



*Mechanicsville Elementary School
School-to-Home Connection
3838 Sykesville Road, Sykesville, MD 21784
Phone: 410-751-3510 / Fax: 410-751-3516
<http://www.carrollk12.org/mes/>*

10/4/11

Principal: Nicholas R. Shockney

Assistant Principal: Nicole M. Jensen

Dear MES Families,

We are off to an outstanding start to the 2011-2012 school year! Our students have been working very hard in the classroom learning new concepts, skills, and knowledge while building new relationships and lasting friendships with other students and staff members. We are very proud of their hard work and encourage each of our students to always try their best, take responsibility for their learning, and to set goals they can work to achieve. Together we will continue to strive to achieve our vision of becoming a model school of caring, sharing, and high student achievement!

As a certified Green School, we will continue to decrease the amount of paper we use. We will only be sending this newsletter electronically via our Alert Now system. Carroll County Public Schools will also continue to use this system to send out information on closings, delays, and other important events. If you do not have internet access, and would like a paper copy of our newsletters, please send us a brief note with your request.

We continue to ask that parents and guardians utilize CCPS bus transportation as much as possible. Our parking lot is just not structured to handle a high volume of parent drop-off and pick-up. When we have a high volume of parent drop-off and pick-up, traffic often backs up on Route 32, potentially causing an unsafe situation. As always, please allow our buses the right-of-way and allow the buses plenty of room to exit the loop and turn on to Route 32. Also, please follow the directions of the staff members assigned to the drop-off/pick-up area. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support with this matter.

We are proud to be continuing into our second year as a PBIS School! PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. Here at Mechanicsville, we encourage our students to demonstrate CARE behavior (cooperation, attitude, responsibility, and effort). Our staff members have been working with our students over the past few weeks to reinforce expectations for each setting within our building. We will continue to recognize our outstanding students with CARE tickets. When awarded with a CARE ticket, one copy will come home for families and one copy will remain at school. Keep an eye out for these tickets and be sure to have your child share how they earned the ticket!

We say this often, but MES would not be what it is without the support of our parents, guardians, and community. We are so thankful to be part of such a supportive community focused on helping all students succeed. We encourage all parents and guardians to get involved by volunteering, joining the PTA, and being informed about what is happening at school. Have a great school year!

Many Thanks,
Nick Shockney and Nicole Jensen

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons with regard to its employment practices and in the provision of services, programs, and activities.

The CCPS does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. The CCPS provides non-discriminatory access to school facilities in accordance with its policies and regulations regarding the community use of schools (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Gregory J. Bricca
Director of Research and Accountability
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410.751.3068

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ancestry or national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The CCPS provides nondiscriminatory access to school facilities in accordance with its policies and regulations regarding the community use of schools (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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ADA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. 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, 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, may 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.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities or the Supervisor of Community and Media Relations.

Raymond Prokop
Director of Facilities
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
(410) 751-3177

Carey Gaddis
Supervisor of Community & Media Relations
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
(410) 751-3020

ONE BUS STOP REMINDER

In order to maintain a safe and consistent dismissal procedure in our schools, we are required to follow the county transportation policy. Each student may have only one a.m. and one p.m. bus stop. Students are not allowed to ride another bus or get off at another bus stop during the school year. Exceptions will be made only in the event of an emergency or when an extenuating circumstance exists (which must be approved ahead of time by an administrator).

CAMERA SYSTEMS ON BUSES

Video/audio cameras are placed on school buses to protect students and staff and provide for a safe and orderly environment. The privacy of students and the recording are kept secure and are reviewed only by the authorized Carroll County Public Schools personnel. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Hardesty / Director of Transportation Services at 410-751-3229

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR - START & END TIMES CHANGING

Next year school will start for students at 9:30 a.m. Dismissal will begin at 4:00 p.m. More information about ABC schedules, bus routes and associated changes will be shared later during the school year.

PRIOR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PARENTS!

Do you have a band or orchestra instrument sitting in a closet gathering dust? Donate it to the school! You can get a tax deduction and help our school at the same time. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Anastasion at bkanast@carrollk12.org for more information.



GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

The CCPS Gifted and Talented Program is designed to meet the needs of highly able learners and maximize student achievement. Gifted and Talented teachers, in collaboration with classroom instructors, will continue to provide a continuum of interventions designed to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented Education Program participants. This may include in-class instruction, pullout groups, and/or resource development with classroom teachers. A Referral and Review Team will determine student eligibility for interventions. Indicators for participation include observational checklists, standardized test scores, work samples, and classroom performance. Although students are not formally identified until the beginning of third grade, Gifted and Talented teachers will continue to provide a range of services for grades K-5, including the Primary Education Thinking Skills for grade 2.

REQUEST FROM MRS. FROCK – ART TEACHER



Each student will need an **art smock or T-SHIRT** (short sleeved, no buttons) for Art class.

Also, Mrs. Frock's Art class has a Wikispace at <http://mrsfrocksartclass.wikispaces.com/>. Celebrate your child's creativity by viewing unit themes and children's artwork on the Student page as well as looking at PowerPoint Presentations and other relevant information on the Parent Page. Make sure to leave a post.

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. Many schools include volunteer training sessions with other school activities/events, so look for dates and times in school newsletters and e-school updates. Volunteer training obtained during the 2009-2010 school year is valid through September 30, 2011. Plan to attend a volunteer training session before October 1, 2011 to avoid a break in your volunteer service. Listed below are the training dates/times for Mechanicsville:

October 13th @ 9:00 a.m.
February 9th @ 9:00 a.m.
April 12th @ 9:00 a.m.

November 16th @ 6:30 p.m.
March 21st @ 6:30 p.m.
May 16th @ 6:30 p.m.

MIX IT UP DAY

Mechanicsville students will be joining millions of students across the country by participating in Mix It Up Day. The concept focuses on breaking down some of the social boundaries that divide friendships. During lunch, on October 18th, we will ask students to "mix up their friendships," by sitting with different classmates.

The students will be introduced to Mix It Up day during a guidance lesson. They will discuss how special it is to be unique and how we plan to celebrate our individual qualities with the rest of the country on October 18, 2011.

Character Stars for September

We would like to congratulate our first **Character Stars** for the 2011-12 school year. The following students did an exceptional job showing **respect** to their classmates. Please look for their character star on the bulletin board by the media center.

Maddie Stauder
Cole Myers
Austin Bainbridge
Jay Boggs

Emily Wellnitz
Mackenzie Smith
Justina Wiser
Olivia Trey

Emma Hawks
Matt Anderson
Jillian Shipton
Avery Houle

Riley Bell
Madeline McCabe
Regan Miller
Olivia Cierlitsky

Character Development During the Month of October we will focus on Responsibility

This month students in Carroll County will be learning about the value of **responsibility** at home, at school, with friends, and in the community. A responsible person is someone who takes charge of himself or herself and accepts the consequences of his or her actions, decisions, and words. Being responsible allows us to move forward in life, taking credit for our success and acknowledging our mistakes so we may learn from them.

At home, you can help by giving your child specific responsibilities and discussing the importance of each family member pitching in to make the family unit run smoothly. Ask your child to think through the consequences of what would happen if no one did the laundry, took out the garbage, fixed meals, or earned money to pay the rent or mortgage.

Responsibility is also the extension of respect. When we act responsibly, we are caring for others, paying attention to others, and responding to their needs. There are several ways to model responsible behavior: We must claim responsibility for our actions and choices, acknowledge and meet our obligations without being asked and consider the consequences for all people affected by our decisions.

"The ultimate responsibility always lies within you,
and opportunities are the ones you create."

Melissa Poe



CAFETERIA NEWS

All student free and reduced applications must be updated and on file by **OCTOBER 12TH** from the previous school year. If your child's name is not on the list on **OCTOBER 13TH** they will have to pay the regular amount of \$2.00. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Quinn.

Prices for this year have remained the same as last year:

Student lunch:	\$2.00	Milk/Water:	.50 cents
Reduced lunch:	.40 cents	Ice cream:	.75 cents
Student B.fast:	\$1.25	Adult lunch	\$3.25
Reduced B.fast	.30 cents		

Please remember to put your child's name and grade on your check for prepay lunches. Prepay lunches make it easy for you and your child. It also helps to keep the lines moving. We will be serving breakfast every morning from 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Having breakfast is a great way to get your child ready for their day.

If students forget or lose their lunch money, they will be allowed to borrow from the cafeteria. This money should be repaid the following school day. If a student has **more than 2** outstanding borrow slips, and the family has not contacted the cafeteria manager, the student will only be served a cheese or peanut butter sandwich and milk until the money is repaid.

GRAB AND GO BREAKFAST takes only a few minutes and it's a great way to start the day. Students who eat breakfast each day score higher on tests, have improved attention spans and productivity and have fewer visits to the school nurse. Students may eat in the cafeteria or take it to their classroom. Breakfast is provided at no cost to eligible free students and \$.30 for students eligible for reduced. Breakfast is from 8:15 to 8:30. Regular price is \$1.25. We will be serving more fresh fruits and vegetables from local area farmers for lunch and serving more whole grain products. We hope to see your child(ren) at both breakfast & lunch. You can find our breakfast and lunch menus on Mechanicsville's web page. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Susan Quinn, Cafeteria Manager (smquinn@carrollk12.org).

PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

Be sure to bring your smile on Picture Day - Friday, November 11th



RED OR BLUE WEEK SCHEDULE FOR SPECIALS

Oct. 3rd -7th is a **BLUE** week

Oct. 10-14th is a **RED** week

Oct. 17th -21st is a **BLUE** week

Oct. 24th -28th is a **RED** week

IMPORTANT DATES

10/3: **EARLY DISMISSAL – MES dismisses at 12:20 p.m.**
10/3: Project Aces begins
10/13: Volunteer Training @ 9-9:30 a.m. (cafeteria)
10/13: Kindergarten field trip
10/14: Fun Run (rain date 10/17th)
10/21: **SCHOOLS CLOSED (Professional Meeting Day)**
10/27: 1st grade field trip

11/03: **EARLY DISMISSAL – MES dismisses at 12:20 p.m.**
11/11: Picture Re-take Day
11/14: **EARLY DISMISSAL – MES dismisses at 12:20 p.m.**
11/23 THRU 11/25: **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Thanksgiving Holiday**

12/07: 3rd grade field trip
12/09: **EARLY DISMISSAL – MES dismisses at 12:20 p.m.**
12/23: **EARLY DISMISSAL – MES dismisses at 12:20 p.m.**
12/26 THRU 01/02: **SCHOOLS CLOSED**

PROJECT ACES PROGRAM

Mechanicsville is participating in the 13th annual "Project ACES" challenge. Project ACES (Active Children Excel in School) is an award winning physical activity program developed by Carroll County Public Schools, Carroll County Health Department and Carroll Community College. This year Project ACES will once again be teaming up with the NFL Play 60 Program. All 23 public elementary schools and several private schools are taking part in this two week challenge to increase physical activity and improve health. For two weeks (October 3 - October 16, 2011) students (grades K-5) and staff are asked to track at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. All activity counts: at school (PE class and active recess), at home (bike riding, brisk walking, yard work), and in recreation programs. Students will be bringing home Project ACES calendars during the last week of September to track their physical activity. So let's get moving Mechanicsville and take the Project ACES challenge!!!!

REQUEST FROM SCHOOL NURSE

Please remember that your child must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication(s) before returning to school.

If your child vomits during the night, please keep them home from school the following day. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Parker. Thank you for your cooperation.

CONSENT AND RELEASE

Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or the school website, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.

7/8/09