

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

Looking forward to American Education Week, starting this Monday November 17 through Friday, November 21. 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.

Special Person's Days is also taking place next 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

Report cards were sent home with your child on Wednesday. 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. Special note: We have collected a large amount of lost and found items this school year. During conference times, there will be tables set up just outside the front office. We will place these lost and found items on the table for parents to claim. If the items aren't claimed by December 12, EES will donate them to a local charity.

Just a quick reminder to parents who have students involved in after school activities... Please be sure to write a note to your child's teacher to let them know proper dismissal for that day. This will help eliminate any confusion during dismissal. Thank you for your help and understanding.

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

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, Tuesday, November 18. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Carter at Katherine_Carter@hcpss.org.

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. Look for a flyer with more information in your 5th grade child's Friday folder.



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

November Counselor Corner

The Elkridge Elementary character education trait of the month is **compassion**. There are many ways to teach your child the value of compassion. Here are a few ideas: Have your children participate in a food, or clothing drive at your church or organization. Include your children in preparing a dish to donate to a soup kitchen. Compliment your children when they show kindness to a sibling or friend.

Be on the look out for counselor connections sent home after guidance lessons are completed in your child's class. Miss Cooley primarily works with kindergarten and fourth graders. Mrs. Tacka primarily works with first, second, third and fifth grades.

Please keep in mind both counselors are available to join in with any parent/teacher conference, or you can schedule a conference with us individually via email. Miss Cooley is available all afternoon and evening on Tuesday, November 25th. Mrs. Tacka is available all afternoon and evening on Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th.

Kristen Tacka
kristen_tacka@hcpss.org

Sarah Cooley
sarah_cooley@hcpss.org

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.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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.

Crazy Hat Bingo Night

Bingo night at EES! Join us on Friday, November 21 at beginning at 6:30 in the cafeteria. Prizes include gift cards from SkyZone, Pottery Shop, Peace of Pizza, Brunswick Bowling, and Dave & Buster's. There is no fee to participate in this event. There will be pizza, chips, and drinks to purchase. Wear a hat just for fun!

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.

Bethany United Methodist Church

Choirs from five churches will join forces at a Benefit Concert on Sun., Nov. 16, 3 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church, 2875 Bethany Lane in Ellicott City. The event will benefit the American Cancer Society. There will be no charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call 410-531-2324 or 410-796-0290.

2nd Annual Howard County Math Festival

HoCo Math festival sponsored by STEMulating Minds and Xapp Media. Festival will be held at Centennial High School at 4300 Centennial Lane in Ellicott City on Tues., Nov.18, for K-12 Students from 6:30-9 p.m. Bring your students, friends, and family, and learn with them about how math is used in the real world and about opportunities in careers that use math.

Glen Mar United Methodist Church

Walk to Bethlehem on Fri., Sat. and Sun., Dec. 5, 6 and 7 at the church, 4701 New Cut Road in Ellicott City. Inclement weather date is Mon., Dec. 8. Drop in anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. for this free event. See the Christmas story through this indoor/outdoor theatrical production. Visit a temple scene and a marketplace as it looked in the first century. For more information, visit www.glenmarumc.org and click on Events or call 410-465-4995 ext. 410.



Melville Chapel United Methodist Church

Melville Chapel United Methodist is asking for donations on behalf of the Elkridge Food Pantry. We would like to give each of our families in need a gift card, so the parents can personally choose gifts for their children. Contributions can be made payable to the Elkridge Love Mission/Food Pantry and mailed to 5660 Furnace Ave., Elkridge, Md. Please note that the donation is to go to towards "Christmas Gift Cards" in the memo line. We are asking that you send your donation by Dec. 5, so that we can distribute the gift cards on Dec. 12. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ElkridgeFoodPantryAndGarden>.

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.

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Viking Backers

Basket Bingo, Fri., Nov. 21, 7-10 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m., The Lodge in Catonsville 2832 Nine Mile Circle, Catonsville. Contact any fall sport parent team representative for tickets, or purchase online. Online store is now open www.vikingbackers.org

Columbia Association

CA's Youth and Teen Center (YTC) is collecting clothes for community members in need. Items for the entire family are needed, clothes, shoes, coats, etc., YTC is also seeking student and parent volunteers for this project. Folks interested should contact Safire Windley at 410-992-3726. Service hours may be issued. [ES](#), [MS](#), [HS](#)

Howard County Government

Setting Limits Without Guilt. There are many different parenting styles. Some may be too firm and some may be too lenient. What is the right balance and how do you keep your relationship intact with your child while making sure they do the right thing? This 2 Part Series is held on Mon., Dec 1 and Mon. Dec 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 3300 North Ridge Rd #240, Ellicott City Md. For more information or to register, please call 410-313-1940 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/children [ES](#), [MS](#), [HS](#)

Wreaths Across America

Howard High fundraiser, this non-profit organization continues the Arlington tradition as part of its mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. To donate a wreath to adorn a veterans' grave for the holidays and help raise money for the school before Dec. 1 You can find out more about Wreaths Across America at www.wreathscrossamerica.org

Savage Boys & Girls Club Basketball

Recreational Basketball League open to boys and girls ages 7 - 17. Five age divisions. All leagues are separated on the basis of age and gender. Players receive team uniform, participation trophy and tournament play. Practices/Season: Early Dec. - mid March. Registration ends Dec. 1, 2014. Register at www.eteamz.com/savageboysandgirlsclub/

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