

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**

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Health Room 410-313-8506

Front Office 410-313-5006

ees.hcpss.org

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 (Wear 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

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. Look for informational flyer in your child's Friday folder. Please RSVP by completing the bottom portion of the flyer and returning to school with your child.

Attention Fifth Grade Parents:

Middle School Music Forms are Due to by February 25

The forms that were sent home for all students moving on to middle school are due back no later than February 25th. The forms are needed to create your child's schedule for next year. **Clarification about the form-** Parents and students only need to worry about their decision in regard to a music program. Students have a choice of Band, Orchestra, Chorus, or to "opt out" of a performance music class. **All students will receive the courses listed under Fine Arts as well as Career and Technology Education.** The time when they receive these courses during the year may be impacted by their music performance selection. Course selection lists will be distributed in May by the middle school.

Pre-K Program Coming to EES 2015-2016

The Howard County Public School System offers a Pre-K program for children of families who meet the income eligibility criteria and who will be four years old by September 1, 2015. Applications for the 2015-16 school year will be available beginning Monday, March 2nd at the front office or on HCPSS website.

Pre-kindergarten registration is a two-step process:

1. Interested families must first submit an application with proof of income for review; income guidelines are similar to those used to determine Free and Reduced Meal status. This application must be reviewed by school administration.
2. Once approved, students can be registered by calling the front office at 410-313-5006 to schedule an appointment.



S.T.E.M. in Our School

Have you visited our EES STEM website, yet? (<http://stemnewsees.weebly.com/>) It has been updated to reflect what each grade level has done to implement STEM learning this past quarter 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 think critically. 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. You can 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/>.

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.

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 (Box located in Mrs. Petry's Room)
- 1- Oatmeal and Hot Cereal (Box located near Ms. Smith's desk 1st grade pod)
- 2- Soup Cans (Box located near Ms. Mullin's desk 2nd grade pod)
- 3- Chili Cans and Boxed Potatoes (Box near Ms. Cole's desk 3rd grade pod)
- 4- Pasta Sauce Cans and Pasta/Noodles (Box near Mrs. Borrego's desk 4th grade pod)
- 5- Mac N Cheese and Tuna Cans (Box near Ms. Meyenburg's desk 5th grade pod)

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/>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 23

Vision and Hearing Testing at EES

Pajama Day

Tuesday, February 24

Restaurant Night @ McDonald's 5-8pm

Fruity Color Day



Wednesday, February 25

A Night in the PARCC - 6:30 – 8:00pm

College & Career Day

Thursday, February 26

Market Day Pick-up (5-6pm)

All Star Day

Friday, February 27

EES Talent Show 6-9pm

Beach & Island Day

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!

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.



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.

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. Matt Medicus, 410-313-4719. Register: 410-313-7275. For more info, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/schoolsoutadventure.htm

Candlelight Concerts

Hermès String Quartet, Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Smith Theatre – Columbia, MD
www.candlelightconcerts.org, 410-997-2324

Candlelight Concerts

CandleKids, Percussion Power featuring the Peabody Percussion Group Sun., Feb. 22, 2:30 & 4:30 p.m., Smith Theatre, Columbia, MD. The percussion section comes out from behind the orchestra for this engaging exploration of rhythm and sound.
www.candlelightconcerts.org 410-997-2324.

Columbia Orchestra

The Columbia Orchestra of Howard County presents on Sat., Feb. 21, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., its popular Young People's Concert. A Musical Instrument Petting Zoo will be open from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. offering children of all ages an opportunity to see, hear, touch, and play orchestral instruments. 11 and under are Free. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-465-8777 or visit www.columbiaorchestrs.org.

Howard County Government

Learn strategies to increase your child's sense of feeling capable, competent, connected and courageous while at the same time fostering responsibility, and the problem solving and cooperative people skills needed for success in school now and into adulthood later. Mon., Feb. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at North Laurel Community Center [9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel, MD](http://www.hcpss.org/9411-Whiskey-Bottom-Rd-Laurel-MD).

Howard Community College

The Educational Foundation cordially invites you to the annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously from 5- 8 p.m. on Mon., Mar. 9, 7091 Deepage Drive in Columbia. Tickets are \$45 per person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Development Office at Howard Community College, 443-518-1970 or visit www.howardcc.edu/sccathunan

Boys Scouts of America

Scouting for Food will be held on Sat., Mar. 14. Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts will be out in your neighborhood to collect your donations, which will go to one of 25 food pantries we service in the county. A bag will be dropped off at your home a few days before. Please remember to put your donations by your front door or your mailbox by 8 a.m. on March 14. Thanks for your generous donations. scoutingforfodddnpd@verizon.net.

Columbia Figure Skating Club

Annual spring production, featuring multiple performances at the Columbia Ice Rink, located at 5876 Thunder Hill Rd., Columbia. Sat, Mar. 21, 3 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and Sun., Mar. 22, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
For tickets and more information, please visit the Club's website: www.columbiafsc.com.

University of Maryland

iEngineer@UMD a summer STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camp for rising 4th and 5th grade girls. This one-week commuter day camp is an exciting opportunity for girls to learn more about STEM through a variety of fun, hands-on activities. Mon., Jul. 6 –Fri., Jul. 10, 9 a.m. -3 p.m. for more information and to apply, visit <http://wie.umd.edu/k12/iengineer>