

# The Dino Dispatch

Eldersburg Elementary School

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www.carrollk12.org/ees

Michael O. Eisenklam—Principal  
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## Principal's Message

What a great first quarter we have experienced so far in the 2011-2012 school year. Progress reports and report cards indicate that our students are learning and achieving. Staff development sessions and trainings continue to utilize best practices, data analysis and professional conversations at the highest levels. Success for our students does not happen without the involvement of parents, and we were pleased with the number of parent conferences this Fall.

Yes, parental involvement truly makes a difference in the lives of our children and our staff. We invite all families to join the PTA, attend monthly meetings, volunteer in the classroom when they have been trained, offer support to special events scheduled throughout the year, and become active members of the school community. Our parent community makes a difference in the quality of our children's education and we will always need your helping hands and ideas for ways to improve our school. For these

and so many other things, and on behalf of the staff and students, I wish to thank our EES families for their continued support and the many benefits we receive from this wonderful partnership.

Here at Eldersburg not only do we value the importance of grades, we value the importance of the **whole child**. Our PBIS, **3R** program has been a HUGE success. Your children may have told you about the Quarterly Celebration Assembly that we held on November 18th. Hopefully, you have noticed your children bringing home coupons for showing one of our **3R's**. This is because we have continued to emphasize and to recognize three positive character traits in our students: **Respect, Responsibility, and Readiness**.

Our entire school, including all teachers and staff, will be looking for students who exhibit one of our **3R's** around the school. We'll specifically be "catching students" being good listeners, treating others the way they want to be

treated, and showing good manners. If we notice students being respectful, responsible or ready, they will receive coupons from one of our staff members. Part of each coupon can be taken home to show parents, and the other part of the coupon will be taken back to the student's classroom to be stored in a container for a variety of drawings and incentives. Classroom teachers are conducting weekly drawings. In addition, on a monthly basis, we will be drawing five students from each grade for a larger, special prize. We look forward to the success of this exciting program and hope it will continue to promote a positive culture and exemplary behavior among our Eldersburg students!

On behalf of the staff at Eldersburg Elementary, we hope you enjoy some wonderful family times during this early winter season!

Michael O. Eisenklam

Principal

Volume 5, Issue 4

December, 2011  
January, 2012

### Inside this issue:

<i>Teacher of the Year</i>	2
<i>Student Vacations</i>	
<i>Multicultural</i>	
<i>Volunteers</i>	
<i>Closings and Delays</i>	3
<i>Vision/Mission</i>	
<i>Cell Phones</i>	4
<i>Testing Dates</i>	
<i>Resource Room</i>	
<i>Recipe</i>	
<i>Counselor's Clipboard</i>	5
<i>Media Moments</i>	
<i>PBIS News</i>	6
<i>Green School</i>	
<i>Tardy</i>	
<i>Pickup/Drop-Off</i>	7
<i>Attendance</i>	
<i>First Grade</i>	8
<i>Second Grade</i>	9
<i>Third Grade</i>	
<i>Fourth Grade</i>	10
<i>Fifth Grade</i>	
<i>2012-2013 Times</i>	11
<i>January Menu</i>	12
<i>February Menu</i>	13

## Calendar

### December 2011

3rd – Holiday Gift Shop  
5th – 9th – National Inclusive Schools Week  
9th - School Closes 12:50/No Pre-K  
12th – Interims  
14th – JA Parent Training 9:30am/6pm  
15th – Winter Concert 7pm  
21st – 3rd to B.M.I.  
22nd – Kindergarten Winter Party  
22nd – 3rd Grade Winter Party  
22nd – 2nd Grade Winter Party  
23rd – 1st Grade Winter Party  
23rd - School Closes 12:50/No Pre-K

### January 2012

3rd – School Reopens  
3rd – JA in a Day  
10th – PTA Meeting 7pm  
16th – Schools and Offices Closed MLK Day  
26th- End of Marking Period  
27th – Schools Closed for Students



"Working Together; Learning Forever"



**Teacher of the Year**

Each year, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce hosts the Annual Outstanding Teacher Awards Ceremony. This type of recognition is a wonderful way to show your support for our dedicated teachers and staff. Last year's nominees were recognized in front of a huge audience representing the teaching, business, and political communities. Nomination forms are available on the web at <http://www.carrollcountychamber.com>.

**Student Vacations**

In order to provide the best educational experience we can for our students, as well as allow staff to prepare lessons, we ask that requests for student vacations be submitted to the school office for approval *prior* to them occurring.

Thanks for your support!

**Multicultural News**

During the week of October 24-28th Eldersburg students celebrated Red Ribbon Week promoting drug awareness. From wearing crazy socks to dressing as someone who displays good character students had fun (all the while) remembering the key message "Say No to Drugs".

In November Eldersburg students participated in the Harvest for the Hungry (Kids Helping Kids) campaign. In all, 470 pounds of non-perishable foods were collected for Carroll County Food Sunday.

From mid November to December 2nd, Eldersburg students collected donations for Shepherd's Staff. All donations helped support needy families in the county.

Way to show Good Character Eldersburg!

**Volunteer Program**

We are indeed fortunate to have so many parent volunteers! However, before offering your services in the classroom or as a chaperone on a field trip, both new and returning volunteers must attend a core training session (approximately 30 minutes in length). Volunteers must attend this training annually at least 7 school days prior to volunteering. Training can be completed at any site in the county. Up-to-date listings of volunteer training sessions throughout the county can be found on the CCPS website.

The training session will begin promptly at the scheduled time, so allow adequate travel time in order to arrive before the presentation begins. Attendees must be present for the entire presentation because volunteer training is an annual compliance requirement. You will need to attend another presentation if the training session has begun when you arrive. The trainers appreciate your understanding and regret any inconvenience this situation may cause.

The sessions scheduled for December and January are as follows:

**DECEMBER 2011**

- 5 Wm. Winchester Elem. 9:30 AM
- 8 Robert Moton Elementary 6:30 PM

+ precedes a school event/activity

\* follows a school event/activity

**JANUARY 2012**

- 9 Manchester Elementary 6:00 PM
- 10 West Middle 6:30 PM
- 11 +Cranberry Station Elem. 6:00 PM
- 11 New Windsor Middle 6:30 PM
- 12 +Friendship Valley Elem. 5:45 PM
- 12 Oklahoma Road Middle 6:00 PM
- 18 Manchester Valley High 3:00 PM
- 18 +Sandymount Elementary 6:30 PM

# part of a school event/activity

## Emergency Closings and Delays

In the event that it becomes necessary to close schools for the entire day because of inclement weather (snow or heat), the announcement will be made no later than 6:30 a.m. through the following media sources: WTTR, Channel 3 and 21 - Prestige Cable (Westminster); WHVR/WYCR (Hanover); WGET (Gettysburg); WFMD, (Frederick); WTHU (Thurmont); WBAL, WCAO, WCBM, WRBS, WPOC, Lite 102, WMIX, WMAR-TV, WBAL-TV, WJZ-TV, WQSR, WWLG AM, WASA, WANN, V103 (Baltimore); WMAL, WTOP, Fox Channel 5, WRC-TV4, WUSA Channel 9 and WJLA-TV (Washington, DC); WJEJ/WWMD (Hagerstown) ; WCRH (Williamsport); WAFY-KEY 103, WXTR (WASHINGTON).

If weather conditions are such that the opening of schools might be delayed one (1) hour or more, the notification will be made by the same time and through the same stations as for the closing of schools. In addition to the possibility of schools being closed, delayed or dismissed early due to winter conditions (snow, ice), there is the possibility of early dismissal due to excessive heat. On days when temperatures are forecasted to exceed 95 degrees and humidity is expected to be above 50 percent, parents should be prepared for the possibility of an early dismissal. If schools will be dismissed earlier than usual, notification will be made through the same stations. Please keep tuned to your radio or TV on inclement weather days.

### A. School Opening Delayed One (1) Hour:

School will begin at 10:05

### B. School Opening Delayed Two (2) Hours:

School will begin at 11:05 for a two hour delay

### C. School Closing To Be One (1) Hour Earlier Than Usual:

Dismissal time will begin at 2:35 p.m.

### D. School Closing To Be Two (2) Hours Earlier Than Usual:

Dismissal will begin at 1:35 p.m.

### E. School Closing To Be Three (3) Hours Earlier Than Usual:

Dismissal time will begin at 12:35 p.m.

### Scheduled (monthly) 2 hour 45 minute Early Dismissal:

Dismissal will begin at 12:50 p.m.

**Parents can keep youngsters safe by arranging emergency back-up care. Children should be taught what to do and where to go when schools close unexpectedly and parents/guardians are not at home.**

## Procedures for Closing Schools for Late Openings on Two-Hour and Forty- Five Minute Early Dismissal Days

### System-wide Two-hour and Forty-five Minute Early Dismissals

If weather or another condition warrants a late opening on a day when a system-wide early dismissal for students is scheduled, Mr. Guthrie will close schools rather than bring students in on a delayed schedule and send them home on an early dismissal.

### Elementary Students Two-hour and Forty-five Minute Early Dismissals

If weather, or another condition, warrants a late opening on days when an early dismissal is scheduled for elementary students, Mr. Guthrie will close schools **for elementary students only** rather than bring students in on a delayed schedule and send them home on an early dismissal. **Middle and High Schools will be open and operate on the announced delayed opening schedule.**



### **EES Vision**

*Our vision is to work together to educate the whole child with high standards in a safe and nurturing environment.*

### **EES Mission**

*The mission of EES is to empower all our students to become Respectful, Responsible citizens who are Ready to succeed in the global community.*

*“Working Together;  
Learning Forever”*

*“Working Together; Learning Forever”*

## Looking Ahead—Testing Dates

Please place our testing dates on your calendar and make every effort to avoid planning appointments or vacations during testing.

### MSA for 2011-12

The Maryland School Assessments will be given to students in **grades 3, 4, and 5** on **March 14th and 15th (Reading), March 20th and 21st (Math)**.

The **Science MSA window** for fifth graders will be between **April 23-April 26**.



### Cell Phone Reminder

Reminder: CCPS policy does not permit cell phone usage in classrooms or hallways. This includes all adults, as well as students. Volunteers, if you need to make a personal call while helping, please feel free to come to the office to do so. Thank you!

## Parent/Teacher Resource Room

If you have a child in kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade there are resources on sight words, grammar and phonics. We have Reading Rods located under Phonics, Vowels, and Grammar on the inventory list located in the Student Directory. Reading Rods are plastic cubes that you snap together to form words and sentences. Each set comes in a plastic shoe box along with a workbook.

Any questions contact: Mrs. DiStefano 410-751-3520

## Winter Recipe

*This month's Winer Recipe comes to us from Mrs. Kasper*

### Buckeye Nuggets

- 1 c. creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 c. butter, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 16 oz. confectioners' sugar
- 1 (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips



Line baking sheet with waxed paper. In medium bowl, mix peanut butter, butter, vanilla and sugar with hands to form a smooth dough. Mixture will be very stiff. Shape dough into balls using two tablespoons for each. Place on waxed paper and put in refrigerator. Melt chocolate in microwave or double boiler. Using toothpick, dip balls in chocolate so they're 3/4 coated. Return to waxed paper, chocolate side down, and return to refrigerator for 30 minutes or until chocolate is firm. To store, place in container with wax paper between layers.



## Counselor's Clipboard:

During the month of November Kindergarten and First Grade students learned how to be bucket fillers by saying and doing kind things for others. I shared a delightful story with them entitled, Fill a Bucket A Guide to daily Happiness for Young Children by Carol McCloud and Katherine Martin. During class they were encouraged to practice filling their classmate's buckets. Second and Third Grade students also learned how to be bucket fillers by listening to Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud. They also practiced their bucket filling by writing a kind message to a classmate. Fourth Grade students learned how their attitude can have a ripple effect. We read Andrew's Angry Words by Dorothea Lachner and discussed how their attitude can create a positive or negative ripple; it all depends on them. Fifth Grade students also learned about attitude and ways to look at situations. They had fun taking the stage doing role plays with three different attitudes for one situation.

## Media Moments

As autumn leaves begin to fall, our kindergarten students are completing a study of author/illustrator Lois Ehlert by using a digital chart to record our votes for "Our Favorite Lois Ehlert Book. During our look at her works we have enjoyed many of her stories, including Ralph, Leaf Man, and Color Zoo. If you ask your child about her works, they will be sure to tell about her love of bright colors, gardening, and nature. Earlier this year we had explored how to care for books, how to browse for a just right book, and the differences between fiction and nonfiction books. We will soon look at ABC and Counting Books to share how they are alike and different, how they help us with our learning, and to enjoy the many different titles which are available to read.

If you heard a giant "RROAR!" coming from our first grade students earlier this year, they were enjoying the escapades of No T. Rex in the Library, as we reviewed Media rules and procedures. First grade students then revisited the various parts of a book and the information to be gained from these parts. This included looking at copyright dates and dedication pages. Next, these students will work with Everybody call letters. They will be able to name call letters for this type of book, and use them to locate titles in the Everybody Book section of our media center.

Our second grade students began the year by working with the skills needed to choose a book just right for each student's reading abilities and interests. This was followed by look at the characteristics of fiction and nonfiction books. The students are currently using these skills when locating books to read for enjoyment and research. They are excited to extend these skills further as we begin to investigate our media center's digital catalog, Destiny in its Visual format.

After a review of the characteristics of fiction and nonfiction books, and how to use their call letters/numbers to locate desired titles, our third grade students began an in depth look at Destiny, our online catalog. We are currently exploring the various types of information to be found in a Destiny entry, and will learn how to locate materials by completing a subject, a title, a subject, and a keyword search. This is a skill which can be used with any online catalog system, including the one used by our public library system.

Do you have a favorite genre? Mystery?.. Realistic Fiction?... Science Fiction?... Our fourth grade students discussed various types of genres and their characteristics. This unit culminated with the Go for the Genre game. Next, our fourth graders reviewed how to use Destiny to locate materials in our media center, and the important information gotten from a Destiny entry by completing a Passport to Destiny. A look at what a URL is and how it can help one to determine if a web site suits a researcher's purpose will be our next unit of study.

Playing "The Biggest Loser" served as a review of Destiny for our fifth grade students. This was followed by the students determining appropriate keywords to use when given a research question. They then used this ability to complete keyword searches and to locate materials to meet the need of the research topic. We will continue the year by working simultaneously with two different projects. Our first project involves the creation of a book trailer using either Movie-maker, or Photostory to encourage others to read an outstanding title. As our groups worked independently to complete their book trailers, we will also spend time with three of the databases to which our school subscribes to note how information is presented, how the database can best be used for research, and to compare the three for their usefulness.

The 2012 Black Eyed Susan Nominees have been introduced to the 1-3 grades (Picture Book Category), and our 4-5 grades (4-6 Category). Students are encouraged to read these titles in preparation for choosing the winner in each category in the spring.



### PBIS News

On November 18, 2011 Eldersburg held the Quarter 1 Assembly. Students were acknowledged for numerous accomplishments such as Coupons earned, "Staying on green" and Honor Roll. This was followed up with a "Deal or No Deal" review of what it means to be Respectful, Responsible, and Ready. So, keep looking for those coupons to come home and be sure to celebrate those three R's!

Coupons earned to date: 14,522 Way to go Eldersburg! Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn!



## Green School Tip: Go Green This Winter

### Being Green:

Eldersburg Elementary is proud to say that it continues its "Green School" status. With each newsletter, you can look forward to the latest "Green School" news and a "Green Tip" to help you and/or your family be "Green".

### Remember:

Eldersburg is once again collecting juice pouches in the cafeteria and ink cartridges under the Third Grade showcase.

### Tighten your car's gas cap:

In the United States every year, 147 million gallons of gas evaporate due to loose, damaged, or missing caps. That's enough to fill the tanks of almost 8 million sedans, says the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Information taken from: Glamour Magazine. April 2011.

### Switch to laundry detergent that's concentrated:

A big jug of regular liquid detergent – most of which is water – uses lots more plastic packaging, plus oil and energy to transport it to store shelves. (GoodGuide's free phone app lets you compare products greenwise while shopping.)

Information taken from: Glamour Magazine. April 2011.

### MAC Recycling

As seasons change and you find yourself going through your clothes, please remember the MAC recycling bin (blue bin out back). You can help those in need as you clean your closets.



## Tardy

We have been asked to review the guidelines for Tardiness under Carroll County Public School protocol. Tardiness comes under arriving late and leaving early from school. Whether a tardy is excused is dependent upon a reasonable excuse; i.e. Dr. Appointment, family emergency, or a medical issue. A reasonable excuse must be written in the Late/Dismissal Log for us to determine the proper code.

*CCPS policy states that children who come to school late or leave early will be marked as either AM or PM tardy. A question that is frequently asked is, "Why is my child being marked PM tardy even if she leaves at 3:34pm.?" EES's cutoff in the morning is 9:05am, and in the afternoon is 3:35pm, because that is our official school day for students.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We know that our wonderful community always works with EES on following procedures and protocols.



## Parent Drop-Off/Pickup Procedures

### **Parent Drop-Off Procedures:**

As always, the safety of Eldersburg students is our #1 priority. To that end, we have set the following procedures in place to ensure the safety of everyone during the early-morning drop-off time period:

1. Please drop off your children at the back entrance between 8:35 and 9:00 a.m. The door closes at 9:00: after that time, please drop off children at the main entrance in the front of our school.
2. Please have your child **READY** to be dropped off as you approach: lunches ready, backpacks on, kisses done!
3. Please remain in line, and drop your child off as you near the gate at the far end of the blacktop, where we always have someone on duty to assist when necessary.
4. Children must exit on the **passenger side** of the car, next to the fence. This is much safer than having them enter into the parking lot where other cars are moving and/or passing close by those still in line.
5. Please remain behind the wheel. If your child needs assistance opening the passenger car door, you may park in a designated parking spot.
6. If you must park, please follow the law, and **ONLY** park in designated spots: those with lines must remain free and clear for emergencies.

These procedures become especially important during inclement weather. Thank you all for your cooperation with keeping your children safe and ready for each new day of school!

### **Parent Pick-Up Procedures:**

As always, the safety of Eldersburg students is our #1 priority. To that end, we have set the following procedures in place to ensure the safety of everyone during the afternoon pick-up time period:

1. Please park your car and pick up your child/ren at the back entrance between 3:35 and 3:45 p.m. The door closes at 3:45 p.m.: after that time, please pick up your child in the front office.
2. Please follow the law, and **ONLY** park in designated spots: those with lines must remain free and clear for emergencies.
3. Please be prepared to show I.D. at any time, in order to ensure that all children are released **only** to those designated by legal guardians.

These procedures become especially important during inclement weather. Thank you all for your cooperation with keeping your children safe every day!

## Attendance Reporting

This is just a reminder that parents of Eldersburg Elementary students may report their child(ren)'s absence via email. The email address provided, [eesattendance@carrollk12.org](mailto:eesattendance@carrollk12.org), is for **REPORTING ABSENCES ONLY**.

Please include your child's full name, grade and teacher, date(s) of the absence(s) and the reason(s) for the absence(s).



## First Grade News

### ELA

**Reading:** As reading instruction continues this quarter, we are working hard to make connections to our reading. We are discussing how the text relates to ourselves, the world, and other stories that we have read. As we meet in reading groups, we are also looking at a story from different stances or viewpoints and learning how to visualize what we read to enhance our comprehension. The stances or viewpoints that we are currently focusing on are global understanding and personal response. While working on global understanding, we are focusing on retelling and summarizing the story we are reading. When retelling, we are looking for all of the narrative elements to a story, which include the characters, setting, problem, important events and solution. When summarizing we are looking for a very short statement about the story, which include the narrative elements of character, setting, problem, and some important events combined within 2-3 sentences. During the first quarter of the year, we have been working on these stances orally. We are now asking the children to compose a written response to their story using the stances of global understanding and personal response. We are also learning about how visualizing can help us better understand what we are reading. Visualizing is the ability to create an image in your mind of what you are reading about to better comprehend the story.

### Word Study

In January we will begin the word study portion of our ELA block. Your child will be sorting words into categories and becoming familiar with spelling patterns and rules. We are using the program Words Their Way. This program uses what students already know about word patterns and adds new spelling pattern information to their understandings. We are very excited to be working with this word study program and know that it will help the children when reading and writing words throughout the day.

### Math

During the month of December we will be continuing to learn mental math strategies to enhance students' addition and subtraction fluency. We are learning how to use the strategies to help us become flexible problem solvers.

A great resource for at home practice is the Math Resource Website. <http://www2.carrollk12.org/instruction/elemcurric/math/teacher.htm>

After the winter break we will be taking the January Benchmark Assessment. Look for review materials in your child's folder.

### Social Studies/Science

During the months of December and January we will be focusing on the Social Studies unit of "Me and My Neighborhood". This will include the study of maps and geography. The students will learn how to read different kinds of maps with the help of a key, and learn the difference between physical and human characteristics. We will also study how people adapt to their environment with the use of inventions, technology, available jobs, economic choices of goods and services, and producers and consumers. The students will learn how people live, work and play successfully in a neighborhood and group setting.

### Homework

As per the Carroll County Policy, First grade is permitted to give 10 minutes of homework per night. Your child's homework each night is to read or be read to for 10 minutes each night. These minutes need to be recorded on your child's homework calendar each night. You may see math homework coming home, but this should not exceed 10 minutes. If it takes your child longer, you can write your teacher a note and we can finish the homework in school. If you wish for your child to have additional activities to do at home, their Raz-Kids account is a great way for your child to practice reading. Also, the math website has many activities and games for children to practice their math skills. Math website: <http://www2.carrollk12.org/instruction/elemcurric/math/teacher.htm>

Razz Kids: <http://www.raz-kids.com/>

### Volunteers

A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who helped out in November. Look for information from your child's teacher about volunteering in December and January.

### Outside Playtime/P.E.

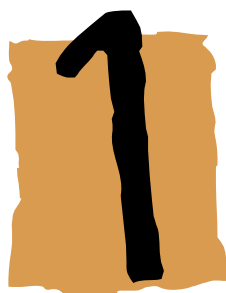
Just a reminder: the students have outside playtime unless the temperature with the wind chill drops below 32 Degrees. Please be sure that students are dressed appropriately (sneakers and a sweatshirt or jacket) for outside play and P.E. classes. We go outside for playtime at 12:00 when the temperature has not reached the high for the day. **In order for to play outside, the students will need to have a jacket or a sweatshirt to wear if the outside temperature is below 60 degrees.**

### Reminders:

\*Please remember if your child chooses to purchase lunch, please be sure to put their money in a baggie, envelope, or wallet with their name clearly marked.

\*If your child is absent from school, please send a note to school when they return stating why they were absent.

\*Remember to participate in the HIKE reading program at home. Your child will return those journals to school at the end of January. If they have met the reading and response requirements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, they will be entered into a drawing to win Ravens items.





## Second Grade News

We would like to thank the many parents who attended conferences during the October and November conference days. Parents who are informed about their children's academic progress send an important message to their children that their education is important. Active parental involvement is one of the factors that make Eldersburg Elementary such a wonderful school!

In Language Arts we continue to work on developing and practicing strategies that help us read fluently while improving our comprehension skills. Second graders will soon begin "Book Clubs", giving students an opportunity to re-read a book several times during the week, which research shows greatly improves fluency. Then on the day that their book club meets, students gather in small groups to discuss questions, vocabulary and connections that they have made in reading this book. Book clubs allow the students to practice comprehension strategies and to learn from others. We are all excited about the richness of this experience as we take the time to enjoy reading!

In math, students are working on a variety of math concepts including geometry, fractions, and two-digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. Homework papers and class work that is sent home will indicate which particular concept your child is currently working on. All math classes are working on developing effective problem solving strategies and communicating the reasoning in their problem solving both verbally and in writing. Problem solving is a part of every cluster pre-test and post-test. It is our hope that frequent opportunities for problem solving will prepare students for county benchmark tests given in January and May of each year.

In social studies students will learn about map skills, basic geography concepts, discuss environmental issues, note the characteristics of various communities, and explore other cultures.

The Second Grade Team wishes you a safe and happy holiday!



## Third Grade News

During the next two months in math, third graders will be studying multiplication and division. The students will begin their study of multiplication and division by learning strategies which will help them understand the multiplication and division process. After that, they will begin to study each group of multiplication facts. They will be responsible for memorizing their multiplication facts and using them in problem solving activities. The children will need to practice their multiplication facts at home in order for them to master each group of facts. Multiplication games are a great holiday gift idea for your third grader. For division, we will learn the concrete process and relate the division facts to the multiplication facts they are studying.

Our focus for ELA for the next few months will be on non-fiction text. We will be using a variety of reading materials, including trade books, National Geographic Explorer, articles, magazines, and reference books. The children will learn how the conventions of non-fiction aid in comprehension of text. These include: titles, headings, pictures, captions, boldface, italics, and table of contents, glossary, index, diagrams, and charts. This would be a good time to visit the library and borrow some non-fiction books to explore together at home. We are continuing to work on various types of writing: the writing process, journal writing, and prompt writing.

Constructing, examining, and extending meaning is an emphasis of our ELA program. Reading instruction focuses on reinforcing comprehension strategies by using higher level thinking skills.

Retelling is a strategy that enhances reading comprehension. It engages students in verbalizing and relating information obtained from the reading text. Retelling requires students to construct relationships from the text and encourages the inclusion of structural elements. This promotes active involvement during reading.

In writing, we will be focusing on the trait of ideas within the writing process. Ideas are the heart of any piece of writing. Ideas are all about information. In a good creative piece, ideas paint pictures in a reader's mind. In an informational piece, strong ideas make hard-to-penetrate text reader friendly. Two things make ideas work well: clarity and details. Good writing always makes sense and it includes details - not just any old details, but those beyond the obvious bits of information that thoughtful, observant writers notice.

Our students enjoyed our new science unit- Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle. We discussed many ways to reduce, reuse, & recycle at school and at home. Hopefully, the students are more aware of how we can protect our environment preserving it for future generations. Third graders loved learning about composting. They especially enjoyed examining the "seed compost" and discovering the unique "critters" that live in it. Our culminating activity was actually making our own compost. Now, we just have to patiently wait and observe what happens with our class and individual compost piles.

The next third grade science unit is Physical Science. Students will read about objects in motion and the forces that affect them. They will create their own autogiros and experiment with them.

In January, we will begin our next social studies unit - Carroll County. We will look at how our county originated. We will discuss the different important areas in the county and who settled in these regions. We will learn about the rivers in Carroll County and their relationship to the Chesapeake Bay. Our study of Carroll County will lead into a study of the United States.

We also enjoyed talking with parents during conferences. Communication is a very important part of your child's education. We feel a great deal was accomplished during these sessions.

Please take some time to go through your child's supplies. Many students don't have pencils, glue sticks, or scissors in class. Please replenish the supplies if needed.





## Fourth Grade News

Information for all students:

Happy December! On Thursday, December 15, 2011, the fourth grade students will be involved in a holiday program. On this same day, the instrumental students will be performing in their very first instrumental concert. The children will be having a few additional band rehearsals to get ready for this show. The rehearsals should be included on their normal band schedule.

Also, please be sure that your child is restocked with pencils, notebook paper, glue sticks, and erasers. We are at that point in the year when many of these things need to be replenished. Furthermore, please be sure your child has warm clothes for our recess time. We do not venture out in the extreme cold; however, there are times when we will be outside and the students need to be wearing a winter coat, hat, etc. Thank you for your continued support! Have a safe and happy holiday season!

### Mrs. Mullinix and Mrs. McGlannan (ELA)

During the month of December, we will be reading and writing poetry. We will be discussing mood and describing how the setting and characters affect the mood. Furthermore, we will continue to focus on the main idea and theme of poetry as we infer to construct meaning. As we move into writing our own poetry, we will identify and examine an author's use of poetic devices and begin to use figurative language in our own poetry. During the month of January, we will be using text features and the strategy of determining importance to read and understand informational text. We will continue with the benchmark of summarizing as it applies to informational text.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Best wishes for a stellar new year!

### Mrs. Hersh (Math)

We will continue with the fraction unit during the month of December. The fraction unit involves a great deal of multiplication and division. It is VERY important that all fourth grade students study and memorize their multiplication and division facts. The best way for students to memorize their facts is to study 5 to 10 minutes each night.

### Mrs. Allen (Social Studies)

In Social Studies fourth graders will study the history of Maryland. Our historical investigations will be based on primary and secondary historical sources. Various artifacts, photographs, and copies of many original documents will provide examples of primary historical sources. We will use handouts, articles, and textbooks to supply us with additional information about Maryland's history. We will read about and discuss how physical features of our state impacted the life of Native Americans and, later, the colonists. Then, we are going to focus on the development of St. Mary's City. Information gained from these lessons will help us to understand how Maryland government and economy have developed, so students will be able to connect present day events to Maryland's past. The name of this unit is...you guessed it!...MARYLAND PAST.

## 5th Grade News



### DATA BINDERS

Data Checks will be coming home on December 12<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note these dates on your calendar so you and your child can take a few minutes to review his/her progress.

**Homework Hotline** -- Students periodically fall behind in some classes. We want to remind you that your child should have all assignments written in their agenda books **EVERY** night. If this is not happening, students (or parents) may call the Homework Hotline after 4:30 P.M. every day. The number is 410-751-3520 and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade mailbox is #1348.

We also need your assistance in holding your child responsible for this requirement each day. Please sign the book each evening **after** you have seen the completed homework. This will help you know what is going on in school, and it will help your child understand how concerned you are with his/her learning and the progress he/she is making.

All students are assigned a minimum of **twenty minutes** of independent reading time every day for homework. This includes Saturdays and Sundays and holidays also. It is important to practice independent reading so students can reinforce the reading strategies that are reviewed in class. It also offers the opportunity for students to work independently with lots of new vocabulary. Please encourage your child to read independently as much as possible.

**Supplies** -- We have reached the point in the year when supplies are dwindling. Please check with your child to see if he/she still has enough notebook paper, pencils, colored pencils, scissors and a ruler. With the holidays coming up, maybe some of these items could be supplied as stocking stuffers. We are also in the cold season and would appreciate any donations of tissues for the classrooms.





## 2012-2013

*Originally sent home to all parents via backpack on September 23, 2011*

Dear EES Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, Carroll County Public Schools has announced the new bell schedule for the **2012-2013** school year, which will begin in **August 2012**. The schedule and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are posted on the CCPS website at <http://www.carrollk12.org/admin/transportation/default.asp>.

During the preparation of the FY12 budget, the Superintendent directed staff to review all department functions and explore any areas where efficiencies might be achieved and corresponding fiscal reductions realized. In this way ongoing operating expenses could be reduced without continuing to eliminate essential staff.

The Transportation Services Department re-examined the entire bus routing system for regular education buses and alignment of school start and end times. The results of the study indicate that significant, ongoing operating savings at a minimum of \$1.2 million will be attained through a realignment of school start and end times. The savings are a direct result of the ability to eliminate up to 40 buses from the roads by maximizing the use of remaining buses.

The proposed change to the bell schedule for schools was first brought to the Board of Education for discussion at the March 23, 2011 meeting, and discussion continued at every meeting for the next four months. The proposed schedule was publicized in local and regional media and was posted on the school system's website. There was much public discussion about the plan, and hundreds of emails both supporting the plan and opposing it were received. Ultimately, the plan was approved and the Transportation Department spent the summer working with bus contractors to eliminate 40 buses from the fleet.

### **What does this mean for EES?**

Starting in August, 2012 the hours for EES will be 7:45am-2:15pm.

Thank you as always for all of your support. As mentioned above, this was a Carroll County Public Schools decision based on total school system efficiency. We realize this will impact our families and their before and after-school care plans, so we are communicating this as early as possible.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Eisenklam - *Principal*





# December 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Nuggets or Pizza Pocket Baked Beans Vegetable Fruit	Pizza Casserole or Chicken Patty Vegetable Tossed Salad Fruit	Grilled Cheese or Meatball Sub Pizza Soup Vegetable Fruit	Hamburger or Cheeseburger French Fries Vegetable Fruit	1 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn
5	6	7	8	9
Chicken Tenders or Pizza Pocket Macaroni & Cheese Vegetable Fruit	Waffles or French Toast Sticks Scrambled Eggs Tater Tots Apple or Orange Juice Apple Crisp	Grilled Cheese or Corn Dog Tomato Soup Vegetable Fruit	Soft or Hard Shell Taco or Cheeseburger Buttered Rice Vegetable Fruit	15 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn
12	13	14	15	16
Popcorn Chicken or Pizza Pocket Chicken Noodle Soup Vegetable Fruit	Cheese Sticks w/ Dipping Sauce or Chicken Patty Green Beans Vegetable Fruit	Grilled Cheese or Pizza Bob Tater Tots Vegetable Fruit	Breadsticks w/ Meat Sauce or Cheeseburger Tossed Salad Vegetable Fruit	22 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn
19	20	21	22	23
SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED
27	28	29	30	31
	Surprise Giveaway		Lucky Tray Day	Early Dismissal

Lunch - \$2.00  
 Milk - \$.50

½ Pint of Milk served with each menu. Jelly Sandwich or Hot Dog served each day as an entree choice.  
 Most extras are \$.75



# January, 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 SCHOOLS CLOSED	3 Chicken Nuggets or Chicken Patty Macaroni & Cheese Vegetable Fruit	4 Grilled Cheese or Meatball Sub Tomato Soup Vegetable Fruit	5 Hamburger or Cheeseburger French Fries Vegetable Fruit	6 Stuffed Crust Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn
9 French Toast Sticks or Pancakes Sausage Patty Tater Tots Apple or Orange Juice Baked Cinnamon Apples	10 <i>Surprise Giveaway</i> Chicken Tenders or Chicken Patty Baked Beans Vegetable Fruit	11 Grilled Cheese or Corn Dog Pizza Soup Vegetable Fruit	12 <i>Lucky Tray Day</i> Soft or Hard Shell Taco or Cheeseburger Buttered Rice Vegetable Fruit	13 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn
16 SCHOOLS CLOSED	17 Popcorn Chicken or Chicken Patty Chicken Noodle Soup Vegetable Fruit	18 Grilled Cheese or Pizza Bob Tater Tots Vegetable Fruit	19 <i>Lucky Tray Day</i> Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce or Cheeseburger Tossed Salad Vegetable Fruit	20 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn
23 Chicken Nuggets or Pizza Pocket Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Vegetable Fruit	24 Cheese Sticks w/ Dipping Sauce or Chicken Patty Green Beans Vegetable Fruit	25 Grilled Cheese or Hot Ham and Cheese Tomato Soup Vegetable Fruit	26 <i>Lucky Tray Day</i> Stuffed Crust Pizza Vegetable Fruit Popcorn	27 SCHOOLS CLOSED
30 Chicken Tenders or Pizza Pocket Vegetable Fruit	31 <i>Surprise Giveaway</i> Pancakes or Waffles Scrambled Eggs Tater Tots Apple or Orange Juice Apple Crisp			

**Lunch - \$2.00**  
Milk - \$.50

½ Pint of Milk served with each menu. Jelly Sandwich or Hot Dog served each day as an entree choice.  
Most extras are \$.75