

ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!



The Elkster Examiner

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Elkridge, MD 21075
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**February 6, 2015
Volume 1, Issue 21**

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ees.hcpss.org

Valentines Day Celebration News

As has been the case in the past, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day at Elkridge Elementary. Students are encouraged to bring Valentine cards for their classmates on Friday 2/13. The Valentine cards that students distribute in school cannot have candy or any other type of food attached to them. Please keep this in mind if you are buying Valentines at the store.

Disney Reading, STEM, and Math Night at EES: Please join us on February 19 from 5:30 – 7pm for Disney Reading, STEM, and Math Night. You and your child will have the opportunity to participate in Disney themed activities related to reading, math, and STEM. Please look for a brochure coming home today in your child's Friday folder for more information.

PARCC Assessments

The PARCC assessment will begin on Monday, March 2nd. In order to add some fun & excitement, we will be holding a spirit week February 23rd - February 27th. This will be for students in grades K -5. We will place this in our weekly newsletters for the next couple of weeks. Below is the schedule of our spirit days:

- * Monday, February 23rd - Pajama Day (Remind students to get plenty of sleep)
- * Tuesday, February 24th - Fruity Colors Day (Remind students to eat a healthy breakfast)
- * Wednesday, February 25th - College & Career Day (Staff & Students wear their college sweatshirts or dress as their future career)
- * Thursday, February 26th - All Star Day (Dress in the colors or jerseys of your favorite sports team)
- * Friday, February 27th - Beach & Island Day (Remind the students to relax and do their best!)

Beach & Island Day Note: We understand it's the middle of winter, but students are encouraged to wear Hawaiian shirts, beach hats, leis, sunglasses, or anything else to get into the spirit while also dressing for the temperature outside.

Night in the PARCC

PARCC & MAP Information Night Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 25 for an information session about the PARCC (assessment tests). PARCC is the new assessment that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards that all students in grades 3-8 will be taking starting this year. These assessments take the place of MSA tests. The evening will start at 6:30 and be over at 8:00. More details will be coming soon.

Market Day

Elkridge Elementary is participating in a fundraiser program called Market Day. Each month, restaurant quality food products will be available for purchase. Order sheets were sent home in your child's Friday folder last week. You can find out more information about Market Day and even place your order online at www.marketday.com. Our school account number is 12872. Order deadline for this month is February 17 and pick-up is February 26 from 5-6pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jenny Whitebloom at 410-313-5006 or Jennifer_Eley-Whitebloom@hcpss.org.

February Conferences / Pick-A-Time

The Pick-A-Time program was opened on Monday, January 19 and is now available to access. Parents with internet access will be able to schedule their appointments, print their schedules, and have an e-mail reminder sent to them. Just a quick reminder- your log in information will remain the same as fall conferences. In the fall, you received a yellow letter and created a personal log in for Pick-A-Time. This personal account information is what you will use to log in and schedule your conference in February. **Closing date to schedule using Pick-A-Time is February 9 at 11pm.** If you don't have internet access or have scheduling questions, please contact Jenny Whitebloom or Annette Cometa at 410-313-5006.



EES Empathy Food Drive

Elkridge Food Pantry / February 23 – March 2

Students are encouraged to show that they care about the needs of others by participating in a food drive facilitated by the Character Ed Kids. Please have your child bring in one or more of his/her grade level below assigned items between February 23rd and March 2nd. Your child will be directed to place the items into grade level containers during morning arrival. The grade that brings in the most items will earn extra Recess!

- K- Plastic jars of PB and Jelly
- 1- Oatmeal and Hot Cereal
- 2- Soup Cans
- 3- Chili Cans and Boxed Potatoes
- 4- Pasta Sauce Cans and Pasta/Noodles
- 5- Mac N Cheese and Tuna Cans

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions about the food drive, please contact Kristen Tacka, School Counselor at kristen_tacka@hcpss.org or 410-313-5006.

Kindergarten Registration and New 1st Grade Registration

Kindergarten registration and new 1st Grade registration, for the 2015-2016 school year, will be held March 2nd - March 6th. Students must be 5 years old by September 1st, 2015 to register for kindergarten. Hours of registration at EES will be 9:30am – 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. We will also have two evening registration times: Monday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 4 from 4:30pm – 7:00pm. If you would like more information on the requirements for registration, please visit Howard County Public School System website at <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/enrollment-and-registration/>

Volunteers Needed: If you are interested in volunteering for kindergarten registration, please call the front office to talk to Mrs. Whitebloom or Annette Cometa at 410-313-5006. Your help and support is greatly appreciated!

After School Activities

Abakadoodle

Abakadoodle has changed their dates/price for the winter session. Their Tuesday afterschool winter session will now begin on February 10th and last for 7 weeks (\$112/includes all materials). If interested please check out <http://www.abakadoodle.com/md-howard-county-register/>

Howard County Recreation and Parks: Register online:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/howardcounty/Activity_Search?txtActivitySearch=afterschool&clear=true

Chess Club Before School with Silver Knights Chess Company Grades K-5 / 14 classes starting Feb 11 / \$185
RP3323.205 8:10-9:10 AM Wednesdays

NEW! Disney's Aladdin Jr.! by Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts 6-11 yrs / 11 classes starting Feb 24 / \$185
RP1041.201 4-5:15 PM Tuesdays

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 9

Pick A Time closes 11pm

Tuesday, February 10

100th Day of School

Thursday, February 12

Schools close 3 hours early - Parent / Teacher conferences

Father Daughter Date Night 6:15 - 7:45 pm (Please RSVP)



Friday, February 13

Valentines Day Celebrations

Schools close 3 hours early - Parent / Teacher conferences

Monday, February 16

Schools closed – President's Day

Thursday, February 19

3rd Grade Fieldtrip to BMI (Ruffing, Ridgely, & Shilling)

Friday, February 20

3rd Grade Fieldtrip to BMI (Bass, McNally, & Kell)

Monday, February 23

Vision and Hearing Testing at EES

Tuesday, February 24

Restaurant Night @ McDonald's 5-8pm

Wednesday, February 25

A Night in the PARCC - 6:30 – 8:00pm

Friday, February 27

EES Talent Show 6-9pm

March 2 – March 6

Kindergarten Registration @ EES

Monday - Friday 9:30am - 3:00pm

Evening hours: Monday and Wednesday 4:30 – 7:00pm

March 13

1st Grade Fieldtrip to Science Center

Friday, March 27

Schools close 3 hours early

March 30 – April 6

Schools Closed - Spring Break

PTA News

Yearbook Poem and Art Contest

Our yearbook poem and art contest is underway! Does your child like to draw, paint, or write poems? Ask them to consider creating one for the 2015 yearbook contest. One poem and one piece of art will be chosen for each grade to be published in the yearbook. Please base the poem or artwork on this theme "On Track with Elkster". All works must be turned into the front office by March 14th. Please make sure the name, grade and teacher is placed on the back of the work. Yearbooks will be on sale at a later date for \$20 each.

Box Tops

Please keep sending in your box tops! The class who has sent in the most box tops since the beginning of the school year through February 27th will earn a class party! Don't wait till the last minute to send them in! We earned \$900 sent in through the beginning of November!

Father Daughter Date Night

Join us on February 12 from 6:15 to 7:45 in the cafeteria for dinner, desserts, drinks, and a craft. Information was sent home in your child's Friday folder last week. Please return the bottom portion of the flyer (given out last Friday) to RSVP.



February Restaurant Night

Mark your calendar for our next restaurant night - February 24th from 5-8pm at the McDonald's in Elkridge.

Elkster 5k

Help spread the word - the Elkster 5K will be held on April 25th! If you own a business or know of a business that may be willing to help sponsor the 5K please email eespta@hotmail.com! Thanks!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Road to Kindergarten Workshops

For details about dates, times, and locations, visit <http://www.hcpss.org/f/schools/kindergarten/road2Kflyer.pdf>.

The purpose of the session is to help make the process of entering kindergarten less stressful and more exciting. Howard County parents with children who will be five years old by Sept. 1, 2015 are invited to come with questions and concerns pertaining to the kindergarten process. If you have any additional questions, please contact Kris Woodson at kris_woodson@hcpss.org or 410-313-5693.

HCPSS Kindergarten Registration

It's Time to Register for Kindergarten—Registration for students entering Kindergarten in Aug. 2015 starts on Mon., Mar. 2,- Fri., Mar. 6. Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. Please visit <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/kindergarten-registration/> to see a complete list of documents required for registration.

Pre-K Application & Registration—The Howard County Public School System offers a Pre-K program for income eligible children who will be four years old by Sept. 1, 2015. Applications for the 2015-16 school year will be available beginning Mon., Mar. 2. Please visit <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/> for more information.

RECC Learning Together Peer Program—Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) preschool programs include children with and without disabilities who will be three or four years old by Sept.1, 2015. Children are selected based upon screening information given on the application form and the "Ages and Stages Questionnaire," as well as observations of participation in a playgroup. The monthly fee for the preschool program is between \$150 and \$270 monthly depending on the number of hours of participation in the program. Contact 410-313-7017.

Recreation and Parks

Send your child Snow Tubing with Recreation and Parks this winter. Zoom down the perfectly carved lanes and make some new friends on early dismissal and school's out days in Jan and Feb. Families welcome and transportation provided from select locations. Info: Matt Medicus, 410-313-4719. Register: 410-313-7275. For more info, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/schoolsoutadventure.htm

SPORTS

HCYP

Spring Recreational Baseball. Our recreational baseball program is one of the largest in Maryland with almost 1500 kids participating each Spring. We offer programs for all ages and skill levels, from instructional coach pitch to kid pitch programs. Rookie (Ages 5-6) - \$105 early bird; Pinto (Ages 7-8) - \$165 early bird; Little League (Ages 9-12) - \$200 early bird; Pony (Ages 13-14) - \$200 early bird; Colt (Ages 15-18) - \$200 early bird. www.HCYP.org