March, 2015

From the Principal’s Office . . . . .

Although children and adults alike have enjoyed the beautiful snow and the fun it brings with it, we are all ready for warmer days!

Children in grades 3-8 have begun taking PARCC, Partnership of Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers. This assessment is similar to the Maryland School Assessment in that it assesses both mathematics and language arts. PARCC is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their future careers. Please remind your child to do his or her best, get a good night’s sleep, and eat a healthy breakfast!

The deadline to complete the Baltimore County Public School’s Stakeholder Survey has been extended until Friday, March 6, 2015. The survey is voluntary and is designed to allow you to share your opinion about your child’s school and the school system. We invite you to participate!

There is a new link available to parents entitled “National Tech Goes Home”. It provides “easy-to-use tutorials” for the internet’s most useful resources. The National Tech Goes Home link has been placed on the Parent University website on the left side bar of the Academics, Health & Wellness, and Personal Growth & Development pages.

To access this link please visit the following website:
http://bcps.nationaltechgoeshome.org, or, you may:
2. Click on “Parents” In the drop down menu, you will see “Parent University”.
3. Click on “Health Wellness”
4. On the left, please click on Resources. That will place you on the National Tech Goes Homes page.

Cathy Thomas, Principal
The students have been focusing on the concepts of the seasons, weather, and stormy weather. We shared our ideas about what seasons we liked and why and we discussed a variety of weather types. As we were studying this, the weather became very cold and wintery. The students have been especially interested in winter activities. With the extreme cold, we continue to enjoy indoor recess, with dancing, movement, games and indoor activities, to keep our bodies and minds active. Everyone is looking forward to warmer weather and fresh air!

We celebrated the 100th day of school by sharing our projects, creating crowns, making connecting cube trains of 100, and eating a snack of 100 items. Our class is most proud of meeting the 100 acts of kindness challenge! In one month the class shared 100 acts. Every day students would tell how someone else helped them that day. Great job, kindergarten!

Ms. Miceli, Kindergarten Teacher

Our First Graders WOW-ed at Seussical the Musical! We were so impressed with their singing and dancing! Please make sure to thank Mrs. Brumbalow and Ms. Ellis for all of their hard work in preparing the students for that special evening.

In Phonics, we have begun reading, decoding, and blending long vowel sounds such as the long i found in bike or the long a in cake. We have been working on finding the vowel pattern written as i_e or a_e where the space represents a consonant. The Scholars learned that that e at the end has many names: magic e, silent e, or even tricky e! When you see that silent e at the end of the word, the vowel before it is a long vowel, or it says its name! When reading at home with your child, please remind them to pay attention to that rule as it may help them when decoding an unfamiliar word. We are also always reviewing short vowels, blends, digraphs, and our high frequency words.

We are reading about how things change over time in Unit 3. One week focused on where our food comes from and we learned how food changes before it gets to our homes and onto our plates. Many Scholars were surprised to learn just how many steps it takes between the farm where foods are grown and ending up in our refrigerators, ready for our next meal. We are working on reading these texts and identifying key details and being able to record an opening sentence, two key details, and a closing sentence. We are working towards writing our first full paragraph! Please make sure to read with your Scholar every night and practice their weekly sight words to build fluency.

In Math, we have finished Unit 3 and moved into looking at surveys and graphs. The students will begin answering questions of the day and we will analyze the results and talk about how to display our data. We will also start Unit 5 in Math: Fish Lengths and Animal Jumps. Scholars will be working on using non-standard units to measure different things in the classroom and record their results. We will also continue working on addition and subtraction story problems.

First Grade Team: Ms. Hackley, Mrs. Weil, Ms. Whitaker
Third Grade Thoughts

The third quarter is well underway! We are looking forward to an exciting second half of third grade filled with challenging learning experiences.

We would like to recognize two super scholars from each homeroom for this month. These students work hard to follow the Scholars Code of Conduct on a daily basis. Miss Szymanski would like to recognize Maurice Ware and Madison Helton. Mr. Wolff would like to recognize Makayla Liverpool and Jeremiah Keihn. Keep up the terrific work!

In math class, we have been studying our second unit of multiplication! Students have developed numerous strategies for solving multiplication problems. Now that we have a deep understanding of multiplication concepts, we encourage students to spend a few minutes practicing their basic facts every night. Having automatic recall of their basic facts will help students in the development of future math concepts, especially those in our next unit—division!

In English language arts, we are bringing together our understanding of fables and creative writing by writing authentic fables! Students have been working hard to develop a fable that teaches a life lesson to their audience members. Please join us on the afternoon of Friday, February 27th as the students showcase their work in Scholar’s first Meet the Authors: Fable Fair! This afternoon is reserved for students to share their personal fables with peers, teachers, and family members. Students will have the opportunity to read their fable to an audience while dressing as one of their characters! Save the Date magnets were sent home with each child. If you did not receive one, please feel free to let us know! For more information, to request a Save the Date magnet, or to RSVP to the event, contact Miss Szymanski at jszymanski2@bcps.org.

In science, we will be concluding our Chesapeake Bay unit and beginning the Safe Racer unit. During this unit, students will become engineers as they work in collaborative teams to design and create a competitive racer vehicle. The racer, along with its driver, Eggbert (an uncooked egg), will be put to the test for distance and safety. All third graders will test their cars in a competition at school. The safe racer with the best overall results will have the chance to compete in the Safe Racer Challenge at the BCPS STEM fair in May! Safe Racers must be designed using recycled materials. Please feel free to donate recyclable materials such as water bottles, cotton balls, Styrofoam, cardboard, and egg cartons. As we get closer to the school competition, we could also benefit from the donation of uncooked eggs to serve as Eggbert! For more information on Eggbert donations, please contact your child’s teacher.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and participation in your child’s education!

Third Grade Team: Miss Szymanski and Mr. Wolff
Parent University

“Unpacking the ELA Rubric”
This University session will be focused on understanding the PARCC rubric used in ELA.

When: Thursday, March 19th

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Session 1: 6:00-6:45
Session 2: 6:45-7:00

Sessions offered by grade level:

Kindergarten - 2nd grade
3rd grade - 5th grade
Middle School

Students are welcome! Student activities will be offered for the duration of the event! Parents and guardians will be able to attend a session or sessions while their children are engaged in English language arts activities in another classroom!

Hope to see you there!
Fantastic Fourth

In Language Arts last month, students learned the elements of folktales, including symbols. This month, students are learning how authors express theme in poetry, stories, and plays. Students will use cause-and-effect structure to explain scientific concepts in informational text. Students are enjoying our new Daily 5 book bins that we use during our independent work periods! Continue to encourage your scholar to complete the Reading Log Every night!

In Social Studies we are working on Native Americans. Students will be comparing cultures of various tribes. We will learn the process of developing a S.T.E.M. Fair Project. The S. T.E. M. Fair will be held April 16. Details will communicated soon to families. Students have a Video Homework Assignment due every 2 weeks. Students have already submitted the first one! Good Job! Students should follow the instructions handout given in class.

Grade 4 Mathematics is moving into Fractions! Yay! Parents are encouraged to assist students in practice of multiplication and division math facts. Fractions and these Math facts go hand in hand.

Fourth Grade Team: Ms. Barnes, Ms. Carlson and Ms. Hicks

Fifth Grade

In Boyce College, students are excited and their ideas are flowing as we are now preparing for the STEM Science Fair. The fair will be Thursday, April 16. Students are encouraged to work together in groups of 2-4. Before a project can be submitted for the STEM Science Fair, the Approval Form and Project Summary must be returned and approved by Monday, February 23, 2015. Good luck to all of our 5th graders. You are all winners!

In Brown University, students can now use their own usernames and passwords to log onto BCPSOne at home and complete work that Ms. Brown has created for them online. Please be sure to continue to monitor your child’s progress through BCPSOne, as well as allowing your child to log in so he/she can complete assignments and study current reading topics. All students have been given numerous study guides along with extra credit projects to assist them with their studies.

In Young Academy, students need to continue to study their multiplication, division, and fraction facts at home by using resources such as Brainpop.com, Studyladder.com, etc. The Advanced Academic math class will now be taught by Mr. Olmo, so we welcome him as a part of the fifth grade math class! Up next, each Company will be working on the "Movie Marathon - Long Division (In-class) Project". Coming soon, the ribbon cutting ceremony of the rebranded "Norton Academy of Entrepreneurship".

Fifth Grade Team: Mrs. Boyce, Ms. Brown and Ms. Young
Music

Melodies

Congrats to the following classes who had Perfect Bravo awards during 2nd quarter - Weil, Hackley, Becker, Taylor, Wolff, Hicks, Barnes Carlson, and Young (Popcorn Parties are this week and next).

The following classes have PERFECT Bravo Awards for BOTH 1st and 2nd Quarter - Weil, Hackley, Taylor, Hicks, Barnes, Carlson, and Young ..... These classes are still in the running for CLASS OF THE YEAR and a PIZZA PARTY!

Mrs. Brumbalow would also like to congratulate the following students who were given these “Second Quarter Student of the Month Honors”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>First Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Listener- Devyn Butler</td>
<td>Good Listener- Stanley Teah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Attitude- Marcella Coleman</td>
<td>Positive Attitude- Bryant Oden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved- Tristen Samuels</td>
<td>Most Improved- Brooke Jamison</td>
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<tr>
<th>Second Grade</th>
<th>Third Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Listener- Kendall Banks</td>
<td>Good Listener- Cecilia Pham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Attitude- Fredika Hinneh</td>
<td>Positive Attitude- Mila Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved- Karynton Davis</td>
<td>Most Improved- Joshua Jenkins</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Fourth Grade</th>
<th>Fifth Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Listener- Genesis Sutton</td>
<td>Good Listener- Kimora Boyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Attitude- Jyanne Guide</td>
<td>Positive Attitude- Montez Burrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved- Brando Campos</td>
<td>Most Improved- Dreshawn Nelson</td>
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At the end of January, elementary students got to enjoy one of two PBIS assemblies hosted by Mrs. Brumbalow and Young Audiences. Scholars K-8 was pleased to have Ms. Qyunn Johnson a tap dancer, and Ms. Cynthia Chavez of Baltimore Dance Crews. They both shared how dance has improved their life and musicality.

Finally, thank you to all of the parents and community members who came out on Thursday night, February 12th, to see our Winter Concert and Art Show “Seussical the Musical”. The first grade students did an amazing job performing and we raised $110 for the PBIS school store.

Mrs. Brumbalow, Vocal Music Teacher
Our magnificent middle schoolers are halfway through third quarter! Interim reports are being distributed. Please ensure that you return the tear-off portion of the interim report and also return the report card envelope (if you haven’t), as well. Please make sure that your student is present next week for PARCC Assessments (especially in the mornings)!

We are looking forward to celebrating our third quarter achievements at our PBIS incentive at the end of March.

For your health . . . . . . . from the School Nurse

Pennies for Patients!
Because of your generous donations, Scholars K-8 was able to donate a total of $1,162.39 to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help fight against blood cancers! Scholars K-8 parents and students ROCK!

Healthy Eating
Healthy eating for children and adults include eating a variety of foods from all the food groups (grains, fruits, vegetables, proteins, poultry, meats, fish, healthy fats and dairies). Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables every day helps promote good health. Fruits and vegetables are a great source of many vitamins, minerals, and fiber needed to promote healthy weight and prevent illness.

The current healthy lifestyle topic is the importance of drinking water. Water is an essential nutrient that the body needs to survive.

Ms. Randall, School Nurse