



Sandymount Elementary School
2222 Old Westminster Pike
Finksburg, MD 21048
410-751-3215/Fax 410-751-3925



The mission of Sandymount Elementary is to promote student achievement and character development within a safe and respectful environment

CHIPMUNK CHATTER

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October 2011

Wendy K. Leishear,
Principal

Jane M. Kacmarski
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have kicked off the 2011-2012 school year with an exciting first month! Thank you to everyone who attended Back-to-School Nights and volunteer training! Thank you to everyone who attended our first PTA meeting of the year! We had a great turnout and hope to see even more new faces this month. Thank you also to those who participated in PTA's first fundraiser of the year. So far Entertainment Books has raised over \$5,000 that will go right back to your students by way of classroom materials, programs, etc.

In September we also partnered with the NFL to kick-off two great new programs. NFL **Play 60** helps ensure kids have 60 minutes of physical activity each day and that they make healthy food choices. The first two weeks of this program are included in CCPS's program **Project ACES**, in which you will be asked to verify your student's 60 minutes of activity. With your permission, students will be able to register on the Play 60 website to log their time and choices. We are also participating in Matt Birk's HIKE Foundations **Ready, Set Read** Program. This program stresses the importance of reading and writing. Students can win lots of great prizes for reading and writing journal entries both in school and at home.

Please remember that you must receive volunteer training each year, so any training completed last school year expired September 30th. We will have another volunteer training before the PTA meeting this month and again in January. Also, included in each newsletter is a schedule for volunteer training throughout the school system.

Just as we start the 2011-2012 school year, we are also asking you to start thinking about the 2012-2013 school year! You may have received an e-mail that the bell times will officially be changing for NEXT school year. Our students will enter the building at 9:15 am with instruction beginning at 9:30 am. Students will be dismissed at 4:00 pm. While this offers a tremendous savings and more efficient model for the school system, we know that for some families this change will take planning so we wanted you to be able to start thinking about it now. **OUR TIMES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR CONTINUE TO BE 9:15-3:45, with doors opening at 9:00.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail on the school's website or by telephone at anytime if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wendy Leishear & Jane Kacmarski

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.**

October Dates to Remember

- October 3rd—9:30—Urban Artistry Cultural Arts Program; **1:00 Early Dismissal**
- October 6th—Interims go home for all students in grades 1-5
- October 11th—J & P Pizza Night—Grade 1—4:00-8:00 pm
- October 19th—PTA Meeting at 7 pm with volunteer training immediately before at 6:30 pm
- October 21st—School Closed for Students
- October 27th—J & P Pizza Night—Grade 2—4:00-8:00 pm
- October 28th—Grade 2 Field Trip to Piney Run Park; Snow White and the 3 Slobs Cultural Arts Program; Luminary Lighting
- October 31st—Mother Goose visiting Kindergarten



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 3rd & Monday, November 14th

4:30—8:00 pm

Beginning Monday, October 17th you may call the office to schedule a conference.

Notes from the Nurse

While you are cleaning out your children's closets this fall, if you have any clothes you would like to donate to the school's nurses office it is greatly appreciated. We are in need of boys and girls clothing in all sizes.

News from Mrs. Moore's Art Palette

A Reminder—Art is messy! Thanks to families who have given their child an old shirt to wear to art. If you haven't yet, please provide your children with an old shirt to wear over their clothes to protect them. It is their responsibility to try to bring one to art. Please help your child remember a shirt. If you cannot provide one, I will give them one to wear.

To celebrate our Play 60 program all students created Play 60 posters. If you didn't see them in the news you can see them hanging in the hallways here at school. Students learned what makes a good poster, how to draw ways to play for 60 minutes, and how to draw good foods to eat.

Our first experience in art was the color wheel in most classes. **Kindergarteners** created a color wheel out of triangles. Now, we are talking about shapes to create a School Bus Collage using squares, circles, rectangles, and tap-n-glue. **First graders** learned the primary and secondary colors as they painted a color wheel with tempera paint. They are currently creating a cityscape collage using newspaper. **Second graders** created a color wheel necklace using watercolor. Students painted triangles using the three primary colors, then rolled them into beads, and threaded yarn through the beads for a color wheel necklace. **Third grade** used watercolor and crayon to make a 3-d color wheel ornament. **Fourth and fifth graders** mixed intermediate colors on their color wheel. **Fourth grade** students looked at nature to create a radial collage. **Fifth graders** experimented with tints and shades to paint a cityscape.

Volunteers: If you are interested in helping in the art room—on a weekly basis, once in a while, or displaying artwork at school please let Mrs. Moore know. We'd be happy to have your help.

Donations: small plastic margarine containers with lids and egg cartons.

Mrs. Moore's website: Here you will find online activities, the art class schedule, exhibits, and more. <http://members.thinkport.org/jamoore>

Making a poster at home?

Guidelines to follow • Neat • Easy to read • Colorful • Gets your attention • Informative

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:

October 3	December 9	March 5
November 3	December 23	May 11
November 14	February 10	June 14

Do you have Story to Tell?

The American Heart Association would like to help bring awareness and promote heart health to our students. We know that personal stories create passion and help make our event more special. If your child has benefited from heart research and you are willing to share this with fellow students, please contact our school nurse.



Meet Abby

Abby attends school in Westminster, MD. In March of 2010, she underwent a heart catheterization to repair a hole in her heart. "We are so thankful to have Abby in our lives and for all the medical care and the doctors who were able to help our daughter. The American Heart Association has worked hard for many years on research so that all of this was possible for our daughter."

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**Notes from the Music Room**

Welcome back for another year of making beautiful music!

Fifth grade chorus is 78 strong this year!! We meet every Thursday at 3:10 to prepare our Winter concert that will be held on Wednesday December 7 at 2 PM and 7 PM. Please be sure this date is on your calendar. We have been invited again this year to perform at the Carroll Hospital Center's Festival of Trees on Friday, December 2 at 6 PM. This will be an optional activity; more information will come home later but we wanted to get this date on your calendar too.

Fourth graders should bring in their recorders as soon as possible- if you need to purchase one remember the school store has them for \$5.00. Please let Mrs. Benson know if you have a problem getting hold of one.

**DAGILELIS, the renowned Boy Choir from Lithuania**

**Manchester Valley High School**

**3300 Maple Grove Road, Manchester, MD**

**7:00pm Concert**

**October 26, 2011**

**Contact: Diane Jones, 410-751-5361 or Jacie Mathias, 443-536-8964**

**More information: [www.intermusearts.org](http://www.intermusearts.org)**

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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 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.

October	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.
3	Elmer Wolfe Elementary	2:00 PM	410-751-3307
3	+ Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
5	Oklahoma Road Middle	9:00 AM	410-751-3600
5	Eldersburg Elementary	9:30 AM	410-751-3520
5	Manchester Valley High	3:00 PM	410-386-1673
5	+ Cranberry Station Elem.	6:00 PM	410-386-4440
11	Spring Garden Elementary	7:30 AM	410-751-3433
11	+ Winters Mill High	6:00 PM	410-386-1500
11	Elmer Wolfe Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3307
13	Mechanicsville Elementary	9:00 AM	410-751-3510
13	Manchester Valley High	6:00 PM	410-386-1673
17	New Windsor Middle	6:30 PM	410-751-3355
19	+ Sandymount Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3215
20	Northwest Middle	8:00 PM	410-751-3270
24	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3530
26	New Windsor Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3355
27	# Runnymede Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3230



In an effort to continue our green school initiative we will be sending our newsletter and lunch menu electronically. You will receive the newsletter and lunch menu via our Sandymount website and AlertNow email. Please make sure your email is correct on your child's emergency card. All families will receive the newsletter and lunch menu electronically unless you complete and return the form Below and return to school by October 17th.

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

_____ Paper Copy Newsletter and Lunch Menu