

# ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Elkridge...Always providing Elkcellence!**



## The Elkster Examiner

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Elkridge, MD 21075  
410-313-5006**

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**[ees.hcpss.org](http://ees.hcpss.org)**

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### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

The weather has made getting back into the swing of things after Winter Break a little bit of a challenge! We've had a few less "regular" school days than we've anticipated. Hopefully the worst is behind us and we will all be able to get into a more typical routine. There are a few upcoming dates that I want to highlight.

First, the pickATime system is now open through February 9. Second quarter conferences are scheduled for two half days on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Some teachers will be conferencing on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 to 4:00 pm while others will be conferencing on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 to 8:00 pm. Individual teacher conference schedules can be found when you log onto pick-A-time to schedule your conference. A link to the pickATime system can be found on the school system's homepage [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org). For more information on these conferences, please see the article further down in this newsletter. If you do not have Internet or are having a difficult time scheduling, please feel free to call the front office at (410) 313-5006 and we would be happy to assist you. Due to the recent snow days, second quarter report cards now will be coming home with all students on **Thursday, February 5**.

Finally, we are quickly approaching Valentine's Day. Since Valentine's Day is on a Saturday this year, we will be celebrating at school on Friday 2/13. As you are looking for Valentine cards with your child, please make sure the ones you pick do not have candy attached to them. **We will not be able to allow students to pass out cards that contain any kind of candy or food.** We do not want disappointed students on Valentine's Day, so please help us by ensuring that your child brings cards without candy.

I hope you have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at conference time.

Debra Anoff, Principal

### 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.

### Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Participants! The winner of the 2015 EES Spelling Bee is Lyna Beraich and the runner-up is Clayton Conley. We would like to thank all who participated which included Fifth Graders: Lyna Beraich, Kati Hertz, Ian Parker, Clayton Conley, Saatvik Sharma, Hannah Braimoh, Nesochim Iheani-Igwe, Bianca Chacha, Kiara Murray, Kylie Farrell, Alejandro Cabrera and Kaylee Berry. Fourth Graders: Anna Chalupa, Varsha Vijay, Mary Khai, Alison Ferris, Lyn Kim and Ryan Fischer, Adam Zouheir, Aaron Ho, Alexa Taylor and Ryan Blatta. A big thank you to Mrs. House for organizing this event.

### January Reading Month

January is National Reading Month! Reading is an essential part of children's success in school and beyond. It activates our brain and exposes us to experiences outside of our daily lives. It immerses us in languages and exposes us to new words. EES is kicking off Reading Month with a school wide pajama day tomorrow and a cozy DEAR (Drop Everything And Read). The students are going to "curl up" with a good book. Other activities to celebrate reading this month include a "Decorate the Door" contest, "Guess the Reader" and dressing up as our favorite book characters! Happy Reading!



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### **February Conferences / Pick-A-Time**

The end of the 2nd marking period is quickly approaching. February conferences are scheduled for February 12 and 13. Parent-teacher conference registration will again take place through our web-based application, Pick-A-Time. There is a wealth of parent resources available as you prepare for your child's conference. Electronic resources are available to you through the Howard County Public School System website or our newly developed HCPSS mobile app. Please visit [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org).

Please note that all Howard County Public Schools will offer a fewer number of conference slots this year during the February parent-teacher conferences due to a revised school calendar. The number of slots offered reflects recent trends with regard to parent attendance during February conferences. Parent participation is strongly encouraged but remains optional. Attendance during February conferences will continue to be closely monitored to determine if future adjustments to the school calendar are needed. As always, if you're unable to obtain a conference slot during the conference window, you can call or email your child's teacher to arrange for an alternative conference time.

**Please note:** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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](mailto: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. 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:** We are very excited to welcome all our new Kindergarteners to Elkridge Elementary School. We are in need of some volunteers to help from March 2-6. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the front office to talk to Mrs. Whitebloom or Mrs. Cometa. Your help and support is greatly appreciated!

### **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.



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### **Notes from the Nurse:**

**We are currently in 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.**

Thank you very much for helping keep all our students healthy!

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### **Vision and Hearing Test Information**

Vision and Hearing testing is coming up--it is scheduled for Tuesday February 10 and re-screen will be on Monday February 23. The Health Dept will screen all K, 1st grade and any students (2nd -5th) that are new to the state of Maryland school system. I am putting parent permission letters in your mailbox to go home...parents need to send a letter back to us in the health room only if they do **not** want their child screened.

### **Medications in School:**

- The health room must have a doctor's order and parent signature for all medications (even over the counter). The medication must be kept in the health room and be in the original container and have the pharmacy label (if a prescription med) on it. All medications should be transported to school by a parent, the students are not permitted to carry the medications.
  - Medicated cough drops are considered a medication and must have a doctor's order and follow same policies as above.
  - Non-medicated cough drops (pectin based like Halls Breezers) should be limited to no more than 3 per day for no longer than 5 school days. They may be administered at school with parent permission and specific instructions in writing that include the name of the product, reason for administration, amount and frequency of administration. Product must be provided by parent and stored in the health room.
  - Other non-medications such as (food supplements, lotion, sunscreen and contact lens solution) may be administered at school with parent permission and specific instructions in writing that include the name of the product, reason for administration, amount and frequency of administration. Product must be provided by parent and stored in the health room.
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### **Clothing:**

Parents - The Health Room no longer is able to stock extra clothing for accidents or spills. Please provide a seasonal change of clothes for your child to keep in school (either in their backpack or cubby in homeroom).

### **After School Activities**

#### **Abrakadoodle**



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.abrakadoodle.com/md-howard-county-register/>

**Howard County Recreation and Parks:** Register online:  
[https://apm.activecommunities.com/howardcounty/Activity\\_Search?txtActivitySearch=afterschool&clear=true](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 2  
Talent Show Tryouts (4-6pm)

Wednesday, February 4  
PTA Meeting 6:30pm

Thursday, February 5  
Report Cards Issued (**NEW DATE!**)

Friday, February 6  
**Schools Closed** / Countywide Professional Learning Day

Monday, February 9  
Pick A Time closes 11pm

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  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fieldtrip to BMI (Ruffing, Ridgely, & Shilling)

Friday, February 20  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Friday, February 27  
EES Talent Show 6-9pm

March 2 – March 6



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Kindergarten Registration

March 13

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Fieldtrip to Science Center

Friday, March 27

**Schools close 3 hours early**

March 30 – April 6

**Schools Closed - Spring Break**

## **PTA News**

### **January Family Fun Night**

January 30th - 6:30pm - 8pm - Join us for our next family fun event - Hot Chocolate & Game Night! Bring your favorite board game to share for a fun night of gaming. We will provide the hot chocolate!

### **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!

### **February PTA Meeting**

Join us for our next PTA Meeting on February 4th at 6:30pm in the Media Center

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### **Howard County Government**

Do you have questions about child ID theft, your rights as a tenant, debt collection practices, or the latest consumer scams? For information on these and other consumer issues: contact the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 or at [consumer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:consumer@howardcountymd.gov)

#### **Robinson Nature Center**

School’s Out Nature Day camp, Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, Fri., Feb. 6, 8:30 a.m.- to 3:30 p.m. Call 410-313-0400 to register. See [www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCprograms.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCprograms.htm)

#### **Howard County’s Department of Citizen Services**

Annual Preschool/Child Care Information Fair will be held on Sat., Jan. 31, 1-4 p.m. at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. Admission is free; however, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank. For more information about the Fair, contact the Office of Children’s Services at either 410-313-1940 or via e-mail at [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

#### **Misako Ballet**

"Tales of Transformation" Please join us for this family friendly concert on Sun., Feb. 8, 2 p.m. at the Jim Rouse Theater at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD. Tickets are \$15 at the door or can be purchased online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/538410](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/538410) For more information call 410-884-9690, email [misakoballetbd@gmail.com](mailto:misakoballetbd@gmail.com) or visit [www.miskoballet.com](http://www.miskoballet.com)

#### **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](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/schoolsoutadventure.htm)

#### **Howard County Library System**

Invites students in grades K to 12 to enter the annual Choose Civility Poster Contest to help visually communicate the importance of “Civility in Sports.” Contest entries will be accepted Mar. 1. All entries must include the student’s name, grade level, and school on the reverse side of the artwork. Private and home school students are welcome to participate. Categories, details, and art and judging criteria are available at [choosecivility.org/civility-in-sports-poster-contest](http://choosecivility.org/civility-in-sports-poster-contest). Posters should be submitted by mail or in person to Monica Herber, Columbia Association Art Center, 6100 Foreland Garth, Columbia, MD 21045.

For additional information, students, parents, and/or teachers please call 410.730.0075 or email [monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org)

### **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](http://www.HCYP.org)