

# ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debra Anoff, Principal

Katherine Carter & Anthony Esposito, Assistant Principals

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



## The Elkster Examiner

**7075 Montgomery Road  
Elkridge, MD 21075  
410-313-5006**

**January 16, 2015  
Volume 1, Issue 19**

---

**Health Room 410-313-8506**

**Front Office 410-313-5006**

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

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

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. **Pick-A-time will open this Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** so parents can begin scheduling their conferences on-line. 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.

Our Band and Strings concerts were amazing! We want to thank everyone who came out in support of our talented students. We want to also thank Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Gill, and Mr. Wampler for their amazing leadership and talent. Their dedication and hard work is both valued and appreciated. We look forward to more beautiful concerts in the spring!

We want to thank everyone who joined us at our PTA Applebee's Flap Jack Breakfast this past Saturday. PTA had a terrific turn out and a very successful fundraiser. We are proud to announce we made \$556 on this Applebee's fundraiser. These funds will support lowering the cost of field trips for our students here at Elkridge Elementary. Your continued support is appreciated and valued.

Debra Anoff, Principal

### **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!

### **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, pickAtime. 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 can be accessed starting Monday, February 19 at 9:30. 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 PickAtime. 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.



---

### **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.

### **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!

---

### **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.



---

### **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).

### **January Counselor Corner**

In January, Elkridge Elementary is promoting the Character Trait of Acceptance. Acceptance means to recognize, and appreciate the many ways that people are different and alike.

We teach students that learning about differences with an open mind and an open heart can mean making new friends and trying out new things. We teach students that no matter what religion you practice, language you speak, what you look like, and any other way we are different... ALL people have feelings, want friendship, and deserve compassion.

One influential leader that spoke about accepting others is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We remember Dr. King on January 19, 2015. All HCPSS will be closed. An engaging family activity could be to answer the call to the MLK Day of Service.

### **What is the MLK Day of Service?**

Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the King Holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. The MLK Day of Service is a part of *United We Serve*, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. Please see the below web page for ideas of community service projects for your family.

<http://www.nationalservice.gov>

Kristen Tacka, Grades 1, 2, 3 & 5

Sarah Cooley, Grades K & 4

### **After School Activities**

Take the time to check out the variety of afterschool programs being offered at EES this winter!

**AbraKadoodle:** Begins Tuesday, January 20th from 4-5pm

NEW! American Artist Series

Welcome to the land of amazing artists! Create artworks inspired by famous artists who explore color, celebrate uniqueness, innovate with paint, depict familiar scenes, and highlight different cultures. You will learn about Thiebaud's enticing goodies, Steinberg's fascinating figures, Wyeth windows and more. Have fun with these American artists and create your own amazing art! Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 PM Jan 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10 for 8 weeks (\$129/includes all materials) Register now at [www.abrakadoodle.com/md04](http://www.abrakadoodle.com/md04) If you have any questions contact [Imarianelli@abrakadoodle.com](mailto:Imarianelli@abrakadoodle.com) or 410-381-5566.

**Howard County Recreation and Parks** also has many after school activity offerings (see below). Register online: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/howardcounty/Activity\\_Search?txtActivitySearch=afterschool&clear=true](https://apm.activecommunities.com/howardcounty/Activity_Search?txtActivitySearch=afterschool&clear=true)

**LEGO® Robotics After School with The Great Adventure Lab** Grades 2-4 / 7 classes starting Jan 28 / \$139  
RP3330.201 3:55-4:55 PM Wednesdays

**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



---

### **Bus Safety**

The safety of your child/children is of utmost importance to us. Recently it has been brought to the attention of our staff that the behaviors of a number of students on several busses are not conducive to the Howard County Code of Conduct, or the expectations of the students at ElkrIDGE Elementary. Please talk to your child/children to remind them of their responsibility to keep themselves, and others, safe while riding the bus. Thank you for your support!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday, January 19

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ~ Schools Closed**

Thursday January 22

**Schools close 3 hours early** – Professional Learning

Friday, January 23

**Schools close 3 hours early** – End of marking period

Buddy Reading Day

Thursday, January 29

Kindergarten Fieldtrip to ElkrIDGE Library

Friday, January 30

Dress as Your Favorite Book Character

EES Family Fun night

Wednesday, February 4

PTA Meeting 6:30pm

Friday, February 6

**Schools Closed** / Countywide Professional Learning Day

Thursday, February 12

**Schools close 3 hours early** - Parent / Teacher conferences

Friday, February 13

Valentines Day Celebrations

**Schools close 3 hours early** - Parent / Teacher conferences

Monday, February 16

Schools closed – President's Day

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

Kindergarten Registration



---

## **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!

### **February PTA Meeting**

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

### **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)

### **Glen Mar Church**

Day of Service: Mon. Jan. 19, (MLK Day), 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Family oriented short-term service opportunities at Glen Mar Church and off-site locations. Free to the public. Come for an hour or come for the day. Glen Mar UMC, 4701 New Cut Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043. For more information, contact D.C. Veale at 410-465-4995, or visit us at [www.glenmarumc.org](http://www.glenmarumc.org).

### **Columbia Association**

Join community members in a day of service on Mon., Jan. 19, in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Across Howard County. To see how you can make MLK Day A Day On, Not A Day Off, and how you can make a difference visit [www.volunteerhoward.org/hocomlkserve](http://www.volunteerhoward.org/hocomlkserve) To see how you can make a difference through volunteering every day, contact the Volunteer Center serving Howard County, [info@volunteerhoward.org](mailto:info@volunteerhoward.org) or call 410-715-3172.



---

### **Howard County Government**

Give Peas a Chance: How to Reform Your Picky Eater

Learn more about picky eating and strategies for raising a healthy eater. Thurs., Jan. 22, 6:30-8 p.m. at Florence Bain Senior Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD. For more information please email [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov) or call 410-313-1440.

### **Slayton House**

Rainbow Theatre presents "Little Red Riding Hood" on Fri., Jan. 23, 10 a.m., Slayton House Theatre in the Village of Wilde Lake in Columbia. For information call 410-730-3987. Sponsored by Wilde Lake Community Association.

### **Wilde lake HS Boosters**

Paquito D'Rivera, 12-time Grammy winner and legendary jazz saxophone/clarinetist, performs at Wilde Lake High School on Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30p.m, Jim Rouse Theater. Proceeds benefit the WLHS Band program; for details contact [WildeLakeJazz@gmail.com](mailto:WildeLakeJazz@gmail.com) or 410-997-2070.

### **Candlelight Concerts**

**Curtis on Tour: Aizuri String Quartet with Peter Wiley, cello**, Sat., Jan. 24, 8 p.m., Smith Theatre, Columbia, MD. Curtis Institute's String Quartet-in-residence will perform Schubert's Quintet in C Major with esteemed cellist Peter Wiley, as well as quartets by Haydn and Debussy. [candlelightconcerts.org](http://candlelightconcerts.org) 410-997-2324.

### **Robinson Nature Center**

Nature Fun Club, Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, 1-2 p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Call 410-313-0400 to pre-register.

### **Robinson Nature Center**

Scope out The Night sky, Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, Sat., Jan. 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m., or Sat., Mar. 7, 6-9 p.m. [www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCprograms.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCprograms.htm)

### **Robinson Nature Center**

Sensory Friendly Full-Dome Movies, Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, Sat., Jan. 24, 1-1:30 p.m., or Feb. 21, 1-1:30 p.m. Call 410-313-0400 for questions or to register.

### **Robinson Nature Center**

Frozen Fest Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, Sun., Jan. 25, 1-4 p.m. [www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCfrozenfest.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCfrozenfest.htm) 410-313-0400.

### **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**

#### **Howard County Recreation and Parks**

The Howard County Lacrosse Program (HCLP) is currently accepting registration for the spring season. This program offers the opportunity for children ages 5-14 to learn and play the game of lacrosse. Children from the same schools are teamed together while keeping talent levels even. Because of this, practices will be located close to where you live. If your 5-8 year old does not have equipment, we will provide you with all of the pads they may need for the low cost of only \$40 for the entire season. The price is \$155 per child before Jan. 16, and \$185 per child after that date. For any more information please visit [www.hclacrosse.com](http://www.hclacrosse.com) or contact Derrick Thompson at 410-313-4736 or [dethompson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:dethompson@howardcountymd.gov) for more information.

#### **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)