

# Polar Bear Post

From the Polar Bear Main Office...

February 2012

Dear Parent(s),

During the month of Cupid's celebration, we send heartfelt thanks to you and to our volunteers. We appreciate your generous spirit and kindness toward our students and staff. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, children will participate in a grade level Read-A-Thon. You can access information on our website under the "What's New" tab, as well as through the flyer you received a few weeks ago.

Parr's Ridge strives to extend thinking in many ways. This year our focus on listening and speaking has unfolded in our classrooms in many ways. Speaking and listening are lifelong skills that can benefit our children throughout their life. Through the Fine Arts and Fitness, our students experience a multitude of rich speaking, listening and collaborative opportunities in art, health, media, music, technology applications, and physical education classes. In classrooms, students use Math Talk, Talk Moves and a variety of listening strategies. See inside this issue for more tips on how you can support listening and speaking at home!

In addition, we teach for independence in reading, writing, mathematics, and technology. With keeping the "sparkle" in the Daily Five, we engage students in meaningful reading and writing experiences. Students have just completed their reading, word study, and mathematics county assessments. The assessment results will provide updated information on your child's learning. In addition, it will guide in planning for next teaching points.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for our ever popular Love of Reading Night. Bring your sleeping bag, favorite books, and pillows for a cozy night of family reading time!

We want to reiterate how much we value our home-school partnership. Please continue to communicate with the school and your child's teacher. Don't forget to look at the updates on our school website. Your support makes a difference. Stay warm and dry during these final weeks of winter!

Ann M. Blowkowski  
Principal

Janet L. Bubnash  
Assistant Principal

### Five Point Vision

~ Positive relationships ~ High expectations/Continuous Achievement ~  
~ Rigorous curriculum ~ Creative and Motivating Learning Environment ~  
~ P. R. I. D. E. ~

## Parr's Ridge Elementary

202 Watersville Road  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

410-751-3559  
301-829-6585

Fax: 410-549-7221

Website:

[www.carrollk12.org/par](http://www.carrollk12.org/par)



Ann M. Blonkowski  
Principal

Janet L. Bubnash  
Assistant Principal

School Colors:  
Blue and White

School Mascot:  
Glacier the Polar Bear



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### Points of Interest

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Kindergarten Registration  
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New School Hours  
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Second Grade Musical



# Calendar Information

## February 2012

- **February 1** ~ Report Cards  
Read a Thon Fundraiser—during the school day.
- **February 8** ~ Read a Thon Snowdate
- **February 10** ~ Early Dismissal, 12:25 p.m.  
No school for pre-K  
PTA Exec. Board Mtg. @ MAE
- **February 16** ~ "Love of Reading Night", 6:45 to 7:45 pm
- **February 20** ~ Schools/Offices Closed, President's Day
- **February 21** ~ Schools Closed -Professional Day
- **February 23** ~ "Love of Reading Night" Snow Date

## Looking Ahead to March 2012

- **March 2** ~ Science Fair @ MAE, 6:30—8:30 pm
- **March 5** ~ Interims  
Early Dismissal, 12:25 pm, no pre-K
- **March 9** ~ PTA Ex. Board Mtg. 8:45 a.m. @ Parr's
- **March 21** ~ PTA General Meeting @ MAE, 7:00 pm
- **March 26 -30** ~ Kindergarten Fall Registration  
9 a.m.—2 p.m.
- **March 28** ~ Spring Picture Day
- **March 29** ~ Evening Kindergarten Registration  
6:00—8:00 p.m.
- **March 30** ~ End of third marking period

\*\*\*\*\***MARK YOUR CALENDARS**\*\*\*\*\*

Please mark your calendars with the following two hour & forty-five minute early dismissal days for the 2011-2012 School Year. Parr's Ridge Elementary will dismiss at 12:25 p.m. on: February 10th, March 5th, May 11th, and June 14th. Please note that on early dismissal days, there is no Pre-K.



## February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Report Cards Read-A-Thon Fundraiser	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Read-A-Thon Snowdate	9	10 Early dismissal 12:25 pm.,no pre-K PTA Exec.Brd.Mtg	11
<b>National School Counseling Week</b>						
12	13	14 <i>St. Valentine</i> 	15	16 "Love of Reading Night" 6:45—7:45 pm	17	18
19	20 Schools/Offices Closed	21 Schools Closed Professional Day	22	23 "Love of Reading" snow date	24	25
26	27	28	29			

## **Counselor's Corner**

**Kelly Doolan, School Counselor**

### Showing PRIDE By Using Good Work Habits

Here at Parr's Ridge, students are encouraged daily to show PRIDE in their work. When students are determined to do their best, their work will demonstrate this by being neat, organized, accurate and complete. Students who are responsible for their own learning will begin to show this by independently using good work habits that will help them do their very best at school.

Kindergarten will soon be learning about good work habits and how these work habits can help them show PRIDE in their work. Kindergarten will be visited by Quiet Earhart Owl who will teach them about working quietly, being a good listener, paying attention in school, trying their best and completing their work.

Paying Attention Penguin has visited First Grade several times this year to teach about being good a listener, staying on task, working quietly and trying their best. Next, First Graders will learn the importance of paying attention and how this helps their learning.

Checking Chipmunk has visited Second Grade classes to teach about checking over your work and setting goals and will soon teach about setting priorities by completing the most important tasks first and asking questions.

The students who are in Second Grade have learned about good work habits for three years now as they were visited by Quiet Earhart Owl in Kindergarten and Paying Attention Penguin in First Grade. First Graders were visited by Quiet Earhart Owl just last year. We have discussed the importance of using the good work habits that they learned in previous grades and building upon them in order to increase their independence and the quality of their work.

You can reinforce these good work habits at home by encouraging your child to use them when completing homework and completing chores and other tasks at home. Good work habits will help our students become independent thinkers and will help them to be successful at school, home and in the future.

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### **SAVE THE DATE!! SECOND GRADE MUSICAL – MAY 2nd and MAY 3rd**

Although it is still quite a way off, the dates are set for the annual 2<sup>nd</sup> grade musical. On May 2nd, children in Mrs. Warehime's, Mrs. Stewart's, and Mrs. Venit's classes will present their show. On May 3rd, children in Ms. Arnett's, Mr. Cunningham's, Mrs. Lazarus', and Mrs. Thompson's classes will present their show. More details will follow as we get closer to the dates.



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### **\*\*\* New hours for Parr's Ridge next year \*\*\***

**Beginning in the Fall of 2012, Parr's Ridge Elementary will have new hours for the school day. Students will be able to enter the building at 8:55 am. The instructional day will begin at 9:25 am and dismissal will take place at 3:55 pm. Please make note of these new hours as they may affect day care arrangements and after-school activities. On early dismissal days, Parr's Ridge will dismiss at 1:10 pm.**

## **From the Library Media Center .....**

The Library Media Center is the place to be at Parr's Ridge Elementary School. Learning happens daily in exciting and engaging ways as students hone information-seeking strategies and learn to appreciate literature.

Pre-K students visit the Library Media Center weekly to hear a story and check out books. They are learning how to *Read the picture* in the books they choose.

Kindergarteners are working on retelling folktales with puppets. This month, we will go to the computer lab to retell three of the tales with Kidspiration software. First Graders are focusing on nonfiction. They have begun to check out books from the nonfiction section of the library media center and are learning to use text features/conventions to help them find information. Second graders are becoming proficient users of Destiny, our online public access catalog. They are learning to be independent users of the library who know how to find the information they need and the books they want to read.

WPAR PRIDE NEWS is broadcast throughout the school Wednesday mornings at 8:40 a.m. Parents are welcome to come and see this exciting production.

Our first Book Club was held Monday, January 30, in the Library Media Center. First and second grade students (and teachers) enjoyed rich literary discussions. We are eagerly anticipating our February Club. Look for information to come home soon with your children.

- Mrs. Nies, Mrs. Howe, and Mrs. Glover

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### **Parr's Ridge Read-A-Thon**

Students at Parr's Ridge Elementary will be participating in a Read-A-Thon during their Fine Arts and Fitness classes on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Read-A-Thon is being held to raise awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Cystic Fibrosis and to raise funds for two separate organizations which support research on these disorders and provide support to individuals with these disorders and their families. Students have the option to make a minimum donation of \$1.00 and may collect donations from family members, friends, and neighbors. Checks for donations may be made directly to either the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Maryland or the Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy Chesapeake Chapter.

All students will be reading and participating in movement activities during their Fine Arts and Fitness classes and will be permitted to wear their pajamas that day. However, for safety reasons, we ask that students leave their slippers, blankets, snuggies, and stuffed animals at home.

Thank you for your support of this exciting event.



## Parr's Ridge Elementary School

### Pre-School Community Night

April 26                      6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### Kindergarten Registration Week

March 26-30                9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

March 29                    6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We will be holding a Preschool Community Night at Parr's Ridge for parents, only, of incoming 2012 – 2013 Kindergarten Students who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2012. The Preschool Community Night has been scheduled for April 26, 2012 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. In addition, our Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming school year will be held here at Parr's Ridge Elementary the week of March 26. Registration will take place in the main lobby, as designated above for children who will be five (5) years of age on, or before, September 1, 2012. Parents will need to present the following at the time of registration:

1. identification of parent/legal guardian (driver's license or court document indicating guardianship)
2. a copy of the child's birth certificate/registration or legal document to verify the child's birth date and name
3. verification of residence in the form of a public utility bill such as: BGE, Allegheny Power, or Potomac Edison, or cable bill, **all of which are required to include the "Service to Address," portion** of the bill/statement; a land-line phone bill (NOT a wireless phone bill); a mortgage statement referencing name and address; Settlement Document, including the signature page; a copy of a signed lease agreement which includes the name, address and signature page
4. specific address from which the child will be transported to school and the specific address to which the child will be transported after school

To complete enrollment, you will need **both** the Health Assessment and Immunization Certificate, which will be included in the enrollment packet you will receive at the time of enrollment. **Also, please be aware that an assessment will be scheduled for your child at the time of enrollment. A schedule of times will be provided for sign up at registration.** The assessment provides information pertinent to the placement of students. Those children who will not be available at the times provided may be assessed the first week of school which may cause a change to the child's original placement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 410-751-3559 and speak to Mrs. Rennie who will be happy to assist you.

## **Listening and Speaking**

Did you know that we spend 55% of our lives listening, but it has been one of the least taught skills? Our school wide focus this year has been on the Common Core Standard of *Listening and Speaking*. Across our school, in Reading, Writing, Math, and Fine Arts and Fitness, your child participates in discussions and conversations in small groups, with a partner and in larger groups. Your child spends a part of their school day working hard to be a good listener and speaker. For example, your student may be focusing on making eye contact, asking questions to clarify what the speaker is saying, and building on other's ideas. In addition, your child has an opportunity to express his/her own ideas clearly throughout the day.

You can support your child's listening and speaking skills naturally through conversations in your car while driving to activities, while eating together at the table and during your *daily* family activities.

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### **Notes from the Music Room**

As part of the 2012 CCPS Summer Enrichment Program, we have an outstanding music class available for students finishing Grades 1, 2 and 3. This course will be offered from June 25- July 6 for 2.25 hours each day at Friendship Valley Elementary School (there will be no class on July 4). The cost for the nine days is \$95.00. Depending on enrollment, the class will be offered from either 8:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m. daily.

Please e-mail Mrs. Hasenei at [lkhasen@carrollk12.org](mailto:lkhasen@carrollk12.org) if you would like a registration form for your child. Mrs. Hasenei is **not** the instructor for the course but can provide registration information in support of this wonderful program.

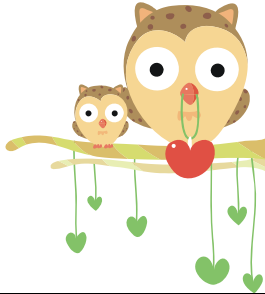
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### **\*\*\* Please Label Your Child's Belongings \*\*\***

Our lost and found is growing daily with hats, scarves, gloves, lunchboxes, etc. Please label any items belonging to your student that you are able so that these items may be returned. We often receive lunch boxes in the office in the morning and are not able to find the owner, leaving the student without a packed lunch and having to borrow from the cafeteria. Labeling your student's belongings would reduce your child's anxiety over lost items and alleviate the stress of a missing lunch, and keep our lost and found under control!!

# February 2012

## Parr's Ridge Elementary School-Breakfast Calendar

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
		<b>1</b> Plain Bagel Or Oatmeal Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>2</b> Breakfast Pocket Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>3</b> French Toast Sticks w/Syrup Or Cinnamon toast Fruit or Juice, Milk
<b>6</b> Breakfast Pizza Or English Muffin Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>7</b> Pancakes w/Syrup Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>8</b> Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Or Cinnamon & Sugar Biscuit Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>9</b> Breakfast Pocket Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>10</b> French Toast Sticks w/Syrup Or Cinnamon toast Fruit or Juice, Milk
<b>13</b> Breakfast Pizza Or English Muffin Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>14</b> Waffles w/Syrup Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>15</b> Plain Bagel Or English Muffin Melt Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>16</b> Breakfast Pocket Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>17</b> French Toast Sticks w/Syrup Or Cinnamon toast Fruit or Juice, Milk
<b>20</b> <b>Schools Closed</b> <b>President's Day</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Schools Closed for</b> <b>Students</b> <b>Professional Day for</b> <b>Teachers</b>	<b>22</b> Egg, Sausage & Cheese Bagel Or Plain Bagel Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>23</b> Breakfast Pocket Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>24</b> French Toast Sticks w/Syrup Or Cinnamon toast Fruit or Juice, Milk
<b>27</b> Breakfast Pizza Or English Muffin Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>28</b> Pancakes w/syrup Or Cereal w/Toast Fruit or Juice Milk	<b>29</b> Cinnamon & Sugar Biscuit Or Oatmeal Fruit or Juice Milk	Breakfast \$1.25/Reduced .30 1/2 Pint Milk Served w/Each Menu Milk .50 <b>Menu Subject To Change</b>	

# February 2012

## Parr's Ridge Elementary School-Lunch Calendar

□ <i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
		<p align="center"><b>1</b></p> Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce & Breadsticks Or Chicken Sandwich on Roll Green Beans Carrots w/Dip Chilled Peaches Fresh Apple	<p align="center"><b>2</b></p> Grilled Cheese Sandwich OR Hot Dog on Roll Pizza Soup Seasoned Corn Diced Pears, Fresh Apple <b>Lucky Tray Day</b>	<p align="center"><b>3</b></p> Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Or Manager's Choice Salad Crinkle Cut Potatoes Tossed Salad Rainbow Applesauce Fresh Orange
<p align="center"><b>6</b></p> Pizzata or Chicken Salad Sandwich Seasoned Oven Fries Steamed Broccoli Fruit Cup	<p align="center"><b>7</b></p> Hard or Soft Shell Taco Or Corn Dog Seasoned Rice Hot Vegetable Shredded lettuce Fresh Apple	<p align="center"><b>8</b></p> Cheeseburger on Roll Or Popcorn Chicken Cheese Mashed Potatoes Steamed Corn Mixed Fruit	<p align="center"><b>9</b></p> Chicken Nuggets Or Macaroni & Cheese Baked Beans Tossed Salad Chilled Peaches <b>Lucky Tray Day</b>	<p align="center"><b>10</b></p> <b>Early Dismissal</b> Sausage,Egg & Cheese on Biscuit Or Breakfast Pizza & Sausage Hashbrown Potato Baked Apple Orange Juice
<p align="center"><b>13</b></p> Ranchero Pizza Or Cheese Sticks w/Dipping Sauce Chicken Vegetable Soup Fresh Veggies w/Dip Fruit Cup	<p align="center"><b>14</b></p> <b>Valentine's Day</b> Heart Shaped Chicken Nuggets Or Happy Heart Entree Salad Tater Tots Fresh Veggies w/Dip Fresh Apple Sugar Cookie	<p align="center"><b>15</b></p> Hard or Soft Shell Tacos w/cheese Or Turkey Sub Shredded Lettuce Seasoned Rice Steamed Broccoli Peach Slices	<p align="center"><b>16</b></p> Spaghetti w/Meat Balls Or Chicken Tenders Dinner Roll Green Beans Tossed Salad Applesauce Fresh Orange <b>Lucky Tray Day</b>	<p align="center"><b>17</b></p> Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Or Sausage Egg & Cheese Biscuit Crinkle Cut French Fries Fresh Carrot Sticks Chilled Pears Fresh Apple
<p align="center"><b>20</b></p> <b>Schools Closed</b>  <b>President's Day</b>	<p align="center"><b>21</b></p> <b>Schools Closed for Students</b>  <b>Professional Day for Teachers</b>	<p align="center"><b>22</b></p> Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla Or Popcorn Chicken w/Roll Seasoned Oven Fries Vegetable Soup Shredded Lettuce Fresh Orange	<p align="center"><b>23</b></p> Rotini w/meatsauce & Bread Sticks Or Bread Sticks and Meat Sauce Green Beans Tossed Salad Apple Pineapple Salad Fresh Apple <b>Lucky Tray Day</b>	<p align="center"><b>24</b></p> Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Or Manager Choice Salad Mashed Potatoes Tossed Salad Carrots w/Dip Applesauce
<p align="center"><b>27</b></p> Meatball Sub Or Hard or Soft Shell Taco Vegetable Rice Casserole Shredded Lettuce Chilled Peaches Fresh Apple	<p align="center"><b>28</b></p> Stuffed Crust Pizza Or Sloppy Joe Crinkle Cut French Fries Mixed Vegetables Veggie w/Dip & Apple Salad <b>Surprise Giveaway</b>	<p align="center"><b>29</b></p> Chicken Nuggets Or Macaroni & Cheese Steamed Broccoli Chilled Pears Baked Apples Fresh Pear		Lunch \$2.00/Reduced .40 Adult Lunch \$3.25 Cheese Sandwich Served Daily ½ Pint Milk Served w/Each Menu Milk .50 *Small Ice Cream .55 *Ice Cream, *Fruit Roll-ups,

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

TODAY'S  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE(S) OF  
ABSENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

is returning after an absence of \_\_\_\_ days due to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

is late due to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS WILL EITHER  
NEED TO BE PICKED UP NO LATER THAT 2:50 p.m.  
FROM THE OFFICE OR BE PLACED ON PARENT  
PICK UP AT 3:10 p.m.**

will be dismissed to Parent Pick Up at the end of  
the day (3:10 p.m).

will be dismissed early (prior to 2:50 p.m.)

Office Pick Up Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

The State Law requires an explanation from the parent/guardian  
in each case of absence or tardiness . Kindly state the reason  
above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

TODAY'S  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE(S) OF  
ABSENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

is returning after an absence of \_\_\_\_ days due to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

is late due to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

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in each case of absence or tardiness . Kindly state the reason  
above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

TODAY'S  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE(S) OF  
ABSENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

is returning after an absence of \_\_\_\_ days due to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

is late due to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

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in each case of absence or tardiness . Kindly state the reason  
above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE