



## 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

### October 2009 Newsletter

#### Character Trait of the Month

#### October – Responsibility

*“The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”*  
Denis Waitley (motivational speaker)

*It is the mission of Freedom Elementary to provide an environment where all students become lifelong learners and productive citizens.*

Dear Parents,

Thanks to our wonderful staff, students, and parents, the school year has had a very positive and productive first month. Please continue to reinforce the expectations for student behaviors that are part of our schoolwide “Respect, Responsibility, and Right to Learn” program as well as our guiding question, “How can I show that I am doing my best job?”

Carroll County has implemented a new county wide computerized discipline system. The format of parent notices has changed and appears more formal in that you will receive a computer generated letter as opposed a Freedom specific form. This does not change the behavioral expectations or consequences that have been in place at Freedom Elementary. It only changes the notification format.

We are thrilled to announce that our very successful A-Team program is off and running for year number three! This is a program where parent volunteers work with specific students during our arrival and dismissal times to provide extra support with skills the children are working on in the classrooms. The fall session for the A-Team will run from September 22 – December 4, 2009 followed by a spring session from February 1 – April 30. Thank you so much to our parent volunteers for their contribution to this program and especially to Dianne Delgado who has done a fantastic job organizing the A-Team volunteers this year!

Over the summer our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) met several times to design this year’s School Improvement Plan (SIP). We are excited about many initiatives that have been put in place or that are continuing from past years. We have four professional grants that we have been awarded, all focusing on teacher collaboration to improve instruction and learning. We have many math and ILA interventions in place for our students, including our A-Team program. Professional development continues to be a

strong element of our plan and a wide variety of topics will be addressed throughout the year. Thank you to Luann Reichenbaugh and Sue Hall for serving as our parent representatives on our leadership team!

For the safety of students, we ask that you limit last minute calls for additions to parent pick-up to emergencies only. We continue to have a large number of calls received, even as we are beginning dismissal, to add students to parent pick-up. This creates a potentially serious situation for a student to not get the message and be in an unsafe situation of going home to an unattended home or daycare. Also, we have no way to verify that the caller is the legal parent or guardian. We ask that all notifications of dismissal changes be in writing and received in the office prior to 2:00 PM. They can be faxed to 410-751-3598.

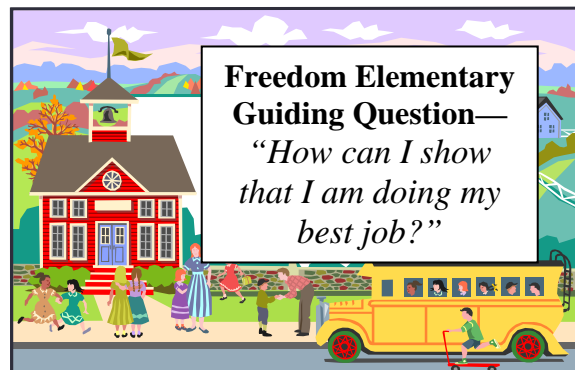
We are pleased that our morning buses arrive in a very short period. However, it creates an occasional back-up on the school lot due to high volume of car traffic for parent drop-offs. Please make every effort to have your child(ren) ride the bus each day. Additionally, if you must do drop-off, please plan to wait until **8:20 a.m.** This will allow buses to unload and return safely to Route 32 before cars crowd the lot.

We appreciate all our Freedom parents do to place safety of students first!

Sincerely,

Richard H. Huss  
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen  
Assistant Principal



## 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!

### 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.):**

**October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

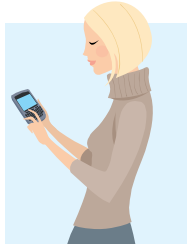
**November 9<sup>th</sup>**

**December**

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**June 10<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>.

### Health News

We have an exciting month ahead of us in October!!

We are promoting the importance of physical fitness by participating in **Project ACES**. It is our goal to have children participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. This program is a county-wide incentive that runs from October 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. During those days, please remember to record your activities on the forms and turn them in at the end of the program.

We will recognize the importance of fire safety during **Fire Prevention Week**, October 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. We will participate in a Fire Prevention Poster Contest for Grades 1, 3, & 5. Winners from each grade will be selected by the Carroll County Emergency Services Association.

We will support the nationwide **Red Ribbon Week**, October 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Activities in health class will support saying no to substance abuse. We have voted on the spirit days we'd like to have for the week to show our community we pledge to be drug free! Look for the schedule of Red Ribbon Week spirit days to come out soon!

Thank you for your support of these activities!!  
Amy Wunder, Health Teacher

### Picture Retakes

Picture Retakes will be on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 p.m. More information will follow.

### 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.



### School Closings - School Activities

When schools are dismissed early or closed for the entire day, all school-sponsored and use of facilities activities are automatically postponed/canceled in the entire school system.

### Visitors

Just a reminder - ALL visitors to the building must sign in at the main office and receive a visitor badge. The exception would be if you are going to the nurse. In that case, you may proceed directly to the nurse without signing in. Parents must check in at the office prior to visiting teachers and/or classrooms. This is for the safety of all children and staff.

### Security Cameras

In a continuing effort to provide a safe and orderly environment, security cameras exist both inside and outside our school building. All persons using our facility will be subject to this surveillance.

### Classroom Visitations

American Education Week is quickly approaching (November 16-20) and we are planning to follow the same visitation approach which has been extremely well-received during past years. Rather than designating a visitation day per grade during that week, we invite parents to visit any day that week or at any time during the year. This allows for a more normal instructional week during American Education Week. 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.



### **Bullying or Intimidation Acts**

Carroll County Public Schools will not tolerate any acts of discrimination, harassment, hazing, bullying, hostile acts or other forms of intimidation on the part of students or employees.

The staff at Freedom Elementary School believes that in order for children to be successful in their learning, they need to feel safe and comfortable in their environment. Consequently, staff members at school address bullying concerns immediately. If you feel that your child has been the victim of a bullying situation please ask your child if they told the adult in charge at the time. If you feel your child is unable or unwilling to advocate for himself/herself, please contact your child's teacher, school counselor, or a school administrator. Also if you feel your child could be a bully, please contact the school as well. Steps will be taken to resolve bullying issues immediately and to provide support for the students involved.

Harassment or Intimidation (Bullying) Reporting Forms are available in the main office.

### **Board of Education Meeting**

The Board of Education of Carroll County will hold its regular monthly Board meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 007 of the Board of Education offices, located at 125 North Court Street, Westminster. There will be time for citizen participation at this meeting. The public is encouraged to attend.

The agenda and back-up materials for the Board meeting will be available for review on BoardDocs, which may be accessed by visiting the school system's website at [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org) and clicking on CCPS Online Meeting Agenda on the home page. The meeting will be broadcast live on Channel 21, with rebroadcasts on Thursday, October 15, at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday, October 18, at 8:00 p.m.; and Thursday, October 22, at 8:00 p.m.

### **Moment of Silence – Board Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Education of Carroll County that all schools are required to have a moment of silent meditation for approximately one minute each day. During this moment of silence, the CCPS shall neither advance nor inhibit silent religious activity.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and before the completion of the opening exercise, all students will observe approximately one minute of silence before continuing with the day's activities. In exercising his or her individual choice, each person may meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity, which does not interfere with, distract, or impede others in the like exercise of their individual choice.

Schools are responsible for informing all students and parents of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

During this moment of silence, students can engage in any silent, thoughtful reflection. The following is a list of *inappropriate* activities:

1. Talking or any audible sounds
2. Gesturing, using sign language, or writing notes for the purpose of person-to-person communication.

Administrators shall enact appropriate administrative procedures in the event that individuals do not follow the established policy.

*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.*

## A HEALTHY SCHOOL YEAR

We are off to a healthy school year and hope to keep everyone well and happy for 2009-2010. If you have any specific questions pertaining to your child's health or CCPS policy, feel free to call me at 410-751-3529. I can also be of assistance for community resources and/or specific health conditions.

Please note these reminders of CCPS policy to help make our year successful:

- 1) All medication must be transported by a responsible adult to/from school. Medications *are* drugs and therefore students found carrying medication will be reported to the administrator for appropriate disciplinary action.
- 2) All medication must have a CCPS medication form with appropriate information completed and the doctor's signature. Medications must be in the original container and have the prescription label attached and clearly visible. The following are **not considered** to be medications and therefore students may carry them without being in violation of our drug and alcohol policy:
  - chap stick/lip balm
  - non medicated cough drops
  - saline eye drops
  - saline nose spray
  - hand creams/ lotions
  - sunscreen
  - waterless hand cleanser
- 3) Motrin and Tylenol are the only discretionary medications that may be given as needed with parent signature on the medication form.
- 4) A new CCPS policy this year is to ensure that a student is fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. A fever is considered to be 100 degrees F or more. Please use sound judgment regarding your child's return to school. If they have frequent productive cough or nasal drainage, consider another day of rest.
- 5) When students are home with gastro intestinal concerns, please make sure they have not had any bouts of vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours prior to their return to school.



We are asking parents to please send in an unopened package of underwear in your child's size. If there is an accident at school and students need a change of clothes, underwear is now required to be new, unused and considered unreturnable. If everyone donates a package of new underwear we can be assured that we will have enough for the entire school year. We will also gratefully accept any second hand gym shorts, sweats or wind pants in any child's size. Unisex colors and loose clothing works best as space is limited. Accidents happen everyday!

Thanks in advance for all the great support!!!

Kim Blessing, RN  
School Nurse

## SCHEDULED VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSIONS

October 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.**

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	Eldersburg Elementary	9:30 AM	410-751-3520
1	+ Carrolltowne Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3530
1	Eldersburg Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3520
5	Linton Springs Elem.	10:00 AM	410-751-3280
5	Westminster Elementary	6:00 PM	410-751-3222
5	Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
5	New Windsor Middle	6:30 PM	410-751-3355
7	* Ebb Valley Elementary	8:00 PM	410-386-1550
8	Linton Springs Elem.	4:00 PM	410-751-3280
8	Francis Scott Key High	4:30 PM	410-751-3320
8	+ Winters Mill High	6:00 PM	410-386-1500
8	South Carroll High	6:30 PM	410-751-3575
8	Mechanicsville Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3510
12	Northwest Middle	6:30 PM	410-751-3270
12	Shiloh Middle	6:30 PM	410-386-4570
13	Westminster Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3222
15	Spring Garden Elementary	7:30 AM	410-751-3433
15	Oklahoma Road Middle	9:00 AM	410-751-3600
15	Oklahoma Road Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3600
20	Sykesville Middle	6:30 PM	410-751-3545
20	North Carroll Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3440
21	Parr's Ridge Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3559 301-829-6585
22	Shiloh Middle	9:30 AM	410-386-4570
22	Westminster High	2:45 PM	410-751-3630
22	Mechanicsville Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3510
22	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3530
22	Linton Springs Elem.	7:00 PM	410-751-3280
26	+ Ebb Valley Elementary	5:30 PM	410-386-1550
27	+ Ebb Valley Elementary	6:30 PM	410-386-1550
27	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3242

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2009</h1>						
				1 Interim Reports Go Home	2	3
4	5 Project Aces	6 Project Aces	7 7PM PTA Meeting Project Aces	8 7PM Market Day Pick Up Project Aces	9 Project Aces	10
11	12 Project Aces Vision and Hearing Screening	13 Project Aces Vision and Hearing Screening	14 Project Aces Vision and Hearing Screening Kindergarten Program 5PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	15 Project Aces Vision and Hearing Screening	16 <b>Schools Closed for Students</b>	17
18	19	20 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Program	21	22	23	24
25	26 Red Ribbon Week	27 Red Ribbon Week	28 Red Ribbon Week 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip 1PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	29 <b>2 hour 45 minute Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)</b> Marking Period Ends Red Ribbon Week	30 Red Ribbon Week	31



# OCTOBER 2009



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
			1 Chicken Patty on Roll Chicken Noodle Soup Peaches Fruit Juice Bar	2 Pizza Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit Cookie	
5 Hamburger or Cheeseburger Potato Rounds Fruit Orange Cream Bar	6 Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty Pancake w/Syrup Juice Baked Cinnamon Apples  <b>Breakfast For Lunch</b>	7 Chicken Tenders Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Roll Fruit Animal Crackers	8 Breadsticks w/ Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Peaches Pudding	9 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Hot Vegetable Fruit Cookie	
12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Pizza Soup Peaches Fudge Bar	13 Chicken Quesadilla Corn Rainbow Apples Cookie	14 Chicken Patty on Roll Tater Tots Green Beans Fruit	15 Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cookie	16 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS</b></p>	
<b>NATIONAL</b>		<b>SCHOOL</b>		<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>WEEK</b>
19 Pizzatas [Pizza Pockets] Hot Vegetable Fruit Cookie	20 Chicken Nuggets w/ Choice of Sauce French Fries Roll Peaches Fruit Juice Bar	21 Soft or Hard Shell Taco w/ Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn & Rice Fruit Pretzel Twists	22 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Garlic Bread Pears Jello	23 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Green Beans Fruit Cookie	
26 Oven Baked Cheesesticks w/ Dipping Sauce Green Beans Pears Fruit Juice Bar  	27 Chicken Patty on Roll Chicken Noodle Soup Apple Cookie	28 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fresh Veggies & Dip Roll Fruit Cookie  <b>Just like KFC !!!</b>	29 Popcorn Chicken w/Roll Hot Vegetable Fruit Animal Crackers	30 Pizza Tossed Salad Peaches Cookie	