

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

What an awesome night we had last Wednesday at our PTA Red Robin fundraiser!! Thank you to all the families and friends that were able to come and support our Elkridge PTA. Whether you got take out or ate in...we appreciate you!!

Report Cards come home next Wednesday, November 12th. This is a great opportunity to take some family time and talk with your child about their first quarter report card. Start with their strengths and then look at a few areas that they would like to work on for the 2nd quarter. Take time to celebrate all the awesome achievements they made since the start of the year! We are very proud of all of our students!!

Looking into the next few weeks we have some fun activities coming up! The week of November 17-21 is American Education Week. American Education Week presents all of us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that our children receive a quality education. Don't forget Special Person's Days also during this week. Schedule is as follows:

November 18	- Kindergarten 9:30 – 10:30
	5th Grade 11:00 – 12:00
November 19	- 3rd Grade 9:30 – 10:30
	4th Grade 9:30 – 10:30
November 20	- 1st Grade 10:30 – 11:30am
	2nd Grade 10:00 – 11:00am

The PTA will be sponsoring BINGO night on Friday, November 21st at 6:30pm. Come out for some fun!!

Pick-A-Time is now open! Don't forget to sign up for your Parent/Teacher conference. These conferences will be held on November 24th & 25th. To access this program, click on the scheduling link on the county web site www.hcpss.org. You will be able to access this program until November 17 at 11pm. If you don't have internet access or need to schedule after November 17, please contact the front office and ask to speak with Jenny Whitebloom or Angela Sullivan.

Looking forward to seeing you during American Education Week,
Mrs. Anoff, Principal

CONGRATULATIONS EES STUDENTS

On Wednesday night, November 17 Elkridge Elementary 4th and 5th grade students were recognized by the Council of Elders of the Black Community for their performance on the 2014 MSA. Those students are Ryan Addai, Brian Anyanaso, Kiara Betenga, Hannah Braimoh, Amaya Carroll, Indie Clark, Aaliyah Davis, Sheena Haroon, Agamnelechim Iheanyi-Igwe, Nesochim Iheanyi-Igwe, Devin Knowles, Juliet Mbullu, Emmanuel Omole, Kelenna Onukwugha, Dominic Sesay, Roman Slater, and Mia Swaby-Rowe. We are very proud of all of them!!!

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. The consent forms were sent home in your student's Friday folder last week. 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. 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.

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.

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. If a rain date is necessary, we will reschedule for December 5.

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

FEDERAL IMPACT AID SURVEYS DUE BACK NOVEMBER 19 IF QUALIFIED

Federal financial assistance is provided to local school systems for each student whose parents/guardians work on federally owned property in the State of Maryland. Aid is also provided for students whose parent/guardians are on active military duty anywhere in the world. You do not need to return the survey if you do not qualify. Surveys have already been sent home; please fill out and return the survey **no later than November 19 if you qualify under either of the two conditions; please use pencil, and remember to sign the survey.**

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).

S.T.E.M. in Our School

Here at EES, our students are actively involved in the critical areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). We even have our own [EES STEM website! \(http://stemnewsees.weebly.com/\)](http://stemnewsees.weebly.com/) It will be updated quarterly to show what each grade level has done to implement STEM learning in their classes. It also has opportunities for STEM learning outside of the classroom as well as games your kids can play to help them. Bookmark it, and email Jennifer_wong@hcpss.org if you have any STEM information, opportunities, or resources you would like to contribute to the site. Find this STEM page link in the School Resources Section of the EES Website. To learn more about STEM in Maryland, click on <http://msde.maryland.gov/stem/>.

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.

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.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE GUIDELINES

Students must comply with class and school rules and all relevant HCPSS Board Policies. Administration, faculty, and staff may request at any time that students must turn off and put away technology devices. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action and possible revocation of privileges. Individuals assume full responsibility their non-HCPSS owned technology devices. This includes the device's safety, security and maintenance. Schools may designate approved personal communication device zones/times on school grounds; however, personal communication devices may not be used in bathrooms at any time. Students must obtain consent from staff and participants before taking, uploading or sharing photos, recording audio, or capturing video during the school day. Any disruption to class or other educational activity may result in disciplinary action. Privileges for personal communication devices vary according to grade level: Elementary school students are permitted to have personal communication devices in their backpacks during the school day. They must be turned off during school hours. They may use their personal communication devices before or after school hours. Students may use personal communication devices in the front office or classroom with the classroom teacher's/administrator's permission. Instructional time is defined as from the sound of the late bell to the sound of the dismissal bell.

STUDENTS ACCESS TO THIRD-PARTY APPLICATIONS

Throughout the school year, your child will have access to a number of educational online tools to enhance instruction. These engaging tools provide teachers and students a variety of ways to demonstrate their understanding and present information. Some of the online tools will enable students and teachers to enter and share digital content. While using these services, students will learn about safe and effective practices while interacting online. HCPSS has contracted with several online service providers that comply with student privacy laws, such as Google Apps for Education and Wikispaces. Additional authorized online services may be utilized for instruction. The terms of use and privacy policy details what type of data is collected and how the information is used by the service provider. To learn more about the list of HCPSS authorized third-party educational tools and link to their terms of use and privacy policy, please visit: <https://www.hcpss.org/thirdparty>. If there is a specific tool that you would not want your child to use, please contact the school administrator.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, November 12

Report Cards go home today

Friday, November 14

1st Grade Field Trip – Sharp's Farm

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

PTA Restaurant Night @ Sorrentos in Arbutus

We would like to invite EES families and staff to join us at **Sorrentos** in Arbutus on November 17 from 5-8pm. Look for a flyer in your child's Friday folder. Participants can dine-in or carry out. Flyers will be sent home in your child's Friday folder. A printable PDF flyer can be accessed in The Elkster E-newsletter.

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 eespta@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

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 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