating. Fun was had by all. We are looking forward to continuing this event next fall and making it annual tradition here at EES. Second, restaurant night at Red Robin was a great success! Thanks to all that participated.

I would also like to personally thank all our students, staff, and guests who participated in the Fall into Words Parade today. The costumes were so creative! We had a terrific turnout and all our guests had fun! Thank you for all for the continued support!

Just a quick note about Special Person's Day scheduled for November 18. For those who have a weakened immune system or are in contact with anyone who has had a bone marrow transplant in the past six months, please be aware that the Health Department is administering **live flu** vaccines at EES. If you have any concerns, please contact your private physician. We will send out consent forms in this week's Friday folders. Please return next week.

Debra Anoff, Principal

Special Person's Day

Grandparents and Special Person's Days at Elkridge Elementary are coming soon! Please see your child's Friday Folder for more information. You can also open a PDF version can be accessed on the Elkster e-newsletter.

Turkey Trot

Elkridge Elementary School's annual Turkey Trot is scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2014. The Turkey Trot is a fun activity for families, students, and staff to exercise together. A course of about a mile will be marked off for runners. The route travels around both EES and ELMS properties. Parents and other guests are welcome to run or just come to watch. The Turkey Trot is to highlight the benefits of exercise only; no awards will be given.

Turkey Trot times are as follows:

9:30 -10:00 5th grade
10:00 - 10:30 3rd grade
10:30 -11:00 4th grade
11:00 – 11:30 2nd grade
11:30 – 12:00 Kindergarten
12:00 – 12:30 1st grade

PICK-A-TIME

Once again, 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.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK

November 10th - 14th

The theme for 2014 School Psychology Awareness Week is **Strive. Grow. THRIVE!** Our goal is to engage students at all levels of learning and development to promote personal achievement, growth, and resilience, as well as a sense of connectedness and wellbeing.

What is a School Psychologist?

School psychologists help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community for all students. (From NASP publications: What is a School Psychologist?)

When should I contact my child's School Psychologist?

All children and adolescents face problems from time to time. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Carter (lisa_carter@hcpss.org) if any of the following concerns are interfering in your child's learning or relationships:

- Feels afraid to go to school
- Has difficulty organizing their materials, time, and/or thoughts
- Are going through a major life change (such as caregiver's divorce, move, etc.)
- Has experienced a recent loss
- Spends excess time on homework
- Falls behind in schoolwork
- Or experiences other difficult situations that have adversely impacted his/her life.

Fun Facts

✓ Studies show that the more fruits and vegetables we eat, the better our mental health.

✓ Studies show that there are two easy (and FREE!) ways to combat anxiety and depression:

- Daily cardiovascular exercise
- Make a list of things that make you feel happy and strive to do one daily (bonus boost if you do something outside your home).

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. Don't forget to order T-shirts. They are \$7.00 each and forms are due by November 5. Looking forward to seeing you all at our performance!



SCHOOL PICTURES—RETAKE – MAKE UP DAY NOVEMBER 18

If your child was absent on picture day they will have their picture taken on Tuesday, November 18. Thank you to all the families who participated in this fundraiser and ordered school portraits this fall from Strawbridge Studios. Your satisfaction is guaranteed; if you wish a retake, save the portrait and have your child bring the entire package back to the photographer on Picture Make up Day on Tuesday, November 18.

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. Please look for consent form in your child's Friday folder. 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.

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/>

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!

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 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.

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.

TRESPASSING OR WILLFUL DISTURBANCE (Policy 3020)

The school system has the legal authority to take action when anyone willfully disturbs or otherwise prevents the orderly conduct of school system instruction, administration or activities. Additionally, Maryland law provides criminal penalties for any individual who trespasses on property or fails to leave school property after being asked to do so by authorized personnel. Any willful disturbance or interference with the orderly conduct of activities, including bodily harm or threats of bodily harm to an individual who is lawfully on school property; threats to a student or employee by any means including in-person, by telephone, or by electronic means; or any willful damage or defacing of school property or building is a violation of policy and may be a violation of the law. Any individual who is found to be on school property after receiving prior legal notice that his/her access to school system property has been denied, or who remains on the property after being asked to leave, is considered to be trespassing. When an individual commits any of the offenses noted above, the building administrator may take several actions: Explain how the individual's behavior is unacceptable. Issue a warning letter to the individual. Issue a letter that summarizes the disruptive behavior and any prior discussions or warnings and which informs the individual that any further incidents will lead to a formal denial of access. Issue a denial-of access letter. When a denial-of-access letter is issued to the parent of a student enrolled at the school, the letter will explain how the parent may continue to discuss legitimate school issues regarding his or her child.

WEAPONS

The presence of weapons on school property poses a serious threat to the safety and well being of students and staff. It is unlawful for any person to carry or possess any rifle, gun, knife, or deadly weapon of any kind on any public school property in the state of Maryland. A weapon, as defined by school system policy, includes: any gun, dirk knife, bowie knife, switchblade knife, star knife, buck knife, hunting knife, throwing star, razor, metal knuckle, Nunchaku, explosive device, or any other object or implement intended to cause harm to another or used in such a way as to cause harm to another. Any student found in possession of a weapon on school property will be suspended and the police notified. Possession of a gun, or any implement possessed under a circumstance that would reasonably lead a person to believe it was a gun, will result in expulsion.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

PTA Restaurant Night @ Sorrentos in Arbutus, 5 – 8pm (dine-in or carry out)



November 17th -21st
American Education Week

Tuesday, November 18
Special Person's Day – Kindergarten 9:30 – 10:30
Special Person's Day – 5th Grade 11:00 – 12:00
Flue Mist Day at EES
Picture Retakes

Wednesday, November 19
Special Person's Day - 3rd Grade 9:30 – 10:30
Special Person's Day – 4th Grade 9:30 – 10:30
5th Grade Musical 6:00 PM

Thursday, November 20
Special Person's Day – 1st Grade 10:30 – 11:30am
Special Person's Day – 2nd Grade 10:00 – 11:00am
5th Grade Musical 6:00 PM

Monday, November 24
Parent/Teacher Conferences
EES Turkey Trot
Book Fair

Tuesday, November 25
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Book Fair

Wednesday, November 26
Schools Closed for Students

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

PTA NEWS

Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the school Book Fair starting on November 24th! Parents will be able to shop during conference times on November 24th & 25th. Children will be able to shop during media time the week of December 1st through December 5th. Scholastic books will also be available for purchase at the PTA sponsored Holiday Shoppe the evening of December 5th.

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 cespta@hotmail.com for more information!

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.



Soccerdome

Attention All Soccer Enthusiasts - It's Time for Winter Indoor Soccer - Register Your Youth Soccer Team Now with Maryland Sports Services at Soccerdome. U7 through HS teams can choose from two sessions. See all the details at www.soccerdome.com or call Jody Boyer at 443-668-6019 for assistance.

HCYP

25th Anniversary **FREE** Basketball Clinic, Nov. 16, two sessions, 2 p.m.-3:15 p.m. ages 10 and under. 3:30 p.m.- 4:45 p.m. ages 11 and older. Long Reach High School, grades 1-12

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

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](tel: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 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).



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

Glen Mar United Methodist Church

Family 5K and 1-Mile Walk on Sat., Nov. 1, 9 a.m. The course will cover streets surrounding the church. Visit <http://www.active.com/ellicott-city-md/running/races/glen-mar-family-5k-and-1-mile-walk-2014?int>. The event will benefit the Howard County Food Bank.

Centennial Boosters

Come join us for the 4th annual Centennial Boosters 5K Fun Run/Walk and 1K Kids Costume Run on Sun., Nov. 2, at 9 a.m., at Centennial High School. All proceeds will benefit the Centennial Boosters which funds CHS team sports, clubs and student organizations. The 5K-trail run will be on Centennial's Cross Country course and the Kid's 1K-costume run will take place on the track. Download a registration form or use Paypal to register at CentennialBoostersOnline.com.