



# EBB VALLEY EAGLE'S MARCH NEWSLETTER



Principal: Robert Mitchell

Asst. Principal: Pat Reed

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Manchester, MD 21102  
410-386-1550 Fax:410-386-1555

## March 2011 - Notes from the Office

Dear Ebb Valley Families,

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, is the first day of the MSA testing for students in Grades 3, 4, and 5. The Maryland State Assessment will be given on March 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th from 8:40 until 11:30 AM. It is important that your child arrives at school on time during this testing period. If your child does not arrive before testing starts, he/she will be held in the office until a testing break occurs. This could mean that he/she could possibly be sitting in the office for an hour or more should he/she arrive late. It is also important that he/she is not picked up from school for an early dismissal until testing is completed for the day. Please make every attempt to have your child here each day.

Should your child be absent for illness during the testing time, he/she will be pulled during the week to make-up any missed portions. This is not an optimum situation because it pulls your child from instruction and he/she is tested in a room different than their regular classroom. Every attempt should be made to have your child at school for MSA testing.

In order for children to be focused, alert and at their peak performance it is important that they are well rested and eat breakfast each morning. You may want to talk to your child about the importance of testing, but do not over emphasize it because we do not want students to be stressed. Please remember that this test is one measure of your child's performance in school, as it measures how well your child has mastered the state curriculum. It is important and should be taken seriously, but should not cause anxiety. All we can ask is that everyone try to do their best.

Please help us make this a positive experience for your child! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

### REMINDER

Students who are absent from school may NOT attend or participate in school or PTA sponsored after-school or evening activities on the day they are absent. If your child is too sick to attend school, please do not expose others to germs and illnesses by bring them to school functions.

***Inclement Weather Policy***

In the event that it becomes necessary to close schools for the entire day because of inclement weather, the announcement will be made no later than 6:30 a.m. through the following media sources: WTTR – AM 1470, Channel 21 and Channel 3 (Westminster), as well as the major TV stations (Channels 2, 11 and 13). If weather conditions are such that the opening of schools might be delayed one hour or more, or it becomes necessary to close schools early, the notification will be made through the same stations as for the closing of schools. Pupils and parents are asked to refrain from calling the school, radio stations or the Pupil Transportation office to inquire about school closing and bus service as it may impact the handling of announcements. When schools are closed all day or close early, there will be no after school or evening events.

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***Reminder for borrowed lunch money*** The cafeteria has limited funds for children who need to borrow lunch money. If your child borrows lunch money, we appreciate your promptness in repaying that money to the cafeteria the next day. Keep in mind that you can purchase advance lunch tickets for your child. You can prepay for as few or as many lunches as needed. Lunches are \$2.00 each. Please send in a check, made payable to the Ebb Valley Cafeteria, for the number of lunches you wish to purchase times \$2.00 each. If you would like to apply for free or reduced lunches, please contact the office for an application.

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***Absent / Tardy Reminders***

To report your child's absence, please use one of the following methods:

Email: [eveattendance@k12.carr.org](mailto:eveattendance@k12.carr.org)

Phone: 410-386-1550

Fax: 410-386-1555

Note: Absent notes must contain – child's first **and** last name, explanation for absence, date of absence(s), signature of parent or guardian.

Students who arrive after **8:40 AM** are late and must be brought into the office by a parent / guardian to be signed in. Students will receive a pass to take to their homeroom teacher.

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***Kindergarten Registration for 2011-2012***

March 21-25, 8:45 a.m. – 3:00p.m.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2011 will need to be enrolled in Kindergarten. Parents will need to present the following at the time of registration:

1. identification of parent or legal guardian (driver's license and/or court documents)
2. a copy of the child's birth certificate/registration
3. verification of residence in the form of a recent utility bill (BGE, land-line phone bill, cable bill, water bill), a signed lease agreement or a settlement statement on your home.

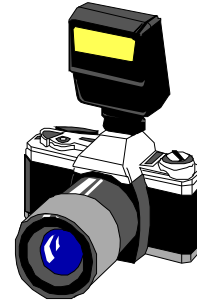
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**HAS YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBERS CHANGED?  
PLEASE INFORM US IN WRITING ASAP!!!**

**Parent Pick-up Parking Alert:  
When picking up your child in the afternoon, do not park on the right side of the loop coming up to the cafeteria doors. Daycare vans are not able to maneuver around the parked cars.**

## ***Individual & Class Picture Day***

On **THURSDAY, MARCH 10th**, Larry Allen and Company Photographers will be here at school to take **class group pictures and individual student portraits.**



This will be your only opportunity to purchase class group pictures. Class group pictures **will not** be produced for students who do not pay IN ADVANCE. Group pictures cost \$14.50 each and can be ordered by selecting **“Bonus K”** on the order form.

**Each student must pay individually. Please do not write one check for all children in the family. Make checks payable to LARRY ALLEN & CO.**

Individual portraits will be taken for students who bring in their order form and money on March 10<sup>th</sup>. All portrait packages will be mailed to the address you write on the order form.

**Only children who bring in an order form and money on March 10<sup>th</sup> will get their individual picture taken.**

**All students present on March 10<sup>th</sup> will be in the class group photo, but only students who pay and select “Bonus K” on the order form will be mailed a class picture.**

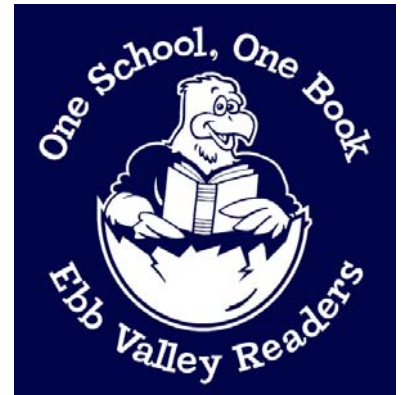
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### **Parent / Teacher Conference Night - Thursday March 3, 2011**

Teachers and Staff members will be here Thursday evening, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 3:45PM – 7:15PM for Parent/Teacher Conferences. If your child’s teacher notified you that a conference is requested, please call the school office at 410-386-1550 to schedule the conference. If you have any concerns you need to discuss with your child’s teacher, please call us to schedule a conference on this night.



Thank you Mrs. Anderson!  
One School, One Book  
One successful endeavor!!!



During the month of February, Ebb Valley embarked on a special project ("One School, One Book") initiated and coordinated by our Media Specialist, Mrs. Helga Anderson.

On behalf of all the Ebb Valley families and staff members, we would like to extend a heartfelt **Thank You** to Mrs. Anderson for all her hard work in making this program such a success.



## EMPTY BOWLS, SILENT AUCTION, & ART SHOW



Thank you Ebb Valley students, parents and staff for the success of our Empty Bowls Fundraiser and Annual Art Show held on February 4, 2011.



We would like to give special recognition and thanks to Ebb Valley's Art Teacher, Lisa Duvall, for all of her hard work in organizing this worthwhile event.



We would like to thank Treasa Markle, our Cafeteria Manager, for the delicious soups we feasted on.

As a result of soup sales and the silent auction of bowls, our Ebb Valley community raised \$1312.66 for charity. This money will be donated equally between NESAP (Northeast Social Action Program) and Carroll County Food Sunday. Checks for \$656.33 were presented to representatives of these two charities on February 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Markle, Lynn Sheavly representing NESAP, and Mrs. Duvall.**



**Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Markle, Ed Leister representing Carroll County Food Sunday, and Mrs. Duvall**

## Ebb Valley Yearbook

Yearbook orders were collected in November. If you forgot to place your order or have since decided you would like to purchase a yearbook, it's not too late! Larry Allen & Co., who publishes our yearbook, informed us we can continue to take orders for a limited time. Yearbooks are \$19.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Ebb Valley PTA.

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### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS**

The Outstanding Teacher Awards recognize the men and women of the Carroll County Public School System who represent excellence in the teaching profession.



*Ebb Valley Elementary would like to recognize and congratulate our Reading Specialist, Jami Robinson, for her nomination as a Carroll County Outstanding Teacher.*

The Chamber of Commerce received over 200 nominations this year from parents, students, and staff members. From these nominations the Chamber will select eight Outstanding Teachers of the Year. These outstanding individuals will then have the opportunity to participate as finalists for Carroll County Teacher of the Year and, ultimately, Maryland's Teacher of the Year. The event will take place on Wednesday, March 23, from 6 to 8:30 PM, at Winters Mill High School.

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### **HOOPS FOR OUR KIDS**



We would like to invite the students and families of Ebb Valley Elementary to attend the 2nd annual Battle of the Oak Basketball Game on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Manchester Valley High School. Doors open at 6:15PM. The first game begins at 7:00PM. Come cheer on your favorite Ebb Valley teachers and faculty members as they take on the staff of Manchester Elementary.

## National School Breakfast Week

March 7 - March 11

Let's Celebrate Breakfast!!!

During March, schools throughout the country will celebrate National School Breakfast Week. Studies show that school breakfast can improve test scores, make kids more alert in class, and improve classroom behavior. We all know that hungry children have a more difficult time doing their best work. That's why we encourage all students to begin the school day with a nutritional breakfast. Make sure your kids start the school day with a healthy meal.

### School breakfast is:

- **Easy** - some mornings it's tough to find the time to make sure your kids are eating a nutritious breakfast. On those days, just send them to school and let us do the work. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please have your child take advantage of breakfast here at school.
- **Affordable** - School breakfast costs just \$1.25. If qualified, your child may be able to get breakfast at a reduced price or for free. Please request a Free and Reduced Meal Application from the school office.
- **Tasty** - check out our menu to see the variety of nutritious choices available. Each meal meets government nutritional guidelines and standards.
- **Good for the brain!** Research suggests that breakfast helps children pay attention, perform problem-solving tasks, and improves memory.

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### FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

At the beginning of every school year, families receive a Free and Reduced Meal Application. Children from families that earn below a certain income level can receive free or reduced price lunch and breakfast at school. Throughout the year, income levels may change for your family. Please keep in mind that the Free and Reduced Meal Application can be completed anytime your circumstances change. This application is easy to fill out and easy to understand as well as being **CONFIDENTIAL**. Please contact the school office to have an application sent home with your child.

## HEALTH NEWS

\*Congratulations to Mr. Anderson's class!! Their poster on Inclusive Schools was selected to be on display at the State Legislature (in the "tunnels" between the House and Senate buildings in Annapolis)! It will be on display through April!



\*Look for permission slips to be coming home related to our Nutrition Unit. Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> participate in various eating activities related to nutrition!

\*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be working on their oral care calendars through mid March! Please make sure to initial the calendar when your student brushes & flosses his/her teeth!

*Mrs. Bolander & Mr. Vaughn*

## This Just In!

From Mrs. Spera, School Counselor



### Classroom Counseling this month:

**Kindergarteners** recently completed an ‘anger control’ unit which gave us opportunities to recognize that it’s okay to be angry, but we have control over the way we behave when we are angry (choosing “dirty anger” behavior-hurting someone or something or “clean anger” behavior-talking about it, deep breaths, extra exercise). Kindergarten will be developing their ‘world of work’ awareness starting at the end of March. Small groups of kindergarteners have been working to develop social and emotional skills such as getting along, active listening and self-confidence building!

**First Graders** will be starting a unit at the end of March focusing on appreciating diversity, and working together.

**Second grade** has built their awareness of “The Me’s”; bossy me, caring me, impulsive me, enthusiastic me, and thinking me. We learned about how we can “shrink” our bossy/impulsive “me’s”, by using our “thinking me”! Second graders will be working on goal-setting in coming weeks.

**Third graders** are completing a three-week unit on Academic Success (called Step-Up).

Third grade parents will see information about our lessons coming home.

**Fourth grade** has identified and practiced several **Conflict Resolution** strategies. Lots of information has gone home about active listening, taking space, using “I” statements, and “Unhooking”. Please ask your fourth grader about these concepts, and encourage your child to use resolution strategies when those sibling conflicts arise 😊

**Fifth graders** learned the “Keys to Academic Success” (success strategies for school, and will carry over into the ‘world of work’), as well as how to break down a task (such as a long term project) into smaller chunks in order to get it accomplished with ease.

## PBIS--Highlighted Trait for Quarter 3:

# PREPARED

- **I have my school supplies and they are in good shape.**
- **I complete my homework and have it with me each day.**
  - **I come to school well-rested.**
  - **I eat a good breakfast.**
- **I know and practice good learning behaviors.**

**What does PREPARED look like at home?**



## **PBIS News!**

- Ebb Valley Students continue to follow their *Flight Plans!*
- 89% of the students at Ebb Valley were recognized by name at our Quarter 2 Pep Rally on January 28th! 😊
  - **100% of our EVE students attend all Pep Rallies!** Our objective is to congratulate those who have met behavior expectations and for *every student to feel encouraged/motivated for the coming quarter.*

*Maryland State Assessments* (MSA's) are approaching for grades 3-5 (March 8, 9, 15, 16)! There are many things that parents help with, to help boost student achievement every day (certainly including test days).

**\*\*good night's sleep-** in order to get a good night's sleep, your child needs a predictable, appropriate bedtime routine. In America, the average school-aged child (1st through 5th grades) gets 9.5 hours of sleep, but experts recommend 10-11 hours (more for kindergarteners). You may want to see [www.sleepfoundation.org](http://www.sleepfoundation.org) for more information and resources on this topic.

**\*\*nutritious diet,** especially breakfast—a combination of protein and carbohydrates is best for brain function

**\*\*school attendance-** missing days from school can lead to gaps in information and therefore, achievement.

**\*\*quiet area and a set time** for completing homework

**\*\*for other helpful hints,** please visit [www.testtakingtips.com/parents/](http://www.testtakingtips.com/parents/)

### **\*\*Spring Cleaning time is here!\*\***

**Gather up your donations of clothing, shoes, purses, stuffed animals, etc. for Ebb Valley's annual M.A.C. Recycling Project.** M.A.C. is coming to Ebb Valley April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Large donation collection bins will be placed outside the school for our school community. Remember, Ebb Valley's PBIS/Character Ed program earns 10 cents on every pound collected! More information will follow in the April newsletter.



## Nurse Notes:



Happy Spring! As we work into our spring thaw, appropriate dress is a must. March can be warmer or colder than expected.

Hearing and Vision Screening is coming up on April 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>. This screening is for all K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and newly enrolled Carroll County students. If you have a concern about your child's hearing or vision, and he/she **does not** fall into one of those categories; please let me know. I can have him/her screened during that week.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns with this issue.

\*Remember to send in notes with your child regarding physical limitations to PE participation. These doctor's notes are required to be on file for injuries. *A parent note is only sufficient for 3 days, a note from medical doctor is needed for more than 3 days excused from PE.*

Remember parents need to bring in medication for your child with the signed medication form. **STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRANSPORT MEDICATION OF ANY KIND.**

\*\*If there have been any changes to your child's health status, please inform me of these changes. This aids in caring for your child at school. This includes medication changes, even if your child does not take any at school.

### **Just a few reminders to all parents:**



- **Students sent home with a fever greater than 100 degrees **MAY NOT** return to school until **FEVER** free for at least 24 hours without medication.**
- **Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen** in junior/child dosing packaging are the only drugs permitted with parent signature. Any dosing above the recommended dose for weight and age will need a physician order. Forms are available in the Health Room, and on the CCPS website.
- All other **Over-the-Counter** or **Prescription** medicines will need a physician order, **No exceptions.**
- Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to transport any medications, ointments etc. to or from school.
- Parents must bring in the medicine in the **original container** with the student's name on the outside. Please make sure that all **prescription medications** are properly labeled from the pharmacy with the student's name, medication, dosage, physician's name and expiration date.
- **Reminder to all Kindergarten parents:** Please consider sending in a change of clothes for your child. The clothing will remain at school and used if needed.
- *Only the following items may come to school with your student: Chapstick/lip balms, saline eye solution, hand lotion, sunscreen, and waterless hand cleansers. Non-medicated cough-drops are also permitted. (Halls, Luden's or Ricola, for example). Medicated cough-drops have a daily dosage and a limit for a 24 hour period; these would need a physician order and be transported by an adult.*

Thank you for your continued cooperation, and let's hope for a healthy school year. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

Nurse Kerrie

Ebb Valley Media Center  
"One School, One Book"

# Thank you!

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who read *The Enormous Egg* with us. I hope you enjoyed the experience and will consider regularly reading together as a family. Our morning trivia questions were very hard, so I was pleased with the number of students who knew the answers. Children increase their vocabulary when listening to books above their reading level. It also increases their listening skills. With all of the multi-tasking and video games, we have seen a decrease in listening skills.

I would also like to thank the PTA for their support and funds. It was exciting for every family to receive the book and join in the excitement.

Another big THANK YOU goes out to the whole staff of Ebb Valley. We would not have

been able to participate in this program without their help and support. Without our "paleontologist", "dinosaur rider", special singer and "Dyno-mite dancers" our assembly would not have been as much fun. It's wonderful to have a staff that is willing to join in and try new things! The office help with the tee shirt orders was invaluable and the special dinosaur breakfast and lunch tasted great!

It was fun to be able to talk about the same book as a whole school. Everyone knows about Uncle Beazley now.

Since we are starting to think about next year, let me know if you would like the program to continue or if you are willing to be on a committee to choose our next book.

We are building a community of readers at Ebb Valley.

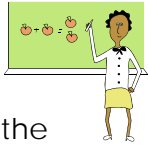
**Keep reading!**

Helga Anderson  
Media Specialist



## First Grade News March 2011

Happy Spring! We are well into the third quarter and hopefully enjoying spring weather. We have begun to go outside every day. Please make sure that your child is dressed for outside weather. The children continue to impress us with all that they are achieving in both reading and math. It is one of the best parts about teaching first graders. They make such growth and still have that wonderful innocence.



**Math** – The students have completed their money unit. Our new unit is fractions. This is a short 2 week unit where your child will have to identify parts of a whole, halves, quarters, and thirds. They will also have to identify the same fractional parts of a group. They will work on probability in this cluster. This will be followed by another 2 week cluster on geometry. The children will identify solid shapes as well as review the plane shapes learned in Kindergarten. They will learn the properties of all these shapes. As stated before, your child has been working on fact fluency. This is the ability to answer basic addition and subtraction problems in less than three seconds each. If you haven't already, this would be a good time to invest in a package of flash cards for your child to practice at home, or you can make your own! Each student will be expected to learn basic facts in addition with sums to 18 and in subtraction with minuends to 10 at a rate of less than three seconds per equation. One of the easiest ways to get your child to master the basic facts is to break them down into manageable pieces. First work on the general fact for the zero property. If you have flashcards, only use the ones with 0. See if they can answer each problem rapidly and accurately. Then use the cards that add or subtract 1. Then move into adding or subtracting 2. Next work on doubles doubles plus 1 and all the facts that equal 10.

**Writing**– March brings an exciting time for writing! Students will have the chance to let their ideas and organizational skills shine as we work on sentence fluency and exciting word choice. First graders can say “bye-bye” to boring, tired sentences as we jazz up our writing in March! This month, we will also continue to practice all steps of our writer's workshop.



**Reading** – In Reading, we will introduce a new reading power to students which is asking questions. We will discuss question words, how to ask a question, and asking questions before, during, and after reading. This strategy helps students to “think” and “process” the fiction and non-fiction texts they are reading. After our questioning unit, students will begin a unit on Visualization. Students will practice creating an image in their minds while they read. Visualizing helps readers appreciate the picture an author can paint with his or her words. We will also focus on differentiating between fact and opinion, especially with non-fiction texts.



**Social Studies and Science** – The children loved our Tracks unit. In March we will be working on economics in Social Studies. The concepts covered will be goods, services, consumers, and producers. We will also work on jobs, skills needed to be successful at different jobs, and how the money earned from jobs help us get the things we need and want.

Fifth Grade News  
March 2011

**ILA-**

The Reading MSA will be on the mornings of Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. For all upcoming MSA dates please ensure that your child is at school on time and well-rested.

As you probably already know, we have been working hard to improve writing this year by writing daily in a writer's notebook, learning through daily writing lessons, conferencing with classmates and teachers, and using the writing process to develop process writing pieces. Students are assessed on the content, organization, style, and conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization) using a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> CCPS writing rubric and teacher-created rubrics. Please encourage and discuss their writing with them. Writer's notebooks may come home at any time.

**Math-**

This month students are finishing the Fractions cluster and starting the Geometry cluster. The Math MSA will be on the mornings of Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. As you already know, students have been preparing for the MSA Math all school year.

**Science-**

In March, students are finishing the Earth and Beyond astronomy unit and beginning the Planet Earth unit.

**Social Studies-**

The response to Quiz Bowl has been amazing. Students have enjoyed practicing and preparing for the competition. Thank you to the parents who have arranged transportation home after Quiz Bowl meets.

*Please remark your calendars!* **The fifth grade field trip to Washington, D.C. has been rescheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.** A letter came home about this on 2/23/11. If you have been chosen as a chaperone in the fall, please let your child's homeroom teacher know if you cannot chaperone any longer.

Due to the rough cold season thus far, fifth grade is running very low on tissues. Please donate a box or two to your child's homeroom teacher. It would be highly appreciated!

## News from the Art Room.....

"March is Youth Art Month" and we celebrate our young artists developing and growing in their ability to create and communicate in visual ways.



Congratulations to the following students who have their artwork on display at the Carroll County Arts Council in Westminster:

Vinny Arthur	Morgan Jones	Adrianna Salkin
Destiny Cole	Trent Longest	Alyssa Salkin
David Cox	Ryan Magana	Kaeta Schoen
Emily Franks	Alexis Miller	Marshall Singer
Leah Frock	Olivea Miserandino	Miranda Smearman
Jacob Gambrell	Sarah Owens	Danielle Sullivan
Logan Hahn	Jacob Paulsen	Grace Wagaman
Jacquelyn Harmon	Samantha Rea	Faith Wagner
Marissa Hall	Kevin Rebar	Allison Wehner
Ryan Jackson	Brenden Russell	

### **Opening Reception for our County Art Show will be held on:**

Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00 to 7:00 PM or Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00 PM at the Carroll County Arts Council in Westminster. Parking is limited and there are no snow dates. The exhibit will run from February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>."

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### Instrumental Music Notes –

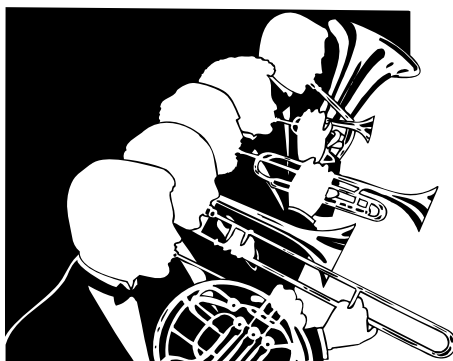
March is "Music in Our Schools Month"! Our students are VERY fortunate to be able to participate in music classes as part of their regular education - many areas of our country do not give students that opportunity. Music is a vital part of the learning process and helps enhance a student's reading ability and fine motor coordination. Students who have gone a step further by choosing to participate in our instrumental music program are also developing their higher level thinking skills, teamwork, self-discipline, and self-confidence. Thank you, parents, for all you do to help support our music program at Ebb Valley Elementary!!!

Looking ahead please be sure to mark our Spring Concert dates on your calendars NOW!! On Tuesday, May 17th, our 4th & 5th Grade Orchestras will perform, along with the 4th Grade Chorus. Then on Wednesday, May 25th, our Beginner Band and 5th Grade Band will present their concert. We have already begun preparing songs for these concerts - you will be entertained with quite a variety of music! Your assistance in encouraging your musician to practice at home is always greatly appreciated!!!

# SOUSA STYLE

## CONCERT CARROLL CONCERT BAND

*Glenn Patterson, Director*



**Sunday, March 20, 2011**  
*Winters Mill High School - 3:00 p.m.*

**Adults: \$8   Students: \$4   Seniors: \$7   Family: \$15**

**Ticket Outlets: Carroll Arts Center, Coffey Music  
Hess Music, Stu's Music Shop**

***Plan to come and hear Ebb Valley's Instrumental Music  
Teacher, Kim Rees, playing in the trumpet section.***

# Music News and Announcements

As spring approaches, I want to let you know that our fourth grade class has been working hard on their spring musical. We would like remind all fourth grade parents that everyone in the fourth grade participates in the spring musical. Please join us on **Tuesday, MAY 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM for our spring musical. We will need some parent volunteers to participate in this year's musical as the musical runs like a game show. Come on out to support your students' hard work and achievement on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## CONGRATULATIONS EISTEDDFOD!!

Congratulations to the students named below for making this year's Eisteddfod. The Eisteddfod is an all county school program in which students perform complex music in front of a large audience. Come on out to Westminster High on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM to support these students' successes!

### CONGRATUALTIONS:

Mackenzie DeWees	Celladean Arthur
Katie Bobele	Isaac Yohn
Grace Cox	Jamison Joyner
Ryan Hann	Sarah Mendoza
Sean Aversa	

A general reminder to parents of all upcoming mandatory evening rehearsals:

### Evening Rehearsal Dates/Times:

- **Tuesday, March 8th 6-7:30PM at Cranberry Station Elementary**
- **Thursday, March 17th 6-7:30PM at Cranberry Station Elementary**
- **Wednesday, March 23rd 5-7:00PM at Westminster High School Auditorium**
- **Concert Night: Friday, March 25th 7:30PM at Westminster High School (warm-up at 6:50, we perform 2nd)**

## ◆◆◆TALENT SHOW:◆◆◆

We will be having our annual talent show this spring. Please look at all newsletters and the website for details about how to sign up for the talent show and when it will be held! Thank you!

<http://www.carrollk12.org/eve/music/default.asp>



Your Financial Partner Since 1932

## SCHOOL BANKING

New Windsor State Bank sponsors the School Banking Program here at Ebb Valley. The banking program is offered to all students in Grades K-5 and is specifically designed to help children learn the value of saving. The school bank is open every Thursday morning from 8:15-8:40AM in the front lobby. Each week a prize will be awarded to one Ebb Valley student who made a deposit that day. Even if your child makes a deposit and does not win the weekly prize, he/she will still be entered to win a Grand Prize drawing in June for a \$100 Savings Bond. The more deposits that your child makes during the school year, the greater chance he/she will have of winning the Grand Prize. If your child already has a School Banking account with New Windsor State Bank, then no further action needs to be taken (other than making deposits) to participate in this incentive. If your child does not yet have a School Banking account and would like to participate, then you only need to complete the enclosed application and have your child bring it to School Banking, with a deposit, on Thursdays. Please feel free to contact the bank (410-861-2400) if you have any questions regarding this program or contact the school.

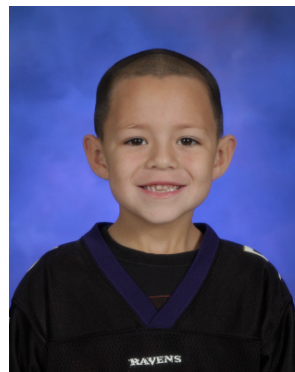
### **New Windsor State Bank Prize winners for the month of February:**



**Marlee Dzergoski**  
Weekly Prize Winner  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>



**Allison Briley**  
Weekly Prize Winner  
February 10<sup>th</sup>



**Bennett Bauerlien**  
Weekly Prize Winner  
February 17<sup>th</sup>



**Garrett Boerner**  
Weekly Prize Winner  
February 24<sup>th</sup>

## School Banking Signature Card

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	SCHOOL NAME	MINOR'S FULL/LEGAL NAME	MINOR'S SOCIAL SECURITY #
MINOR'S D.O.B.	MINOR'S MOTHERS MAIDEN NAME <i>(For Security Purposes)</i>	CUSTODIAN'S FULL/LEGAL NAME	CUSTODIAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY #
CUSTODIAN'S D.O.B.	PHYSICAL MAILING ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes)	ALTERNATE ADDRESS <i>(May be a P.O. Box ONLY if we have a physical mailing address as well)</i>	CUSTODIAN'S EMPLOYER <i>Employer Name:</i>  <i>Employer's Address:</i>
OCCUPATION	CUSTODIAN'S DRIVERS LICENSE INFO <i>Number</i> <i>State of Issuance</i> <i>Exp Date</i> <i>Issue Date</i>	CUSTODIAN'S MOTHERS MAIDEN NAME <i>(For Security Purposes)</i>	HOME PHONE #  WORK PHONE #

Under penalty of perjury I certify (1) that the number shown above on this application is my correct taxpayer identification number and (2) that I am not subject to backup withholding either because I have not been notified that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or the internal revenue service has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding. The undersigned hereby apply(ies) for an account in New Windsor State Bank, New Windsor, Maryland subject to its charter and by-laws and the rules, regulations and laws governing said corporation. The Corporation is hereby authorized to act without further inquiry in accordance with writings bearing such signature(s). Customer(s) requests service indicated and acknowledges receipt of and agrees to be bound by the laws and conditions of all applicable service agreements and disclosures. Customer(s) certifies application is complete and correct.

CUSTODIAN'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN  
 I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned Custodian for \_\_\_\_\_ Under the Maryland Uniform Transfer to Minors Act in New Windsor State Bank Account Number \_\_\_\_\_, hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_, as Successor Custodian of such account with authority to act in that capacity in the event I resign as Custodian, be legally incapacitated or die.

CUSTODIAN'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN'S FULL/LEGAL NAME	SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN'S D.O.B.	PHYSICAL MAILING ADDRESS <i>(No P.O. Boxes)</i>
ALTERNATE ADDRESS <i>(May be a P.O. Box ONLY if we have a physical mailing address as well)</i>	SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN'S EMPLOYER <i>Employer Name:</i>  <i>Employer's Address:</i>	OCCUPATION	SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN'S DRIVERS LICENSE INFO <i>Number</i> <i>State of Issuance</i> <i>Exp Date</i> <i>Issue Date</i>
SUCCESSOR CUSTODIAN'S MOTHERS MAIDEN NAME <i>(For Security Purposes)</i>	HOME PHONE #	WORK PHONE #	<b>THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM!</b>



## Market Day Update

We would like to thank everyone who is supporting Ebb Valley by making purchases to Market Day. Our school receives either 10% or 15% of all purchases depending on the total sales. We will keep you updated in the chart below with the monthly profit totals. All monies earned will go into an account to help fund school projects and incentives. We would like to extend a special thank you to everyone participating in the Market Day program.

Month	Profit
September	167.05
October	245.54
November	264.12
December	184.58
January	158.37
February	311.47
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
Total for Year	1331.13

Market Day pick up will be Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the cafeteria from 6:15 - 7:00PM.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *BOX TOPS*

Ebb Valley PTA Box Tops Contest  
February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup>.



During this period, the individual class that collects the most Box Tops will be treated to a fun and exciting class party! Proceeds from the Box Tops collection will be used to help fund technology improvements and other projects around the school. All Box Tops will be accepted, however only those that are neatly clipped will be counted toward class totals.

## Donating Coke Reward points to EBB VALLEY is easy!

Ebb Valley earns points for every coke rewards code/coke cap that you send in. We will use these reward points along with Campbell's Soup Points to purchase new recess equipment.

Our Coke rewards total is now at 21,661. One recess kit can be purchased with 23,044 points. We would like to be able to purchase a kit for each grade level.

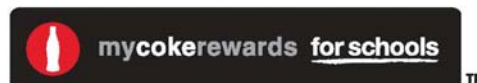
Please contact your family, friends and place of business to have everyone save their coke reward points and coke caps for Ebb Valley. Reward points can be placed in the container in the front lobby and we will enter them for you.

Want to donate points? Here's how you can get them

 <p>Bottles each have a code under the cap worth <b>3 points</b></p>	 <p>24 packs (of 12 oz. cans) have a code under the flap worth <b>20 points</b></p>	
 <p>32 packs pack a punch with a code under the wrap worth <b>25 points</b></p>	 <p>A 12 pack of 12 oz. cans has a code under the flap worth <b>10 points</b></p>	

Get codes and donate points from any of these participating brands



Head to [mycokerewards.com](http://mycokerewards.com) to enter codes, donate points and support our school.

My Coke Rewards is open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. states (and DC) age 13 and over. Visit [www.mycokerewards.com](http://www.mycokerewards.com) for details and a full list of participating products. ©2009 The Coca-Cola Company.



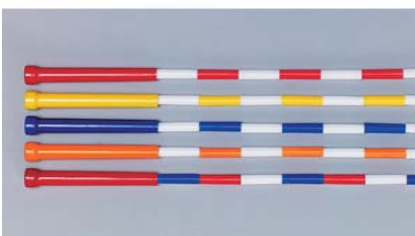
## Campbell's Labels for Education!

For over 30 years, Campbell's Labels for Education program has awarded over \$100 million in FREE merchandise to schools nationwide. Ebb Valley Elementary is participating in the Campbell's Labels for Education program. We are asking parents, teachers and friends in the community to collect Campbell product proofs of purchase that can be redeemed for free educational merchandise. At this time, we are looking to use our Campbell's labels along with the Coke Reward Points to purchase new recess equipment for each grade level.

You can help Ebb Valley Elementary earn free merchandise simply by collecting Campbell products proof of purchase and sending them in to our school.

At this time, we have submitted a total of 14,805 points to Campbell's to help us get our recess equipment. To purchase this equipment for all grade levels we need a total of 55,600 points.

We need your help and that of your family, friends and coworkers to help us reach our goal of new recess equipment. It's easy to pitch in. Simply save products proofs of purchase from any of the following Campbell products and send them to Ebb Valley:



*Campbell's® soups*

*Campbell's® Select Harvest™ soups*

*Campbell's Supper Bakes® meal kits*

*SpaghettiOs® Pasta -Original and Meatball*

*Campbell's® beans, gravies, and pasta*

*Prego® pasta sauces*

*Swanson® broths and canned poultry*

*V8® vegetable juices*

*V8 Splash® juice drinks*

*V8® soups*

*Campbell's® tomato juice, Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products*

*Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers*

## March Dates to Remember...

- March 1 ... Market Day Pick Up in Cafeteria 6:15-7:00PM
- March 3... Parent / Teacher Conferences 3:45-7:15PM
- March 8 & 9... MSA Math for Grades 3-5
- March 10.... Spring Picture Day (Individual and Class Pictures)
- March 11.... Basket Bingo in Cafeteria 5:00-9:00PM
- March 14... 12:25PM Early Dismissal Day
- March 15 & 16... MSA Reading for Grades 3-5
- March 17... Wearin' O the Green Day - St. Patrick's Day
- March 21 -25... Kindergarten Registration Week 8:45AM-3:00PM
- March 22 ... PTA Book Bingo at Lineboro Fire Dept 6:30-8:00PM
- March 23... Evening Kindergarten Registration 4:00-7:00PM  
Market Day Orders due on internet
- March 24... Grade 4 Maryland Day Activities
- March 25... Mornings with Mom at Lineboro Fire Dept. 7:30-8:15AM  
Maryland Day - Wear Maryland Colors  
Hoops for Kids Basketball Game at Manchester Valley High
- March 28... Volunteer Training in Media Center at 6:30PM
- March 29 & 30... MSA Science for Grade 5
- March 29... Kindergarten Trip to North Carroll Library  
Mrs. Demidenko & Mrs. Gardner's classes 8:45-10:30AM  
Mrs. Martin & Mrs. Leckron's classes - 12:00-1:45PM  
Market Day Pick Up in Cafeteria 6:15-7:00PM

# Carroll County Public Schools Volunteer Program

*Making A Difference Together*



**Level II Volunteers (classroom helpers, tutors, chaperones, mentors, etc) are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering. School Days are defined as days when schools are open for students.**

SCHEDULED TRAINING SESSIONS FOR 2010-2011

Posted 2/16/11

## ***Please Note:***

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.

Inclement weather may cause the cancellation of a scheduled training session. Reference the school system's Inclement Weather Decisions and Policy, Pages 22 and 24, of the CCPS Informational Calendar, for specifics.

***When schools are closed due to inclement weather, all activities shall be canceled. Scheduled volunteer training sessions will be canceled if schools are closed and if schools close early due to inclement weather. Furthermore, the trainer may decide to cancel a scheduled session if the weather forecast indicates it would be prudent to do so.***

## MARCH 2011

DATE	SCHOOL + precedes a school event/activity * follows a school event/activity # part of a school event/activity	TIME	CONTACT  Please call the number provided to confirm the scheduled training session.
1	* Elmer A. Wolfe Elem.	7:30 PM	410-751-3307
3	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	419-751-3242
7	+ Robert Moton Elementary	5:30 PM	410-751-3610
8	+ Mt. Airy Middle	5:30 PM	410-751-3554
8	+ Piney Ridge Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3535
9	Mechanicsville Elem.	9:00 AM	410-751-3510
9	South Carroll High	7:00 PM	410-751-3575
10	+ Cranberry Station Elem.	6:30 PM	410-386-4440
10	# Manchester Valley High	6:30 PM	410-386-1673
14	Charles Carroll Elem.	9:15 AM	410-751-3211
15	+ Century High	6:30 PM	410-386-4400
16	Mechanicsville Elem.	6:30 PM	410-751-3510
16	+ Mt. Airy Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3540
16	Northwest Middle	6:30 PM	410-751-3270
21	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3530
23	West Middle	6:00 PM	410-751-3661
28	Ebb Valley Elementary	6:30 PM	410-386-1550
30	Oklahoma Road Middle	9:00 AM	410-751-3600

## APRIL 2011

DATE	SCHOOL + precedes a school event/activity * follows a school event/activity # part of a school event/activity	TIME	CONTACT  Please call the number provided to confirm the scheduled training session.
4	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3242
4	Elmer A. Wolfe Elem.	7:30 PM	410-751-3307
5	North Carroll Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3440
7	Hampstead Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3420
8	Charles Carroll Elem.	2:00 PM	410-751-3211
11	+ Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
12	Hampstead Elementary	10:00 AM	410-751-3420

<b>12</b>	<b>+ Mt. Airy Middle</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3554</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Mechanicsville Elem.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>410-751-3510</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Eldersburg Elementary</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>410-751-3520</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Oklahoma Road Middle</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3600</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>+ Piney Ridge Elementary</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3535</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>+ Sandymount Elementary</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3215</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>South Carroll High</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3575</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Manchester Valley High</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>410-386-1673</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>West Middle</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3661</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>+ Parr's Ridge Elementary</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3559</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Elmer A. Wolfe Elem.</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3307</b>

MAY 2011

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b> + precedes a school event/activity * follows a school event/activity # part of a school event/activity	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>  Please call the number provided to confirm the scheduled training session.
<b>3</b>	<b>Winfield Elementary</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3242</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Elmer A. Wolfe Elem.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>410-751-3307</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>+ Mt. Airy Middle</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3554</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>+ Piney Ridge Elementary</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3535</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Mechanicsville Elementary</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>410-751-3510</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>+ Cranberry Station Elem.</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>410-386-4440</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>South Carroll High</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3575</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Mechanicsville Elementary</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3510</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Elmer A. Wolfe Elem.</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>410-751-3307</b>

Breakfast - \$1.25

# EBB VALLEY ELEMENTARY

## March

## BREAKFAST

## 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>1</b> Breakfast Sausage Pizza <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>2</b> Breakfast Pocket <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>3</b> Choice of Donut <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>4</b> Scrambled Eggs & Toast <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk
<b>7</b> Waffles w/syrup <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>8</b> Choice of Donut <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk  <b>Faschnaut Day</b>	<b>9</b> (3)French Toast Sticks <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>10</b> (2) Cinnamon Toast <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>11</b> Sausage, Egg & Cheese Muffin <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk
<b>14</b> Pancakes w/ Syrup <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk  <b>Early Dismissal Day</b>	<b>15</b> Bagel w/ Toppings <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>16</b> Breakfast Pizza <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>17</b> Choice of Donut <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>18</b> Scrambled Eggs & Toast <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk
<b>21</b> Waffles w/syrup <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>22</b> (3) French Toast Sticks <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>23</b> Breakfast Pocket <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>24</b> (2) Cinnamon Toast <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>25</b> Egg & Cheese Muffin <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk
<b>28</b> Pancakes w/ syrup <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>29</b> Bagels w/ Topping <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>30</b> Sausage on Roll <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>31</b> Choice of Donut <b>or</b> Cereal & Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	

Lunch - \$2.00    Ice Cream - 75 cents    Milk - 50 cents

Lunch Choices also include: Tuna on Roll, Cheese Sandwich, Tossed Salad

# EBB VALLEY ELEMENTARY



## March

## LUNCH

## 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>1</b> Pizzatas Vegetable Fruit	<b>2</b> Cheesesticks w/Dipping Sauce Vegetable Fruit	<b>3</b> Meat Sauce & Breadsticks Tossed Salad Fruit	<b>4</b> Pizza or Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit
<b>7</b> Chicken Patty Pasta w/ Veggies Fruit	<b>8</b> <b>Breakfast for Lunch</b> Sausage, Egg & Cheese Muffin or Egg & Cheese Muffin Tator Tots Orange Juice Baked Apples <b>Faschnaut Day</b>	<b>9</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Vegetable Fruit	<b>10</b> Soft or Hard Shell Taco Shredded Lettuce Corn Fruit	<b>11</b> Stuffed Crust Pizza Vegetable Fruit
<b>14</b> Chicken Tenders Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Fruit  <b>Early Dismissal</b>	<b>15</b> Pizzatas Vegetable Fruit	<b>16</b> Hamburger or Cheeseburger on Roll Tator Tots Fruit	<b>17</b> Shepherds Pie Broccoli Fruit	<b>18</b> Pizza or Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit
<b>21</b> Popcorn Chicken Confetti Rice Fruit	<b>22</b> Hot Ham & Cheese or Turkey Sandwich Vegetable Soup Fruit	<b>23</b> Cheesesticks w/ Dipping Sauce Vegetable Fruit	<b>24</b> <b><u>Maryland Day Dinner</u></b> Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Fruit	<b>25</b> Pizza Vegetable Fruit
<b>28</b> Chicken Patty Tator Tots Fruit	<b>29</b> Pizzatas Vegetable Fruit	<b>30</b> Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Baked Dinner Roll Fruit	<b>31</b> Soft or Hard Shell Taco Shredded lettuce Corn Fruit	

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

Ebb Valley Elementary School  
Mr. Robert E. Mitchell, Principal

## SHORT NOTES



### Picture this

Good readers form mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting him see it. Then, ask him to guess what the illustrations look like. *Examples:* How are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy?

### Be there!

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your youngster's entire school career. Show your child that school comes first by trying to save days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or during school breaks.

### Line them up

Sometimes kids get math problems wrong simply because they haven't lined up the numbers correctly. Try this. Have your child work problems on graph paper, using one box per number. Once she gets used to this system, she'll be able to transfer her lining-up skills to regular paper.

### Worth quoting

"Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much." *Blaise Pascal*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Teacher:** Name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.

**Brian:** Me!



## Pitching in

Would you like your child to be more responsible, hardworking, and persistent? Here are ideas for working as a family to help your youngster develop these important traits.

### A group approach

Thinking of herself as a "team player" can encourage your child to be responsible. Explain that your family operates as a team. Everyone must play a part to get things done. *Example:* You take her shopping for her clothes and sports equipment. She chooses her outfit each morning and keeps track of her bat and glove.

### Hard workers wanted

Your youngster probably has regular chores to do. You can motivate her to work extra hard by placing "want ads" on the refrigerator. Choose a challenging job, and offer a benefit. *Example:* Wanted— a hardworking family member to clean



out a corner of the basement. Reward— a place for your child and her friends to play.

### Sticking it out

Working toward small goals can make it easier to complete a big task. Perhaps your family room needs a fresh coat of paint. Write down the steps (move furniture and lay down drop cloths, prepare walls, roll paint on walls, paint trim). Tell your child you'll take a fun break after each step is done (go to the playground, take a bike ride).♥

## Parent power

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your youngster brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or an e-mail.
- Contact your youngster's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.♥



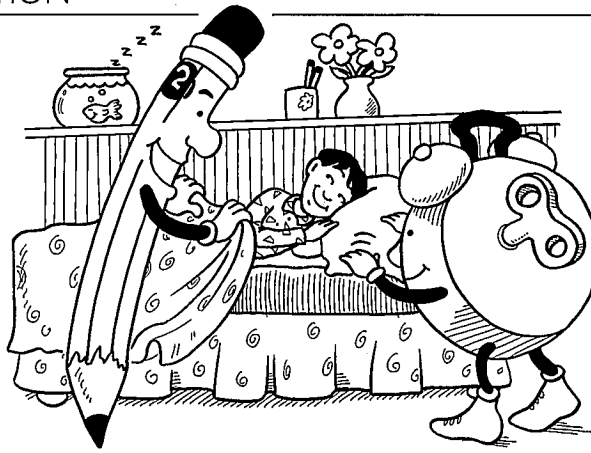
# Standardized tests

## Choose to do well

True or false: standardized tests are tough. The answer depends on how prepared your youngster is. Here are four ways to help him handle test week:

**1.** Explain that the tests will show how much he has learned. Encourage him to try his best, but don't put so much emphasis on them that he feels stressed.

**2.** Practice the test format. For example, your child might have to read a paragraph and answer questions. Using one



of his textbooks, have him look at the questions at the end of a section first and then read the passage. That will help him know what to read for and how to find the answers.

**3.** Limit activities the night before tests. You may want to avoid having guests for dinner or skip his brother's

baseball game if it means being out late. Be sure your child gets to bed on time and sets an alarm for the next morning.

**4.** On test day, give him an energy-boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein (eggs, yogurt, milk) and carbohydrates (fruit, oatmeal, toast).♥

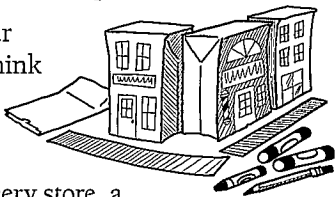
### ACTIVITY CORNER

### Paper bag city

Let your child create her own 3-D community. She'll practice map skills and learn about urban planning as she decides where to put the buildings in her town.

**Materials:** paper lunch bags, newspapers, crayons or markers, black construction paper, scissors, tape

Have your youngster think of buildings to include, such as a



bank, a grocery store, a school, a library, and houses. She can make them by drawing doors, windows, and signs on flat bags (on the side without the flap). For every bag she decorates, have her stuff a second one with newspaper. Then, she should open each decorated bag and slide it over a stuffed bag so her "buildings" will stand up. For the roads, she can cut black construction paper into strips and tape them together.

Finally, have your child lay out her roads and arrange her buildings alongside them to make her very own town.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc.  
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540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
www.rfeonline.com

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### Q & A

### Bullying: The bystander's role

**Q:** My child came home from school upset because kids were picking on a classmate and wouldn't let her play with them. What advice should I give my daughter?

**A:** Tell your youngster that her classmate was being bullied—and that she has the power to help stop it!

There are several things she can do. She could start by standing up to the bully and saying something like, "That's not nice." Then, she might ask the child who is being bullied to join her in a game or school project.

Also, remind your youngster to report bullying to a teacher or other adult when she sees it. Let her know this is not tattling, but a way to help someone who is being hurt. You can explain: "Asking an adult to help a child who is being bullied is like asking the nurse to help a child with a scraped knee."♥



### PARENT TO PARENT

### Thinking games

Between school, errands, and activities, my family spends lots of time on the go. I decided to use some of it for "thinking games."

I taught my kids a game my parents used to play with me, called "Would You Rather?" I offer two options and ask which they prefer and why. For example, I might say, "Would you rather live near the beach or the mountains?"

My son came up with a game he named "Three Favorites." Someone picks



a category (outfits, movies), and we all tell our top three choices. My daughter thought of "What Doesn't Belong?" We take turns naming items and asking the others to explain which is the odd one out and why. The kids especially like this game because there can be more than one "right" answer. For example, when I named "owl," "ostrich," and "eagle," my daughter said, "Ostrich, because it can't fly."

My son's answer was, "Owl, because it hunts at night."

Now they want to play all the time. I'm glad because we're having fun—and they've gotten better at thinking through their ideas.♥