



# FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5626 Sykesville Road  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784  
(410)751-3525 (410)795-4767

Freedom Web Site: <http://www.carrollk12.org/fes>

Richard H. Huss  
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen  
Assistant Principal

## November 2009 Newsletter

### Character Trait of the Month

November – Cooperation/Kindness/Courtesy

*“Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind.” Eric Hoffer (American writer and philosopher)*

Dear Parents,

Freedom students, parents, and staff have much to be proud of. Our students again performed above state and county averages in nearly all areas on the MSA administered in grades 3, 4, and 5 last spring. The following chart reflects the outstanding achievements of our students. Freedom students achieve at these high levels thanks to their great effort, skilled teachers, and supportive parents.

### 2009 Maryland School Assessment Percentage of Students at Proficient and Advanced Levels

Assessment	Freedom	Carroll Co.	Maryland
Grade 3 Math	94.2	91.2	84.3
Grade 3 Reading	94.2	89.8	84.9
Grade 4 Math	95.1	94.3	89.2
Grade 4 Reading	98.8	91.9	86.6
Grade 5 Math	87.4	88.6	81.2
Grade 5 Reading	99	94.3	89.5

Our ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) met regularly over the summer to develop our school improvement plan for 2009-10. We will continue to explore programs and supports to move us toward the 2014 goal of 100% proficient and advanced established by No Child Left Behind. Even though we are close in many areas, the challenge will be great.

American Education Week is quickly approaching and we are planning to follow the same visitation approach which was extremely well-received last year. Rather than designating a visitation day per grade during that week, we invite parents to visit any day during the year. This allows for a more normal instructional week during American Education Week. It also prevents hurt feelings on the part of students when a parent’s work schedule makes it impossible to visit when nearly everyone else has a visitor. We simply ask that you notify the homeroom teacher regarding your intention to visit to be sure we are not having special programs or activities that will change the schedule. We hope you find this flexible visitation approach to be a scheduling



advantage as well.

Report cards will be distributed to students in Grades 1-5 on November 6. Parent conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 23. The parent-teacher conference is an invaluable experience for both the parent and the teacher. You will be able to get to know your child’s teacher, share information, and gain insight into your child’s performance in school.

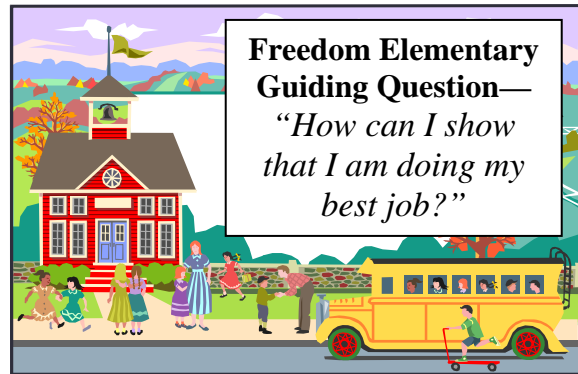
Conferences will be arranged by calling the school office beginning on Monday, November 9, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. This will allow us to coordinate schedules directly without having to send communication back and forth. Keep in mind that most grades switch for some subjects so you might need to schedule conferences with 2 or more teachers.

Remember to call the school office at 410-751-3525 during the designated times if you wish to arrange a conference for conference day. If you cannot come in on conference day, please make arrangements with the teacher for another date. You can make these alternative arrangements via phone or email contact.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Huss  
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen  
Assistant Principal



### Do You Know a Veteran?

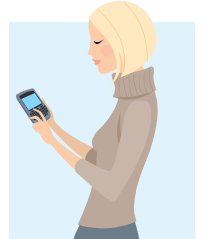
The 5th grade class will be honoring veterans and those currently serving in the armed services on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 9:45 a.m. in the cafeteria. There will be a special speaker and music performed by the students. If you know someone who has served or is currently serving, please invite them to come with you to the program.

### 2009-2010 School Calendar Early Dismissal Dates

Please take notice of the early dismissals that are built into this year’s calendar. Please note that lunch is served on all early dismissal days but extras (ice cream, etc.) are not. **The following dates are scheduled to have 2 hour and 45 minute early dismissals (Freedom dismissal at 12:20 p.m.):**

November 9<sup>th</sup>  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
February 5<sup>th</sup>  
April 1<sup>st</sup>  
June 10<sup>th</sup>

December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March 15<sup>th</sup>  
May 11<sup>th</sup>



### Looking Ahead

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

.....**MSA for 2009-10** The Maryland School Assessments will be given to students in grades 3, 4, and 5 on March 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> (Reading) and March 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> (Math). Grade 5 students will take the MSA Science Assessment from April 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

### System-wide:

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

### Elementary Only:

If weather, or another condition, warrants a late opening on days when an early dismissal is scheduled for elementary students, Dr. Ecker 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.**

### Media News - Book Fair is Coming!

Our wonderful and HUGE Scholastic Book Fair is on its way! There will be many new and exciting items to please even the pickiest reader. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

**Monday, November 9 – Friday, November 13 > Browsing Week**

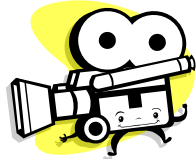
\*Students will create wish lists when they come to media. Lists will go home with students.

**Monday, November 16 – Friday, November 20 > Buying Week**

\*Students will have a chance to buy items during their regularly scheduled media class.

**Thursday, November 19 – 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM > FAMILY NIGHT! (We hope to see you there!)**

\***PLEASE NOTE**\* **CHECKS ONLY** can be accepted from students buying during their media class within Buying Week. **CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS** will be accepted during **FAMILY NIGHT**. **Please do not send or bring cash.** Due to school system policy we cannot accept cash.



### Picture Retakes

Picture retakes have been scheduled for Friday, November 6, from 1:00 - 3:00.

### Fire Safety Poster Winners!!!!

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Madison McDaniels + 1<sup>st</sup> Place County WINNER**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Caitlin O'Dea**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Calista Brown**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Madaline Marland + 3<sup>rd</sup> place County WINNER**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Leah Pruitt**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Malique Inyinbor**

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Elise Whitley + 2<sup>nd</sup> Place County WINNER**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Amanda Jenkins**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Wil Clancy**

**Thank you to EVERYONE who participated!!**



### Homework Requests and Vacations

While we recognize that many trips provide valuable learning experiences, the increase we are seeing in lost school time due to vacations is very concerning. Teachers are receiving requests to provide 1-3 weeks worth of work in advance of trips. To prepare this work takes valuable time away from their classroom preparation and from students. When a teacher receives a parent request for homework due to a vacation (minimum 3 school days advance notice) some basic assignments will be provided. All other work will be

collected during the course of the absence and will be provided upon return. Please be aware that loss of instructional time due to vacations can have a negative impact on student learning and possibly grades. Many activities are lab or discussion based and cannot be duplicated outside of the classroom.



Kindergarten has been busy with the caterpillars, chrysalises, and our butterflies. We watched them fly away on their way to Mexico.

We have been talking about fire safety and how to stay safe. Lt. Chris Flanagan from the Sykesville-Freedom came during Specials, to demonstrate fire safety, and to take all of the children on the fire truck.

We are looking forward to our Storybook Character Day on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to the many special books being shared by our children. We will be having a fall party to end our day, too.

In November, we will be having a tasting party to go along with our Thanksgiving activities.

Conferences are Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to seeing you. Don't forget to call the office to sign-up for your conference.

December proves to be a busy month with an airport unit, as we "visit" many places to learn about their customs. We will have a winter celebration on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Have a thoughtful Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season!!



The children continue to do well in first grade. Everyone is settled into the schedule and daily classroom routines. Children are becoming more skilled at writing their letters and using upper and lower case letters appropriately. Children are expressing their ideas in writing. Please consider having your child keep a journal at home to encourage writing. Remind your child to use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, names of people, and when using "I" alone. They should also put spaces between their words, use correct letter formation and punctuation.

The children have also made growth in reading by adding more words to their sight word vocabulary and they are utilizing strategies to decode words. Please encourage reading at home. The more children read and the more parents share good literature, the greater the gains in reading skills. When reading to your child at home, encourage him/her to find the chunks that are being worked on at school (examples: at, an, it, ig).

Children have enjoyed the special events in the first quarter. We have had Pumpkin Day and are looking forward to studying magnets. Children have been meeting with their 5th grade reading buddies every month. We look forward to this event because it gives students the opportunity to become a community of learners throughout the school. Please make sure your child reads for 15 minutes each night and records the books on the sheets provided.

Children will be working with parts and totals to make addition sentences and are working more independently in math. They have finished their Number Relations cluster. Please review numbers 0-50. Use flash cards to match numbers to number names, put number cards in order, and ask your child to write specific numbers. Look for numbers around the house (example: page numbers, recipes, computer games, shoe sizes).

In the next few months, we will be concentrating on many new skills. In reading, we will focus on story elements and using specific details from the text to give a strong retelling, as well as using a variety of strategies

to decode words. In writing, we will be expanding our ideas by writing detailed sentences.

Here are some suggestions to help your child have a good day at school. Please make sure your child gets a good night's rest. Children at this age need about ten hours of sleep to be fully rested. A successful day also begins with a healthy breakfast. The weather is changing. Please remember to send your children to school with jackets, gloves, and hats as we will be going outside everyday. Please check children's supplies for pencils, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks. Lastly, please see that homework is completed and packed in your child's bookbag. As the holiday season approaches there are many activities to share with your children. Take time to enjoy your children during this special season as we enjoy them each and every day.



We have enjoyed working with the children throughout this first marking period.

We are excited to see them engaged in their learning. We look forward to the months ahead as the children continue to learn.

In ILA, the children have been learning many comprehension strategies to improve their understanding of the text. We encourage your child to share independent reading at home. The Accelerated Reading Program is a great way to reinforce the reading skills at home. In order to earn points, they will be required to answer comprehension questions based on the text. Help them to be prepared for the AR tests by discussing the books with them prior to taking the test.

Writing incorporates reading and spelling. Encourage the writing of lists, notes, friendly letters, and personal journals. While reviewing your child's writing, check for accuracy of words that have been introduced and assessed in spelling. Capitalization and punctuation should also be a part of their writing at home. At the present time, second graders should use capital letters at the beginning of sentences, for proper nouns and the word "I." They should also use proper punctuation at the end of sentences.

We have been very pleased that the children have been completing their assignments in a timely manner. Thank you for encouraging them to take ownership of their work. However, the quality of their work is just as important. Please take the time to check over the homework for accuracy, neatness and legibility.

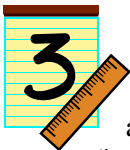
We have finished our science insect unit. Their insect projects have been proudly displayed in the media center.

Our social studies unit on communities is underway. This would be a great opportunity to observe your own community and the places people work, live and play.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

\* As the weather gets colder, please be sure your child comes prepared with a coat/jacket for outside playtime and physical education.

\*Check and replenish your child's school supplies.



The children are doing a good job as they have transitioned from second grade.

We remind parents to continue to check assignment books nightly for homework. ILA (including reading and spelling) and math homework are assigned nightly Monday through Thursday. Parent signatures for spelling word sorts should be put right in their assignment books. The Hoffy folder is where any notes need to be placed so they can be turned in to the teacher.

The first report cards are almost here! We have been trying our best to make this first marking period a success. Each class has been reading, reading, and

reading some more. Students are making inferences in their reading, clarifying things that do not make sense, and identifying causes and effects of characters' actions in their stories. Comprehension is a true evaluation of your child's level of reading. Ask your child questions about the stories read in class. Encourage your child to read at least 15 minutes a day outside of class. Share a read aloud or reread an old favorite with them. We love cursive and are working hard each day on our letters.

We encourage participation in the Accelerated Reader Program. Students are able to view a listing of books available on the school's website. After reading one of the books, a student will then test his/her comprehension skills on the computer at school. The students earn points for the number of books they successfully read and will be rewarded at the end of each month with points that can be used to buy things at the AR store.

Third grade is also doing the Type to Learn program. The children visit the computer lab once a week and practice typing for 15 minutes.

In math, students are currently working on Cluster Three, making and interpreting graphs. We'd like to remind parents that third grade benchmarks require the memorization of addition and subtraction facts up to 18. Please continue practicing addition and subtraction facts with your child on a daily basis. Problem solvers (BCR's—brief constructed responses) will be sent home on a regular basis so be on the lookout for them. Explaining math strategies using numbers and math vocabulary is an important part of understanding math concepts.

In social studies, students have completed units on Econ and map skills. They have begun the Carroll County unit. We encourage you to visit the historic sites and interesting places right here in our county. Help students understand what life was like in communities before Safeway and McDonald's.

In science, students have completed the physics unit and are now working on the chemistry unit. We encourage you to visit the local library to research and extend the knowledge learned in class.

The third grade team appreciates the parent volunteers who help in our classrooms. We thank you for your dedication.

We want to remind parents that weather permitting, students will have outside recess every day. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately now that it is getting colder.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education.



Fourth graders are off to a good start and settling in to the school routine. Our field trip to Piney Run Park for The Lake Study Program was a great way for the students to see the food web in nature.

Fourth graders will be using the Type-to-Learn program in the computer lab and we will continue to use the Accelerated Reader incentive program. Again, we encourage the children to read and participate in this program. Books read for AR and Strive for 25 can be the same. Students also are encouraged to use [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com) on a regular basis at home for review.

Be sure to have your child dress for the weather. Hats, gloves and earmuffs may be needed, as the weather gets cooler. Please label these items.

Most math classes have completed Cluster 3 by now. During cluster 4, Number Relationships and Computation, students will be developing multiplication and division skills. We will also be getting ready for the January countywide math assessment. Please practice the number facts at home. It is important to memorize

the multiplication tables since so much relies on this skill. Flash cards make good holiday gifts, as do computer math games to reinforce facts. Many websites also are a great way to aide in memorization of multiplication facts including:

Fact Dash -

<http://www.macmillanmh.com/math/2009/ca/assets/factdash.html>

Multiplication.com -

<http://www.multiplication.com/>

Academic Skillbuilders -

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/>

In science, we are wrapping up our Adaptations Unit. During the next unit, Force, Motion, and Energy students will perform experiments to understand how force, motion, and energy interact with each other. In social studies, students will be continuing to explore Maryland's past.

In ILA, your child will be exposed to a variety of literature. Writing will continue to be an emphasis. We have been working on writing personal narratives and paragraphs of information. We are using the 6+1 Traits writing program. Some students may also be working on report and letter writing. Retelling is an important skill to work on. Read with your child and practice retelling. Be sure to include the setting, characters, and plot.

Don't forget about after-school help on Thursdays. If you would like your child to stay after to make-up missed work, study for a test, or just get some extra help, just send in a note or email to [jrcastn@k12.carr.org](mailto:jrcastn@k12.carr.org) to let us know.

Enjoy and have happy, healthy holidays!!!



The fifth grade has had a wonderful start to the school year. The students have adjusted nicely to the routines of fifth grade and are striving to "Do Their Best Job" on a daily basis.

In math, the students are expected to be proficient in their math facts. The cluster being taught at this time is multiplication of whole numbers and decimals. Students can access the internet for math games that were listed and sent home along with other math activities that should help the students improve their math skills.

In science, we finished the Environmental Unit-Unless. Students examined the dynamic nature of living things, their interacting in the environment, and the results from the interactions that occur over time. Through an environmental issue investigation, students took action to positively impact their home and school environments.

In social studies, students are learning about the colonial time period. Students explored economic, social, and political aspects of colonial life, especially Williamsburg. Students will study the Revolutionary Period through 1790 and government.

In reading, the students have finished the unit on nature's fury with a volcano brochure. The current unit is a study of individuals who show strength of character in the "Give It All You've Got" unit. Grammar, spelling, and language skills are taught throughout the units as we go along.

Please check your child's homework pad to make sure that homework is being completed. Fifth graders should be reading for at least 15 minutes a night on their own to stay in stride with the 25 books required to be read for the year. Thanks for your continued support.

## Music

All of our Freedom students are enjoying the new music room. Students in grades 1-5 spent the first month of school reviewing musical concepts taught last year.



Kindergartners are building their song list and will be working on readiness skills such as high/low, fast/slow, same/different, loud/soft, and singing vs. speaking voice. First graders are clapping quarter and eighth note rhythms. They are also identifying lines and spaces on the staff. Second graders are reviewing time signatures, bar lines, double bar lines, repeat signs, and measures. They are also working on the placement of the notes so, mi, and la on the staff and reviewing quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth notes.

Third grade is studying the string family of instruments. Rhythmically, they are mastering quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes, half notes, whole notes, and sixteenth notes. During the second marking period, students will be introduced to the treble clef and the musical alphabet in preparation for playing the recorder later in the school year.

Chorus and instrumental lessons are two new things that the fourth grade has had the opportunity to join this year in addition to their regular music instruction. Fourth grade chorus meets every Tuesday from 8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Instrumentalists have a rotating schedule with Mr. Hiner on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During music classes, they have reviewed the treble clef and musical letter names. They have learned eighth followed by two sixteenth notes and continue to expand their rhythmic skills.

Fifth graders reviewed eighth and two sixteenth notes and two sixteenth notes followed by an eighth through song material such as "La Bamba" and "Simple Gifts." We also listened to Aaron Copland's arrangement of the song "Simple Gifts" for a choir and Copland's "Variations on Simple Gifts" from Appalachian Spring. We are currently working on syncopation. Fifth grade chorus and second year instrumentalists are rehearsing for their Winter Concert to be held on Monday, December 14.



## Art

Kindergarten, first and second grade have been learning how to represent ideas visually from observation, memory, and imagination. They learned how artists use line, color, shape, texture, and form when creating artwork.

Third grade has learned to experiment with art media, processes, and techniques to generate ideas and express personal meaning. They created colorful 3-D paper masks and are working on beautiful crayon-resist cityscapes now.

Fourth grade completed clay masks and used a variety of techniques in creating their visual ideas. They are now learning about vanishing point and perspective.

Fifth grade worked on a rainforest mural in the art room. All students selected and used a variety of tools, materials, processes, and techniques to create our theme.

## Health

Our health classes are off to a busy start to the school year. In grades K-5, we started the year with our unit on mental and emotional health. This unit sets the basis for our entire school year as we are able to define total health wellness. We also have learned about fire safety during **Fire Prevention Week** in October. Students in grades 1, 3, and 5 participated in the Carroll County Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

From October 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, we also participated in the countywide fitness and health program, **Project ACES**. In the intermediate grades, we learned about

muscular endurance and muscle strength, as well as flexibility and heart and lung fitness. We applied what we learned by creating fitness plans for our two week workout. 5<sup>th</sup> grade sent cards to our staff encouraging them to participate. The primary grades also made a fitness plan to include how they could meet the 60 minutes a day challenge. Let's hope we continue our fitness plan beyond those two weeks.

We also had fun with our spirit days during the nationally recognized, **Red Ribbon Week**. Our students learned about ways to stay drug free and signed a pledge for our community to see that we are a Drug Free school.

We will begin November by thoroughly studying nutrition. Hopefully, our students will apply what they have learned in health to their daily eating habits.

As the winter months approach, we will focus on ways to stay germ free and healthy by covering our disease prevention unit. In grades K-2, we will learn ways to stop the spread of germs, while 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade will focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases. Everyone remember to wash your hands!!!

### Returning to the Classroom for Forgotten Items

As a reminder, Freedom Elementary School policy states that children are not permitted to return to the classroom after the school day for forgotten items such as homework, books, etc. There are several purposes behind this policy.

- Students learn at an early age to accept responsibility, especially for their own learning.
- Our building can be a safe, secure environment for those who are working after hours.
- Staff members can complete their duties without interruptions.

Our students are given 15 minutes at the end of the school day to pack up before dismissal, which we believe is more than enough time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Presidential Award for Academic Excellence

Freedom Elementary will again participate in the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. These awards will be presented in June of 2010. Grade 5 students are eligible in either reading or math based on the following criteria:

- Grade 4 MSA ADVANCED in reading
- 3.5 G.P.A. (language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) for all of Grade 4 and the first two marking periods of Grade 5

**OR**

- Grade 4 MSA ADVANCED in mathematics
- January Grade 4, May Grade 4, January Grade 5 Math Benchmarks are each 90% or higher
- 3.5 G.P.A. (language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) for all of Grade 4 and the first two marking periods of Grade 5

### Freedom Honor Roll Criteria

{Third, Fourth, & Fifth Graders Only}

### Principal's Honor Roll:

Straight A's with all O's and S's (no more than 3 S's in Effort and Work & Social Habits)

### Freedom Honor Roll:

Students must meet both of the following criteria in order to qualify:

\*All A's and B's

**AND**

\*All O's and S's in Effort and Work & Social Habits

### Food Items and Birthday Treats

Due to the increasing number of students with potentially life-threatening food allergies, a policy has been implemented at elementary schools, including Freedom. Parents are not to send in food items to be shared for birthday treats. Instead, we are asking that parents who wish to send items consider non-food items such as pencils, erasers, stickers, etc. Treat certificates can still be purchased from the cafeteria for \$.75 each. That would allow students to select from any of the snack items sold in the cafeteria.

### Party Invitations

Please be sure that all invitations to private outside events (birthday parties, etc.) are delivered outside the school setting. It has caused much heartache when someone is left out and others are receiving invitations in the classroom.



### Clogs and Crocs

For safety reasons, we continue to remind students that appropriate footwear is required at school each day. There should be no open-toed shoes, sandals, clogs, or crocs as students have recess and/or PE activities every day. They must be able to run, jump, and play safely. We appreciate your understanding.

### GOODSEARCH.COM

Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and select Freedom Elementary as the non-profit you wish to support. For every internet search you do, we receive a penny. Pennies make dollars!

### Fieldtrip Chaperones

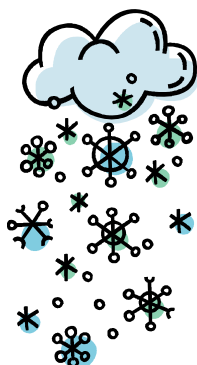
We encourage parents and guardians to accompany children on trips when possible. At times the number of chaperones is limited by available bus space or allocation from the location we are visiting. Chaperones are to be parents or legal guardians over the age of 21. Please be sure you have completed the required volunteer training **prior** to signing up to chaperone.

### A.H.E.R.A. Notice

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A.) management plans for all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County are available for review at the individual Carroll County School locations and at the Office of Plant Operations located at 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157. Management plans are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action projected for any asbestos-containing materials, if any are located in the school building.

*The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, 410-751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or [publicinfo@carrollk12.org](mailto:publicinfo@carrollk12.org), or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.*

## *Post on refrigerator or bulletin board*



### **EMERGENCY EARLY DISMISSALS**

#### **When the weather is “iffy” . . .**

Please use radio stations, TV, the internet and/or AlertNow messages to be informed of a possible early school closing. You may want to consider asking another parent to contact you if he/she hears an early dismissal announcement. The school cannot call parents to inform them of an early dismissal. Please do not call the school to ask about school closings. Public announcements are often made prior to the school receiving notification and school phone lines need to be kept open for urgent and emergency calls.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

**Inclement weather – school closing information may be found on pages 22 and 24 in the CCPS Informational Calendar.**

All public schools in Carroll County will be closed on days when inclement weather conditions warrant. The decision to close schools is made by the Superintendent of Schools, and if at all possible, announcements will be made no later than 6:00 a.m. The determination is made after consulting with weather forecasters, the State Police, highway departments, and other sources in different parts of the county.

The official stations for carrying school closing announcements are:

#### **RADIO STATIONS**

WTTR (1470 AM)	Westminster	WAFY-KEY (103.1 FM)	Frederick
WANN (1190 AM)	Annapolis	WASA (1330 AM)	Havre de Grace
WBAL (1090 AM)	Baltimore	WBGR (860 AM)	Baltimore
WCAO (600 AM)	Baltimore	WCRH (90.5 FM)	Williamsport
WFMD (930 AM) WFRE	Frederick	WGET (1320 AM)	Gettysburg
WGRX (104.5 FM)	Baltimore	WHVR (1280 AM) WYCR	Hanover
WJHY (94.5 FM)	Baltimore	WNAV (1430 AM)	Annapolis
WMAL (630 AM)	Washington	WWMS (106.5 FM)	Baltimore
WPOC (93.1 FM) WCAO	Baltimore	WQSR (105.7 FM)	Baltimore
WRBS (95.1 FM)	Baltimore	WTOP (1500 AM)	Washington
WWLG (1360 AM)	Baltimore	WXTR (104.1 FM)	Washington
WYCR (98.5 FM)	Hanover		

**INTERNET**    [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org).

#### **TELEVISION STATIONS**

Carroll Educational Television-Channel 21 Westminster			
WMAR-TV Channel 2	Baltimore	WBAL-TV Channel 11	Baltimore
WJZ-TV Channel 13	Baltimore	WJLA-TV Channel 7	Washington
WRC-TV Channel 4	Washington	WUSA-TV Channel 9	Washington
Fox Channel 5	Washington	WBFF – Fox 45	Baltimore

If the opening of schools must be delayed or schools must be closed early, notification will be made through the stations listed. No announcement will be made when schools are on a regular schedule. On days when schools are closed or when there is an early dismissal because of inclement weather, all after-school school-sponsored activities, adult evening classes, and recreational council activities will be cancelled. Parents and pupils **are urged not to call the stations, the Board of Education, or the school office** to inquire about school closings.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

#### **SCHOOL OPENING DELAYED ONE (1) HOUR**

**GRADES K - 5 begin at 9:35 A.M. and dismiss at 3:05 P.M.**

#### **SCHOOL OPENING DELAYED TWO (2) HOURS**

**GRADES K - 5 begin at 10:35 A.M. and dismiss at 3:05 P.M.**

#### **SCHOOL CLOSING TO BE ONE (1) HOUR EARLIER THAN USUAL**

**GRADES K - 5 begin at 8:35 A.M. and dismiss at 2:05 P.M.**

#### **SCHOOL CLOSING TO BE TWO (2) HOURS EARLIER THAN USUAL**

**GRADES K - 5 begin at 8:35 A.M. and dismiss at 1:05 P.M.**

#### **SCHOOL CLOSING TO BE THREE (3) HOURS EARLIER THAN USUAL**

**GRADES K - 5 begin at 8:35 A.M. and dismiss at 12:05 P.M.**

**SCHEDULED VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSIONS**  
**November, 2009**

Level II Volunteers (*classroom helpers, chaperones, mentors, classroom tutors, 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.



**Please call the number provided to confirm that the training session is being held on the day and at the time listed on the schedule.** Allow adequate time so you can arrive at the training location in a timely manner. The training session will begin promptly at the scheduled time, and those arriving after the starting time may be asked to attend another session.

<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.
4	Linton Springs Elem.	10:00 AM	410-751-3280
5	Mechanicsville Elementary	9:30 AM	410-751-3510
5	Westminster Elementary	6:00 PM	410-751-3222
5	+ Cranberry Station Elem.	6:30 PM	410-386-4440
9	Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
9	Shiloh Middle	6:30 PM	410-386-4570
10	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3530
11	Eldersburg Elementary	9:30 AM	410-751-3520
11	Eldersburg Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3520
12	Spring Garden Elementary	7:30 AM	410-751-3433
12	Linton Springs Elem.	4:00 PM	410-751-3280
12	South Carroll High	6:30 PM	410-751-3575
12	Linton Springs Elem.	7:00 PM	410-751-3280
12	Oklahoma Road Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3600
16	Winters Mill High	9:00 AM	410-386-1500
17	Sykesville Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3545
17	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3242
18	Francis Scott Key High	5:00 PM	410-751-3320
18	Francis Scott Key High	6:30 PM	410-751-3320
18	Mechanicsville Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3510
18	Mt. Airy Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3540 301-829-1515
18	Westminster Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3222
23	Westminster High	2:00 PM	410-751-3630



## Not My Child

### “Online Activities”

November 2009



Most children today have personal cell phones, and these devices are invaluable for allowing instant contact between parents and their children. However, these same cell phones are also being used to record all manner of videos. On sites like *YouTube* and *eBaum's World*, you will find videos of deadly car wrecks, dangerous stunts, embarrassing moments, and illegal activity. Underage drinking is also a popular theme for kids. “I’m going to chug a pint of Jack Daniels out of this here beer bong,” announces a boy who’s made a home video from his college dorm room.” Each day, 70,000 videos are being uploaded to *YouTube*, and kids are “pushing the envelope” trying to do more outrageous things so they can post a video that will draw a high number of viewing hits.

The vast majority of teens spend a significant amount of time online. According to a recent Harris Interactive Poll, 72% of teens have an online social-networking profile (*MySpace*, *Facebook*), 73% use cell phones, and 91% have an email address. But what information are they sharing? Consider these statistics:

- 59% believe posting personal information or photos on public blogs or social-networking sites is “somewhat unsafe” or “very unsafe.”
- 7% believe posting personal information is “very safe.”
- 34% believe posting personal information is “somewhat safe.”
- 62% post photos of themselves.
- 45% post the name of their school.
- 4% post their home address.
- 14% post their cell phone number.



It is important that parents stress to their children that anyone has access to view videos that have been uploaded to a public website, such as *YouTube*, including potential employers and college admissions staff. Because these videos are recorded “in private” and uploaded on a personal computer in the seclusion of a bedroom or home office, children tend to think their videos are private and anonymous. In reality, it’s easy for someone with sophisticated search tools to track down the person who uploaded a video. Explain the potential dangers of posting embarrassing videos online and make sure your kids understand that once they post information on the Internet, it can’t be taken back.

Great online resources for parents can be found at:

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/safety-tips-tweens-teens.aspx>

<http://www.ikeepsafe.org/>

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact:

Anna Bible, Coordinator of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Carroll County Public Schools

410-751-3331

[ambible@carrollk12.org](mailto:ambible@carrollk12.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2009</h1>						
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 Mobile Science Lab Grades 3-5 (November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> )	3	4	5 7PM Market Day Pick-Up	6 <b>Report Cards Go Home</b>  Picture Retakes	7
8	9 Adventure Gym Book Fair Browsing <b>2 hour 45 minute Early Dismissal (12:20PM)</b> PTA Restaurant Day Chili's	10 Adventure Gym  Book Fair Browsing  PTA Cultural Program	11 7PM PTA Meeting Adventure Gym Book Fair Browsing  2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program 5PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	12 Adventure Gym  Book Fair Browsing	13 Adventure Gym Book Fair Browsing  Vision & Hearing Rescreening	14
15	16 Adventure Gym  Book Fair Buying  American Education Week	17 Adventure Gym  Book Fair Buying  American Education Week	18 Adventure Gym  Book Fair Buying  American Education Week	19 Adventure Gym Book Fair Buying Book Fair Family Night 4:30-7:00PM American Education Week	20 PTA Movie Night  Adventure Gym Book Fair Buying  American Education Week	21
22	23 <b>Schools Closed for Students</b>  Parent/Teacher Conference Day	24  <b>Schools Closed for Students</b>	25  <b>Schools/Offices Closed</b>	26  <b>Schools/Offices Closed</b>	27  <b>Schools/Offices Closed</b>	28
29	30					



# NOVEMBER 2009



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Pizza Soup Applesauce Fudge Bar	3 Popcorn Chicken w/Sauces Tater Tots Roll Fruit Animal Crackers	4 Chicken Patty on Roll Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Chicken Noodle Soup Pears	5 Breadsticks w/ Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Peaches Jello	6 Pizza Green Beans Fruit Cookie
9 Pizzas Hot Vegetable Fruit Cookie	10 Chicken Nuggets w/ Choice of Sauces French Fries Roll Mixed Fruit	11 Orange Juice Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty Pancake w/ Syrup Baked Cinnamon Apples  <b>Breakfast For Lunch</b>	12 Sliced Turkey & Dressing Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Green Peas or Sauerkraut Cranberry Sauce Roll Holiday Dessert  <b>Thanksgiving Dinner</b>	13 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Applesauce Cookie
16 Oven Baked Cheesesticks w/ Dipping Sauce Hot Vegetable Peaches Fruit Juice Bar <b>Lucky Tray Day</b>	17 Ham & Cheese Sub OR Turkey & Cheese Wrap Chicken Rice Soup Pears Cookie	18 Chicken Tenders Roll Potato Rounds Green Beans Rainbow Apples	19 Hard or Soft Shell Taco w/ Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn & Rice Applesauce Fruit	20 Pizza Hot Vegetable Mixed Fruit Cookie

**SCHOOL**

**CLOSED**

**FOR**

**STUDENTS**

**THANKSGIVING**

**HOLIDAY**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



30

Hamburger Or Cheeseburger  
on Roll  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Rosy Applesauce  
Cookie