

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debra Anoff, Principal

Katherine Carter & Anthony Esposito, Assistant Principal

Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

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**December 5, 2014
Volume 1, Issue 15**

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ees.hcpss.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

I hope everyone enjoyed had an enjoyable Thanksgiving weekend. It was great to see so many of you here at school for Parent/Teacher Conferences during the week that led up to Thanksgiving. The opportunity for parents and teachers to talk about the growth that students are making is always so valuable. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to be here for a conference. I would also like to thank the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee for sponsoring a delicious dinner for all the staff members who were here on Monday night for conferences. The food was excellent and helped everyone make it through the long day!

Second quarter progress reports will be sent home Friday, December 12th. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. As we work together to ensure success of every child, your partnership means a great deal to us.

Can you believe it is already December? As you know, this is the time of year where the weather changes and the threat of school cancellations rises (although you would not know it from this past Monday's weather!). It is a good idea to make sure you sign-up for HCPSSNews to get weather cancellation notices or to listen to the radio, TV, and/or the Howard County Public School System's web site www.hcpss.org.

As our weather continues to get chillier, we find many more students arriving at school in cars. Please remember our doors open at 9:10 a.m and our final bell rings at 9:25 a.m. Promptly at 9:25 a.m. both front doors are closed and students are tardy. Any time after 9:25 a.m. students are required to be signed into school by a parent or guardian. Please understand this is for both student safety and record keeping. We appreciate your understanding and support!

It's also a good time for a reminder about **recess**. The HCPSS Health and Wellness Policy and good common sense remind us that outdoor exercise is a healthy and important part of each day. It provides a break from the regular school routine, a chance to get some outside air and an opportunity to run off excess energy which revitalizes children and physically prepares them for additional sitting and academic learning throughout the day. Children should come to school prepared for outdoor recess every day and wear clothing that considers the season and outdoor conditions. HCPSS guidelines are for students to have outdoor recess when the wind chill is at or above 20° F.

Mrs. Anoff, Principal

Winter MAP Testing

MAP testing begins December 15 for grades 1, 2, & 3 and December 17 for grades 4 & 5. Students will begin by taking the math assessment followed by the reading assessment. MAP testing will not impact our school wide schedule because students will take the assessment during their designated math and reading time. Below is a schedule that we will follow.

12/15 – 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
12/16 – 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
12/17 – 4th & 5th
12/18 – 4th & 5th

1/12 – 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
1/13 – 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
1/14 – 4th & 5th
1/15 – 4th & 5th

1/20 – 1/22 (Make-up Testing)



EES Spelling Bee

The annual school-wide bee will take place on Friday, January 16, at 2:30 in the cafeteria. Students in grades 4 and 5 are eligible to participate in the bee. Each fourth and fifth grade homeroom class will send two representatives to participate in the school-wide bee: a winner and a runner-up. Students who win at the homeroom level will receive a packet by Friday, December 19.

Young Authors

We are excited to announce the State of Maryland Young Author's Writing Contest for grades 2-5. All entries are due no later than December 15. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sue Franckel at sue_frankel@hcpss.org or Freya Hill freya_hill@hcpss.org and they will be happy to help. Click here for more information on Young Authors Contest. If you are interested in participating, click here for entry form.

December Counselor Corner

Our Character Education focus of the month is Self-discipline (also referred as self-control and self-regulation).

Ms. Cooley and Mrs. Tacka work with students in guidance lessons, individually, and in small counseling groups to help develop self-discipline. Here are a few of the ways we teach about self-control:

- STOP, THINK & DECIDE
- TAKE FIVE when listening to directions
- SELF REGULATE CHANT
- Brainstorming and practicing coping strategies for various feelings

As a parent, you can help your child develop self-discipline by teaching them to wait patiently, by modeling how you cope with stress/anger, and to allow them time to “chill out” in a quiet place in your home before talking about their feelings.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, December 5

PTA Holiday Shoppe 6:30 – 9:00pm

Friday, December 12

Interim Progress Reports go home

Monday, December 15

MAP Testing Grades 1, 2, & 3

Tuesday, December 16

EES Chorus Concert 7:00pm

MAP Testing Grades 1, 2, & 3

Wednesday, December 17

MAP Testing Grades 4 & 5

Thursday, December 18

MAP Testing Grades 4 & 5

Friday, December 19

1st Grade Gingerbread Houses 9:45am

December 24 – January 2

Schools Closed ~ Winter Holiday



Monday, January 5

Back to School after Winter Holiday Break

Wednesday, January 7

PTA Meeting 6:30pm

Monday, January 12

MAP Testing Grades 1, 2, & 3

Tuesday, January 13

MAP Testing Grades 1, 2, & 3

Wednesday, January 14

MAP Testing Grades 4 & 5

Thursday, January 15

MAP Testing Grades 4 & 5

Friday, January 16

School-wide Spelling Bee 2:30pm cafeteria

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ~ Schools Closed

Thursday, January 22 & 23

Schools close 3 hours early

PTA NEWS

BJ's Membership Fundraiser

Get your BJ's membership just in time for your holiday shopping. Get a 15-month membership for only \$40. That's a \$10 savings and 3 extra months. If you are already a member, renew now at the same low rate and your existing membership will just be extended. Please turn application in by December 16th. Temporary memberships can be given out while your waiting for your card to arrive. Contact Katie at Katie.Sappington@gmail.com with any questions.

Socks & Travel Size Toiletry Item Donations

Daisy Troop 59131 here at Elkridge is collecting socks of all sizes and travel sized toiletry items of all kinds for the homeless. **Look for a collection box in the EES lobby during the month of December.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The following events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

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.

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.



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

Columbia Orchestra

The Columbia Orchestra continues its 37th season with Dvořák, Gershwin and Rouse. On Sat., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. National Symphony Trombonist David Murray performs the Pulitzer Prize-winning Trombone Concerto named for James Rouse. www.columbiaorchestra.org/hcpss or call 410-465-8777.

Columbia Figure Skating Club

The Nutcracker on Ice, Dec. 13-14. Show times on Sat., Dec. 13 are 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m., performances on Sun, Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. The production is the only ice skating show of its kind in the Baltimore-Washington area, and is appealing to people of all ages. For tickets and more information, please see the club's website: www.columbiafsc.com.

Living Stones Church

Meal packing event to feed people in West Africa, Dec. 7, 10-12 p.m. or 2-4 p.m. **Fire Station 6** 8521 Corridor Rd Savage, Md. Cost: \$50.00 per person plus 2 hours of your time. Contact: Lead Pastor Dave Joseph at info@lpeter246.org or 301.643.5337

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.

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.

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.