



**Sandymount Elementary School**  
**2222 Old Westminster Pike**  
**Finksburg, MD 21048**  
**410-751-3215/Fax 410-751-3925**  
**Http://www.carr.org/ccps**



# CHIPMUNK CHATTER

CHIPMUNK CHATTER

January 2012

**Wendy K. Leishear,**  
**Principal**

**Mary Gouker**  
**Assistant Principal**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are so excited to welcome Mrs. Mary Gouker to our faculty as our new Assistant Principal! Mrs. Gouker comes to us from Freedom Elementary and she has had lots of wonderful experiences with students in a variety of elementary grade levels and has been very active within the Carroll County community. As you may have heard, she has been by to visit and we anticipate her starting full-time on January 4, 2012.

It's hard to believe that January 26th marks the end of second quarter and our school year is half over! We are very proud of the progress our students have made thus far and hope this continues for the remainder of the year. We will once again be holding evening conferences on February 9th so that you can discuss your child's progress. You may reserve your spot by calling the main office. Most service providers and all special area teachers will be here, so you can request conferences with multiple people if needed. Please continue to read with students nightly and ensure that students complete homework on a regular basis. Teachers are currently assessing students in ELA and Mathematics benchmarks will be given this month. Before we know it, students in grades 3-5 will be taking MSA (March 14th-15th and March 20th-21st).

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a productive 2012!

Sincerely,

Wendy Leishear

*Strategic Thinkers*

*Excited Learners*

*Successful Leaders*

## Attendance Notes

Attendance notes can now be emailed to the school at **sesattendance@carrollk12.org**. You may also email parent pickup notes to the same address. **Remember parent pick up notes must be received by 1:00 pm.**

## Inclement Weather-Related Delayed Openings or Early Dismissals

Please review the Inclement Weather Policy in the Carroll County Public Schools' Informational Calendar (page 24) that was sent home with your youngest child early in the school year. The policy outlined pertains to extreme heat and humidity, as well as ice and snow.

### Inclement Weather Procedures for Pre K

School **delayed opening** for 1 or 2 hours Sandymount Pre K program is cancelled; for school **dismissing early**—1 hour Sandymount Pre K will dismiss on its regular schedule; 2 hours early Sandymount Pre K will dismiss at 11:00 a.m.; 3 hours early Sandymount Pre K will dismiss at 10:00 am.

## January Dates to Remember

- \* January 3rd—PTA Pizza and Pasta Sale Begins
- \* January 9th-12th—Vision and Hearing Screening for PreK, K, and 4th grade
- \* January 16th—School Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- \* January 18th—PTA Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm
- \* January 27th—School Closed for Students; PTA Players Night 5:00-8:00 pm
- \* February 1st—Report Cards Go Home

### Notes from the Nurse:

We have had some problems with head lice at your child's school. Outbreaks of head lice in school are very common. It is very important that we work together to keep these "problems" under control. Parents need to check their child periodically, especially if you notice your child scratching his/her head. It is also important that you notify the school nurse if you discover that your child has head lice, so we may check and possibly stem the spread. When we receive a report of lice, we will check appropriate students. Your child may or may not have been checked at this time. Please remember to check your child more closely for the next 7-10 days to help ensure the head lice were not shared.

It is a common misconception that lice are the result of poor hygiene or a dirty house. Head lice prefer clean hair, as it is easier to adhere to the shaft. However, once head lice are present, it takes a lot of effort to get rid of them, and the longer they are present the harder it is to rid the household of them.

Some information to know about head lice and their treatment:

- They only live on humans.
- They do not hop, jump, or fly, but can move very rapidly.
- They cannot survive without the human host for more than 1-2 days.
- Head lice do not cause disease, but intense scratching can result in a secondary infection.
- All household members should be treated.
- Small children and pregnant women need to check with the doctor before using any treatment.
- NO treatment should be repeated any closer than the recommendation on the box, as this overuse may contribute to hair and scalp damage and lice resistance.
- The best way to rid the household of lice and their eggs (nits) is to vacuum all rugs, furniture (including the bed) and cars thoroughly (discard the vacuum bag after) and wash all the bed linens in hot water. You may wish to do this daily for several days to make sure all areas are lice free.
- All clothing and personal items need to be washed in hot water and dried on high. If items cannot be washed, they need to be sealed in plastic bags for two weeks.
- Do not share combs, brushes, hair accessories, or clothing.
- **THE ONLY SURE WAY TO BE RID OF HEAD LICE IS TO REMOVE ALL NITS AFTER TREATMENT.** (Removal of nits is a tedious process. There are several products on the market to help with this process. However, many times the only way to remove nits is to individually peel them from the hair shaft.)

If you should have other questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse, the Health Services Supervisor, at (410)751-3124 or the Carroll County Health Department at (410) 876-4900.

## Parent Pick-Up Procedures

Parents picking up their children at dismissal time are asked to park on the side or lower lot and enter the building at the loading dock door. (This door will be locked **UNTIL 3:45** each day.) Parents are asked to proceed to the right and enter the gym. Immediately following afternoon announcements, parent pick-up students will be dismissed to the gym.

Parents must come inside to the parent pick-up area (Gym) and initial the sign out page before leaving with their child. Please do not be offended if the staff member on duty does not know you and asks for identification. Also, if someone other than a parent is to pick up your child, their name **MUST** be on the emergency card or your child will not be released to them.

If your child will be permanent pick up each day, you will **ONLY** need to send one note on the first day of school indicating this, and they will be added to the list daily. Also, send one note if your child will be picked up consistently each week on a certain day (i.e., every Monday, Tuesday, etc.). These students will also be added as per your instructions, and there will be no need to send additional notes unless there is a change. Students needing to be picked up "on occasion" will need to bring a note.

**FOR SECURITY REASONS, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REQUEST THAT YOUR CHILD BE ADDED TO THE PARENT PICK UP LIST OVER THE PHONE. FAXED REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THIS PROCEDURE MUST BE COMPLETED BY 1 PM.**

In the event that you should need to pick up your child at the last minute and you have not had the opportunity to send or fax a note, it will be necessary for you to go to the office to sign them out before going to the gym.

**When sending a note for parent pick up, please include the children's first and last name, teacher's name and parent's first and last name.**

Your support of these procedures is appreciated, as we want to ensure each and every child arrives home safely.

## Visitor's Badges

Please remember that **visitors** entering Sandymount Elementary School will be required to report to the office to sign in and get a badge. Upon leaving the building visitors are required to sign out and return the badge to the office. This is required even if you are just walking your child to his/her classroom. The only children going into the first grade door at parent drop-off in the morning will be those students entering the building without an adult. Staff members will be monitoring the hallways. Anyone without a badge will be asked to return to the school office and sign in and get a badge or leave the building. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us make Sandymount Elementary School a safe place for our students.

## Parent Drop-Off Procedures

### 9:00 AM First Grade Door

1. Upon entering the Sandymount entrance, drive toward the back of the school (1st and 2nd grade side of the building), keep to the right of the yellow center line.
2. Once at the loop in the rear of the building (near dumpsters), go around the outside loop keeping to the right, and proceed down the side by the curb.
3. **DO NOT STOP** at back entrance (entrance for deliveries and daycare drop-off).
4. There are zebra lines **////** painted and signs indicating the student drop-off area.
5. Stop and let your child exit your vehicle. School personnel will be at the door. Remind children to be ready to exit your vehicle promptly, since at least six cars or vans can be unloading at the same time. Do not let your child exit your car until you see a staff member at the door and the bell rings.
6. At all times, private vehicles are to yield to school buses and pedestrians.

## 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: Gregory J. Bricca, Director of Research and Accountability, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157, 410-751-3068.

**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.

**2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal Days**

Students will dismiss on the dates below at 1:00 p.m. Students may not ride a bus other than the one they have been assigned on these days or any other day. These afternoons are professional, teacher collaboration and planning days.

The dates for the 2011-2012 School Year are:

February 10	March 5
May 11	June 14

**Notes from the Music Room**

Congratulations to our fifth grade Chorus members for a wonderful Winter Concert season. We were very proud of their performance at the Carroll Hospice Festival of Trees and their performances here at school. Auditions for Fourth Grade chorus will be held at the end of January.

Fifth graders have a unique opportunity coming up- they can audition to be part of the 84th Annual Eisteddfod Concert in March. The Eisteddfod is an Honors chorus composed of the best singers from elementary, middle and high schools in Carroll County. Nine students will be chosen to represent Sandymount. Since there is a fairly stringent rehearsal schedule we are requesting that students bring a permission slip before we audition them, so we know they are available for after school and evening rehearsals. This permission slip will come home January 3 and will also be available on our music room website at :

<http://members.thinkport.org/JoannBenson>

No student will be auditioned without a signed permission slip. Auditions will be the week of January 9th and rehearsal will begin January 26th. As always please call or email with questions!

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION WEEK**

**March 26-30, 2012**

Registration for kindergarten for the 2012 - 2013 school year will be held the week of March 26-30, 2012 at the elementary school in your attendance area. Enrollment in kindergarten is mandatory for children who will be five years of age **on or before September 1, 2012.**

Parents will need to present the following at the time of registration:

1. their child's birth certificate or other legal document to verify their child's legal name and birth date
2. verification of residence such as a public utility bill or a lease agreement
3. specific address from which the child will be transported to school and the specific address to which the child will be transported after school.

If you have questions about kindergarten, kindergarten orientation, or alternatives to kindergarten, please contact Mrs. Leishear at school.

**Carroll County Public  
Schools 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. Volunteer training, obtained during the 2010-2011 school year is only valid through September 30, 2011.

***Please Note:***

**The training session will begin promptly at the scheduled time, so allow adequate travel time in order to arrive before the presentation begins. Attendees must be present for the entire presentation because volunteer training is an annual compliance requirement. You will need to attend another presentation if the training session has begun when you arrive. The trainers appreciate your understanding and regret any inconvenience this situation may cause.**

	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.
<b>January 2012</b>			
9	Manchester Elementary	6:00 pm	410-751-3410
10	West Middle	6:30 pm	410-751-3661
11	+Cranberry Station Elementary	6:00 pm	410-386-4440
11	New Windsor Middle	6:30 pm	410-751-3355
12	+Friendship Valley Elementary	5:45 pm	410-751-3650
12	Oklahoma Road Middle	6:00 pm	410-751-3600
18	Manchester Valley High	3:00 pm	410-386-1673
18	+Sandymount Elementary	6:30 pm	410-751-3215
<b>February 2012</b>			
1	Winfield Elementary	6:30 pm	410-751-3242
6	William Winchester Elementary	9:30 am	410-751-3230
6	Manchester Elementary	6:00 pm	410-751-3410
8	+Piney Ridge Elementary	6:30 pm	410-751-3535
9	Mechanicsville Elementary	9:00 am	410-751-3510
9	Oklahoma Road Middle	9:00 am	410-751-3600
9	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 pm	410-751-3530

## Library Media Center News

### Photography Contest

It's time to start taking pictures! Our annual Sandymount Photography Contest will take place in March this year. Photographs are due to the media center by March 2, 2012.

We are once again partnering with Mechanicsville Elementary, Gerstell Academy, and the Finksburg Library, to host a Photography Exhibition. You will be able to visit the Finksburg Branch any time during April to see the wonderful photographs of fellow student photographers. For more information visit the Sandymount website: <http://www.carrollk12.org/ses/>

(Click on **Media** and **Photography Contest**)

### Websites and Passwords

**Destiny OPAC Home Access:** <https://destiny.carrollk12.org>

(Sandymount's library catalog)

Database	Username	Password
CultureGrams Online <a href="http://online.culturegrams.com">http://online.culturegrams.com</a>	sndymtelem	sndymtelem
SIRS Discoverer <a href="http://discoverer.sirs.com">http://discoverer.sirs.com</a>	ccpses	elem
World Book Encyclopedia Online <a href="http://online.k12.carr.org/worldbook/index.html">http://online.k12.carr.org/worldbook/index.html</a>	sesmedia	chipper
Tumble Books <a href="http://www.TumbleBookLibrary.com">www.TumbleBookLibrary.com</a>	sandymount	books

You can watch episodes of WMUNK News on CETV, Channel 21 or live streaming online. For the broadcast schedule or to watch online, visit the CETV 21 link from the CCPS homepage. ([www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org))

Peace and Happy Reading Chipmunks!

**Ms. Boggs, Media Specialist**  
**Mrs. Stitely, Media Clerk**

### 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, Mr. Guthrie 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, Mr. Guthrie 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.**

**CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**OUT-OF-DISTRICT REQUESTS FOR THE 2012 - 2013 SCHOOL YEAR**

Board policy states that students who attend Carroll County Public Schools shall attend school in their designated attendance area. However, in very specific and limited circumstances, students may be placed in a school outside their attendance area if an approvable circumstance is deemed to exist.

Parents/legal guardians desiring an out-of-district placement for their child should carefully review the list of approvable circumstances listed on the back of the out-of-district application to determine whether the child meets the criteria for approval. Please review the out-of-district regulations in the Student Services manual for updates. The information can be found in Section I of the Student Services manual at [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org). The Carroll County Public Schools' out-of-district policy and regulation will be strictly adhered to in making decisions regarding admission of students to schools outside of their assigned attendance area.

It is the parent's/legal guardian's responsibility to obtain an out-of-district application from the school office or the Student Services Department. These applications will be available on December 5, 2011. Completed out-of-district applications may not be returned to the school office.

The deadline for out-of-district applications for the 2012-2013 school year is **February 1, 2012**. Completed applications must be **postmarked or personally delivered** by the deadline date to:

Carroll County Public Schools  
Student Services Department  
125 North Court Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Applications postmarked/received after the deadline date of **February 1, 2012** will be returned to the sender without consideration.

**QUESTIONS REGARDING OUT-OF-DISTRICT ISSUES MAY BE DIRECTED TO Steve Shoup at 410-751-3179.**

**Happy New  
Year!**