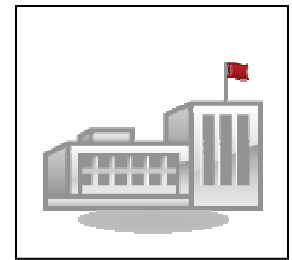


# Mt. Airy Elementary School

## November Newsletter

*"Success with a joy for learning and pride in a caring community"*



Vol.3 2009-2010

November 2009

410-795-6974  
301-829-1515  
410-751-3540  
FAX: 410-549-6917

*Students will learn and apply strategies that will empower them as self-directed thinkers in order to accept responsibility for their own behavior and learning.*

Deborah Bunker, Principal  
Allison Smith, Assistant Principal  
MAE Web Site:  
<http://www.carrollk12.org/mae/index.htm>  
CCPS Web Site: <http://www.carrollk12.org/>

Dear Parents,

The days are moving forward so quickly that it seems as if we've been here for months instead of weeks! It was quite a shock this morning to see that Mr. Pappas (thank you!) had November activities up on our marquee. Thank you again for the wonderful support that you have provided as we start this new school year. The Ice Cream Social was again a wonderful success providing us with a time to enjoy a treat as well as enjoy each other's company. During the next few weeks there will be a number of opportunities for parents to visit school and speak with teachers. Our conference schedule is much different this year. We have made the decision to make these changes based on information that was gathered from last year when we added another evening of conferences (higher number of parent conferences held) and from schools throughout the county who have gone to this model of extra evening conferences. Our first conference evening is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:30.

**This first evening is by invitation only and you will be contacted by your child's teacher concerning their request for you to come in to discuss progress. Please do not call if you have not been sent an invitation.** This information will be coming home in the next couple of days and we need to have your RSVP by October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will enable teachers to plan and may also allow us to see others if time permits. **We have two November dates slotted for conferences with all other interested parents: November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>. These will also be held from 4:00 – 7:30.** We will notify you when November conference times are available for scheduling. Our plan is to also hold an April conference evening which will again be an invitation only to discuss concerns for our next school year. We hope by spreading our conferences out, we can better meet the needs of our students and parents throughout the year. Don't forget that American Education Week is November 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and you will have an opportunity to formally visit the classroom. More information will be sent home at a later date.

Our staff has done a wonderful job of building community in their classrooms. Feedback on the use of the PRIDE sticker in the agenda book has been positive. We will continue to look at ways to refine the use of the stickers to make certain that both parents and students are getting the feedback needed. Our use of 2 -3 days of structured play at recess has had some very positive results. We have seen a reduction in health room injuries; fewer discipline issues and more children engaged in active play of their choice. Of course, students still have the opportunity to socialize (part of the purpose of recess) and they actually are making new friends as they join in some different activities (i.e. girls playing kickball).

Our first report card will be out on November 6<sup>th</sup> and you will notice a difference in the way in which we are now being asked to report math and reading grade level expectations. In both areas, we will be checking whether or not your child is on/above for grade level curriculum expectations or below grade level. In the past, there was a strong emphasis placed on accuracy in reading. As the county has altered reading curriculum, we are now looking at reading behaviors which use a variety of strategies such as self-correction. During the November conferences you will be able to ask for more specific information related to your child's progress. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conferences!

**2008-2009 PTA Executive Board Members****PTA Officers**President: Lee Piccolo [leepiccolo@comcast.net](mailto:leepiccolo@comcast.net)1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Susie Paschal[sfpaschal@comcast.net](mailto:sfpaschal@comcast.net)2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Cheryl Pickard

Secretary: Carrie Davis

[Carriedavis806@yahoo.com](mailto:Carriedavis806@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Lisa Witt

[Lisa.witt@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisa.witt@yahoo.com)**PTA General Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.**

November 17 @ MAES

January 20 @ PARRS

March 17 @ MAES

April 21 @ PARRS

**Dates to Remember**

Nov. 9 2 hr. 45 min. Early Dismissal

Nov. 12 Conference Day - 4:00-6:40

Nov. 13 Fall Social @ PARRS

Nov. 18 Conference Day – 4:00-7:00

Nov. 23-27 Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

**Late Arrivals and Early Dismissals**

All students arriving at school after 8:35 a.m. are considered late. Please walk your children into the main office and sign them in. For safety reasons, dropping late students at the door is not permitted. Please remember that students for early dismissal must be picked up prior to 2:50 p.m. in the main office. After 2:50 p.m. students will be sent to Parent pick up in the gym.

**Recess Policy**

Students will be going outside for recess as long as the temperature is above 32 degrees. Parents and students should determine what is the appropriate outside attire for cooler weather. All students will participate in outside recess; teachers will not make decisions on appropriate dress.

**From the Health Room - Donations Needed**

We are in need of **NEW** packages of boys and girls underwear in the Health Room. We are also low on girls' clothes. We can use any gently used clothing, elastic waist pants are always in need. Shirts, pants, and socks can be used as well. Thank you in advance for any donations.

**Attendance Recording Policy**

A note is required from a parent when a student returns to school following an absence in order to assure proper coding. A doctor's note may be requested.

Absences for family travel will be excused (with administration permission) and students will be **allowed to make up missed work upon return.** Both students and parents need to understand that some loss of learning opportunity is likely. For example, some school work such as class participation/discussion or laboratory experiments simply are difficult, if not impossible, to make up and therefore may have a negative impact on the student's grade. Parents of students already having excessive absences or poor grades need to understand the implications of any extended absences.

**In accordance with MSDE Guidelines, the following is the attendance recording policy:**

A student is counted present for a full day if the student is in attendance four (4) hours or more of the school day. A student is counted present for ½ day if in attendance for at least two (2) hours of the school day, but less than four hours.

A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives late or leaves early.

**REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE @ MAE**

Mt. Airy Elementary has established an e-mail address and phone line for parents to report absences. Use the following methods to report your child's absence and request work. Please call or e-mail before 9:00 A.M. as we will only check once a day for absences and requests for work. The e-mail address and phone line are **ONLY** to be used to report attendance.

E-Mail: [MAEAttendance@k12.carr.org](mailto:MAEAttendance@k12.carr.org)

Attendance Phone Line: 301-829-3563

When reporting an absence by e-mail or phone it is **not** necessary to send in a note.

**Please do not email teachers with this information.**

**Tardies:**

Parents will receive a note after 3 tardies. 5 tardies will result in a 30 minute after school catch-up club.



## **ALERTNOW SERVICE** **(replacing Eschoolnewsletter)**

The Carroll County Public School System is pleased to announce that we are now using the AlertNow Rapid Communication Service to provide parents/guardians with information from their child's schools and the school system. AlertNow is capable of delivering both e-mail and phone alerts at no charge to parents. You do not have to sign up for the new system. All information is taken from emergency procedure cards.

Please be aware that the phone numbers you provide in the Primary Phone section of the emergency card will be used by the school to send high priority and emergency messages (attendance calls, school closings, cancellation of school activities, and interim and report card reminders) from Alert Now. Non-emergency messages (newsletters, general announcements, etc.) will be sent to the e-mail addresses you provide on the card.

## **Two hour and forty-five minute early dismissal schedule**

The following dates are 2 hour and 45 minute early dismissal days. **Students will be dismissed from MAES at 12:20 p.m.**

|         |         |         |         |  |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
|         | Nov. 9  | Dec. 3  |         |  |
| Dec. 23 | Jan. 22 | Feb. 5  | Mar. 15 |  |
| April 1 | May 11  | June 10 |         |  |

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

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

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

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

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

## **Cell Phones**

Students and visiting adults are prohibited from using electronic communication devices (cell phone) during the school day.

## **Homework Requests**

If your child is absent for **more than one day** and you wish to have homework/schoolwork sent home, please call the office by 8:30 a.m. The teacher will get the work together and have it in the office by the end of the day. Work can be sent home with a sibling or friend, or picked up in the office. Specific homework policies for each grade will be sent home at a later date.

## **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm-6:40 pm and on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. The main office will begin scheduling conference times on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please call the main office between 9:30 am- 2:30 pm. to schedule your appointment.



## **MAES Discipline/Character Education Committee**

In case you've never heard, all schools in Carroll County have a Discipline/Character Education Committee designed to help nurture the goal of having a safe and orderly environment for your children. One example of an initiative suggested by our school's committee was to have the PRIDE in Agenda Books to give parents some daily feedback on your child's learning and work habits. If you ever have any questions or concerns about the overall discipline policies and procedures, feel free to contact any of the following committee members:

Administrators: Mrs. Debbie Bunker, Mrs. Allison Smith  
 Committee Co-Chairs: Miss Sarah Nies, Ms. Ann Horner  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Rep.: Mrs. Jennifer Lynch  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep.: Miss Laura Butler  
 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep.: Mrs. Karen Dulany  
 Fine Arts & Fitness Rep.: Mrs. Kathy Hillock  
 Support Staff Rep.: Mrs. Karen Hames  
 Special Ed Team Rep.: Miss Lindsay Young  
 Parent Rep.: Mrs. Sue Stuck

## **PARKING LOT-STUDENT DROP OFF**

Our parking lot situation is becoming increasingly more dangerous everyday. **If your student is being driven to school, you must park and walk them to the sidewalk.** Children are being dropped off in the lot and walking through parked cars and moving vehicles. For the safety of our students, please take the extra time, park, and safely walk with your student. Remember, bus service is available to all Carroll County Public School students.



## **Volunteer Training Sessions**

| Date    | Time    | Place               |
|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Nov. 17 | 7:00    | Winfield Elementary |
| Nov. 18 | 6:30 pm | Mt. Airy Elementary |

## **2009-2010 Volunteer Program - Making A Difference Together**

### *Making a Difference Together*

Volunteering is an excellent way for parents and family, community members, and business partners to build and strengthen ties with the Carroll County Public School System. Volunteers offer their time, effort, and/or talents to benefit all students in the school system.

CCPS Volunteer Program Guidelines outline consistent standards for volunteers. **Level I Volunteers** (guest readers, concession stand operators, business representatives, event ticket collectors, guest speakers, etc.) **must annually register at a school site before volunteering.** **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.**

Volunteer training sessions are held at schools and regional locations throughout the school year. **Volunteer training, obtained during the 2007-2008 school year, is only valid through September 30, 2009.** As plans for the 2009-2010 school year are developed, volunteer training may be included as part of a scheduled school event or activity. Carefully scan school newsletters and bulletins for planned volunteer training dates and locations. **Attending required annual volunteer training prior to October 1, 2009 will maintain your eligibility to volunteer and alleviate gaps in your volunteer service.** By late summer, a comprehensive list of volunteer training sessions will be available by accessing the CCCPS website (<http://www.carrollk12.org>), Channel 21, and local newspapers. Additional information may also be obtained by contacting Jane Farver, CCPS Volunteer Program Coordinator at 410-386-1536 or [ejfarve@k12.carr.org](mailto:ejfarve@k12.carr.org).

**Volunteers make countless educational endeavors happen!**

## **Student Arrival and Dismissal & Emergency Early Dismissal Plan**

The first bell rings at Mt. Airy Elementary at 8:30 a.m and dismissed at 3:05 p.m. Students are NOT to be brought to school before 8:05 a.m., as there is no adult supervision until that time. They may enter the building at 8:05 a.m. **For the safety of our children please comply with this rule!**

Buses drop students off at our school beginning at 8:05 a.m. in front of the building. When driving your child to school, please park and walk him/her to the sidewalk.

**Students who arrive after 8:35 a.m. are late and must be brought into the office by a parent or guardian to be signed in and get their attendance cards to take to their teacher.** If a student must leave early, the parent or guardian should send a note to the teacher informing him/her of the student's early dismissal time. The parent must come into the office to sign the child out, at which time the office will call him/her down. We are unable to have children waiting in the office due to the interruption of important learning time and space limitations. Please allow yourself a few extra minutes. Students will not be called down to the main office for early dismissal after 2:50 pm.

## **Parent Pick-Up**

Parent pick-up students will be dismissed to the gym at the end of the school day. As posted, parking for Parent Pick-Up is to be in the main parking lot only. Parents must come into the gym, provide photo ID, sign out their child(ren) on the designated sheet, and escort them to the vehicle. **Gym doors will open for parents at 3:10 p.m.** Students are not dismissed from the office. **If your child is to be an occasional car rider, send in a note to the teacher on the day of the pick-up.** The note will be sent to the office, and the child's name will be put on a list and called for parent pick-up at end-of-day announcements. Please be aware that the construction on the roof has taken some of our parking. For safety concerns please park and walk in the designated areas.

## **Walkers**

All walkers will be dismissed from the gym at the end of the school day after the parent pick-up students have been called. In the event a severe thunderstorm is in progress during dismissal time, walkers will be detained until the weather conditions improve.

## **Bus Riders**

Bus riders are dismissed from the front doors in waves beginning promptly at 3:05, as we do not have the space to accommodate all buses at once.

**Bus Transportation Policy**

It is the Department of Transportation's policy to "drop off students even if parents are not at the bus stop." Please make arrangements with a friend, family member, or neighbor in the event you are delayed getting to the bus stop. Please develop a plan with your student concerning what he/she should do in the event no one is at the bus stop or at home when they get there.

Also, please note that each student is allowed only one bus stop in the morning and one in the afternoon. Students may not ride other buses for purposes of visiting or childcare. Any changes must be submitted in writing and have prior approval from our administration.

**SCHOOL MEALS 2009-2010 School Year**

The prices for 2009-2010 are as follows:

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Elementary Lunch</b>  | <b>\$2.00</b> |
| <b>Reduced Lunch</b>     | <b>\$0.40</b> |
| <b>Breakfast</b>         | <b>\$1.25</b> |
| <b>Reduced Breakfast</b> | <b>\$0.30</b> |

Advance prepaid lunch tickets and breakfast tickets (5-20 days) are available at school.

**Cafeteria**

Please return all borrowed lunch money and the cafeteria is still selling advance lunch tickets.

**FORGOTTEN LUNCH**

If a student does not have his/her lunch or lunch money, he/she will be given the regular daily lunch and a slip informing of the money owed. This money is to be repaid the next day.

**New policy for MAE:**

*If a student does not repay and owes money, the next time they borrow lunch money they will receive a cheese sandwich and a carton of milk until the debt is paid.*

**Students will not be permitted to purchase snacks, ice cream, or items from the school store until their outstanding debts are paid.**

**SEVERE FOOD ALLERGY**

To support our severe allergy policy a safe table procedure will be in place in the cafeteria.

Any food brought into the cafeteria is **not** to be shared with other students. Due to the increasing number of students with potentially life-threatening

food allergies, parents cannot send in birthday food items for other children to the cafeteria. We will continue to have food for the whole class during classroom parties because it is monitored by our teachers and room mothers. We appreciate your help in keeping all our students safe and healthy.

**A+ School Rewards**

Again this year, we are participating in the A+ School Rewards Programs sponsored by Giant and Martin's food stores. Through these programs we can earn money for our school. Each time you shop in these stores, a portion of those sales will be awarded to our school at the end of the year. This program runs from October 4, 2009 through March 13, 2010 for Martins, and October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010 for Giant. To participate you will need to register your Bonus card(s), by doing the following:

**Giant:** log on to [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) to register on-line. Follow the directions to select Mt. Airy Elementary School, using ID #01741. Or you can call 1-877-275-2758 to register over the phone.

**Martins:** log on to [www.martinsaplus.com](http://www.martinsaplus.com) to register on-line. Follow the directions to select Mt. Airy Elementary School, using ID #01320.

You can also sign up at the customer service desk in the stores or feel free to contact the office to have us do it for you. Please encourage your friends and relatives to sign up too. Thank you for participating in this worthwhile program.

**Mount Airy Elementary School Music Concerts:**

December Edition

Beginning Ensembles:

Dec. 9th @ 7pm

Advanced Ensembles and Cardinal Chorus:

Dec. 15th @ 7pm

All Concerts will be in Mount Airy Middle School's Gymnasium

**Media Center News . . .**

Greetings! It sure is a busy and exciting place to be . . . every day the media center is visited by many students, staff, and parents to check out fabulous print and non-print resources, such as our electronic databases. All families and staff may access our databases for free from a home computer or school. We have subscriptions this year to: Culture Grams (countries/geography/people), SIRS Discoverer (newspaper and magazine articles with pictures and sounds), World Book Online (electronic encyclopedia with graphics and sound), and Tumble Book Library (electronic books with activities to practice reading).

The home usernames and passwords follow:

Culture Grams  
<http://online.culturegrams.com>  
 username = mtairyelem  
 password = mtairyelem

SIRS Discoverer  
<http://discoverer.sirs.com>  
 username = ccpses  
 password = elem

World Book Online  
<http://www.worldbookonline.com>  
 username = ccps09  
 password = media09

During media lessons, third graders have been enjoying making text-to-text connections, by comparing traditional fairy tales to fractured fairy tales. They will continue to compare characters, setting, and plot throughout November as they listen to fractured fairy tales, tall tales, and fables. Fourth graders have been making connections between folk literature and their state standards during ILA. The students have been "traveling around the globe" through literature, by listening to folk literature (folk tales, legends, trickster tales, porquoi tales) which originate in each continent. Fifth graders have been developing an understanding of a six step approach to do a research report or project, called the Big 6. It begins with the idea of a topic, and how and where to find information on the topic, then culminates with evaluating the project. The fifth graders will be creating commercials after learning about advertising techniques; i.e. tactics which companies use to persuade consumers to purchase their products.

You are welcome to stop by the media center during American Education Week to see how media supports the curriculum of grades 3-5.

Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Jessica Wroten,  
 Library Media Specialist

**THE RESOURCE CORNER*****FOCUS ON: WORDS THEIR WAY  
 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WORD STUDY?***

The purpose of the word study program is to provide systematic, explicit skill/word student instruction in order to make connections between sounds, structure and meaning, while reading and writing.

***WHY IS WORD STUDY IMPORTANT?***

Understanding of the structure of words leads to more proficient and fluent reading and writing. Most effective instruction in phonics, spelling and vocabulary links word study to the texts being read, provides a systematic scope and sequence of word-level skills and provides multiple opportunities for hands-on practice and application. Memory plays an important role in learning to spell, but not the only role.

***HOW WILL WORD STUDY HELP MY CHILD?***

With fast accurate word recognition, students can focus on making meaning while reading. Without this automaticity, students expend all of their energy on problem-solving words and there is little energy left for comprehension. With fast accurate production of words, students can also focus on making meaning while writing.

Vocabulary development is also a key component of word study. Students learn about word construction and word origins to help them determine the meaning of unknown words and recognize relationships between words that share common roots.

**November Fitness News**

Your child may mention a new face in the gymnasium. Her name is Emily Karrer and she is our student intern from the University of Maryland. She is a senior majoring in Physical Education. Ms. Karrer spent the early part of the school year at South Carroll High School and will be with us on Fridays until winter break. After the holidays Ms. Karrer will be here for eight weeks to begin her student teaching.

As the weather cools down we will not be able to hold Physical Education class outside. Instead we will begin our tumbling and gymnastics unit. We will include skills in balance, footwork and movement skills, tumbling skills, and gymnastics equipment skills.

November will be mostly devoted to tumbling and balance skills. In addition we will complete our first round of fitness testing. The push up test, the curl up test, and the sit and reach test will all be completed this month. Please have your student practice his/her push ups and curl ups at home. Stretching out the legs and lower back help improve sit and reach scores.

Please take a look at your child's tennis shoes, and make certain they are clean in order to protect our equipment and floor. In order to keep the mats clean we ask the students to take off their shoes during class. Students need to wear socks to school, particularly for the gymnastics unit.

## **Community News**

The Liberty High School is presenting **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**. It is a wonderful story for the whole family.

Shows will be November 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:00 p.m with matinee performances on November 7 and 14 at 2:00 pm. Admission is \$10 at the door or \$8 if purchased in advance. Tickets may be purchased at [www.mycommunitytickets.com](http://www.mycommunitytickets.com). New this year: no tickets will be sold in the front office.

Liberty High School  
Drama Boosters

## **Cardinal Chirps -**

September 29 through October 23, 2009

### **Third Graders:**

Karina Pina  
Abbigale Bernardo-PRIDE Pin  
Logan Daytner  
Nicholas Simoncini  
Theodor Hema Aguirre  
Joshua Federici  
Evan Griffith  
Megan O'Neill (2)- PRIDE Pin  
Eva Furman  
Hannah Wachter  
Caleb Conrad - PRIDE Pin

### **Fourth Graders:**

Julie Lafond  
Jacob Snell - PRIDE Pin  
Morgan Falter  
Jacob Polichene (2)  
Tyler Stepek  
Jackson Foran  
Todd Lasick  
Ryan Saleik  
Christine Wolfrey  
Danielle Thieret  
Sarah Beyer - PRIDE Pin  
Jacob Harrison  
Elizabeth Williams  
Derek Bauer (2)  
Noah Chapla  
Kathryn Barton - PRIDE Pin  
Charlotte Crook  
Julia Hobbes  
Riley Long (2)  
Adrianna Watson

Cameron Witt  
Allison Zolkiewicz  
Hannah Kelley

### **Fifth Graders:**

Jack Russo - PRIDE Pin  
Andrew Anderson  
Ivana Mazariegos  
Emily Skelton  
Max Gosselin  
Sofia Villeda  
Andrew Bitner - PRIDE Pin  
Carli Legambi  
Jessica Nardo  
Katherine Berry (2)  
Scott Dillon  
Kyle Dizon  
Zachary Federici  
Paige Hawkins  
Nicole Johnson  
Matthew Sadler  
John Stilling  
Eric Zirkle  
Autumn Avery - PRIDE Pin  
Drew Bauer (2)  
Kyle Worsley



