

Paw Prints

Spring Garden Elementary - November 2009

"The mission of Spring Garden Elementary is to ensure that all students will become responsible and productive citizens by mastering a continuously challenging curriculum supported by a strong school and community partnership.



Kim Renfro

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Christy Farver

Assistant Principal
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Administrators' Message:

Happy November! The arrival of fall brings cooler weather and the sights of colorful leaves and pumpkins on front porches. It also brings with it the warm thoughts of upcoming family gatherings. As you and your family enjoy this beautiful season, we are helping students set goals for the second marking term.

Report cards go home in grades 1-5 on November 6th.

Many parents have taken advantage of the opportunity to conference with their child's teacher(s) on our evening date in October. If you still wish to schedule a conference, the evening of November 18th is still available. Please see additional information within the newsletter. Additional conference nights will be available in the spring.

As you look over your child's report card, take time to talk to your child about his or her learning. You may wish to use some of the suggestions below:

- Ask your child, "What are you most proud of?" "How did you earn that grade?" It is important for children to learn that grades are not given, but earned by the work that is completed and class participation.
- Celebrate a subject area where you know your child has worked hard and/or has made progress. Reinforce that turning in written assignments and projects; studying for tests; and participating in class discussions make the difference.
- Ask your child whether he did his best. What is important is not that your child be the best, but that he did his best.
- If grades are unexpectedly low, you may need to talk to the teacher. Now is the time to find out, and correct, any problems that may be interfering with your child's learning.
- If the report card is disappointing, try to find something positive to say. Children need to know that they are loved even when they make mistakes.
- Talk to your child about an area for growth. Relate the learning today to the future. Develop an action plan for future success. For example, study math facts for 5 minutes each night.

As you take the time to share in your child's learning please remember that adult family members are welcome to visit and observe classes anytime throughout the year. Please arrange your visit in advance to ensure that the time is appropriate and does not interfere with planned activities. All visitors to the school must report directly to the office upon arrival. You will need to sign-in and obtain a sticker from office personnel for identification while in the building. In order to minimize classroom distractions, infants and toddlers as well as other children not enrolled at Spring Garden Elementary are not permitted to visit classes.

Fondly,

Mrs. Kim Renfro
Mrs. Christy Farver

New To Spring Garden

Spring Garden would like to inform you that starting Tuesday, November 3rd you will begin to see 5th grade students as part of our safety patrol. The Patrol members will wear a patrol safety belt that is bright yellow or green in color. The members will be easy to spot. The patrol's primary purpose is to insure safety of all students during bus arrival and dismissal through a positive rewards program. The Patrol members are 5th grade students who have completed a job application and have been selected by teachers. They have attended a training session put on by workers from AAA. This is a new program and revisions will be made as needed during the course of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Greenberg or Mrs. Berry.

School Times:



8:55-9:15 a.m. Arrival Window
9:10 a.m. Pledge and Patriotic Song
9:15 a.m. Instructional day begins
3:45 p.m. Dismissal begins

Students are not considered tardy unless they arrive in their classroom after 9:15 a.m. Thanks for all you do to have your student(s) here and on time, ready to learn!

Parent Conference Sign-up Procedures

Conferences will be held on **WEDNESDAY, November 18th from 4:45 - 8:00 p.m.**

Each conference will be scheduled for 15 minutes.

To schedule a conference, please call 410-751-3433 or stop by the Office **between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily.** Please help us process your call by having the following information handy:

- Know the name of each teacher you would like to meet with; and
- Select a first and second choice of time.

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.**

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC FITNESS AWARD 2008-2009 CRITERIA

*Each year as part of the Fifth Grade Promotion, we honor the Fifth Grade students who have demonstrated academic excellence in reading or math. The guidelines for Carroll County students are:

Grade 4 MSA Score: ADVANCED in either reading or math

CCPS Math Benchmark Score: 90% on each test (not average) for January Grade 4, May Grade 4 and January Grade 5

Grade Point Average: 3.5 G.P.A. (language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) for all of Grade 4 and first two marking periods in Grade 5



Classroom Activities



The kindergarten children have been busy getting acclimated to their guided reading groups. We are learning beginning reading strategies. The children are also learning to read, spell and write their pocket words.

In math, we have been spending a lot of time on number relationships to ten (10). We have talked about ordinal numbers as well as introduced the penny, nickel, dime and quarter.



In Science, we have been using our five senses to explore signs of fall. Towards the end of November, the kindergarten children will celebrate Thanksgiving by making Friendship Stew. They will dress up as Pilgrims or Native Americans and enjoy the stew they helped to make.



First graders have recently completed the second math cluster – Number Relationships to 50. They will need to keep their reasoning skills sharp as they begin learning addition and subtraction strategies and fact families. We will continue to look back and review skills from previous clusters. Let's not forget about patterns and graphs! Problem solving will be ongoing as first graders discover there are many ways to arrive at an answer and sometimes more than one answer can be correct!

In ILA, students have been quite busy learning how to be "active readers". They know about activating their schema and are beginning to make connections to texts. Brainstorming for writing ideas, using a "seed journal" for jotting personal ideas and beginning Writer's Workshop are filling the days in ILA. Practice thinking of descriptive words to improve written expression!

***Brrrrrrrrrr. Please be sure your child remembers to bring a jacket to school on these cool fall days. We DO go out to play every day. You may also want to take a fun fall walk with the family in search of seeds; We learned in science class that they may be found in pods, dried in flowers, traveling in the wind or on the water or even being eaten by animals! Happy Autumn!



Students have been working hard in ILA with making predictions. They are motivated to read by checking to see if their predictions are correct or need to be changed. Ask your child to tell you about their “Tracks Journal.” At home when reading with your child, stop after reading a page or two and make a prediction of what you think is going to happen next. Continue reading to see if you and your child are correct or need to change your prediction!

Our Word Study program has begun. Please encourage your child to review words nightly. Enjoy time with your child as you work on word study activities together.

In math, students are beginning to study place value including even/odd numbers, tens, ones, expanded form, and two digit addition with regrouping. (Parents, you may remember this as carrying.) It is very important that basic fact review is part of your nightly homework routine!

Students really enjoyed the culminating activity of Community Helper Dress-up Day to conclude the “Our Community at Work” Social Studies unit. We had many community helper careers represented! In Social Studies, students are learning how resources are used to produce goods and how workers use assembly lines. We can't wait to try this first hand on our trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry on Nov. 17th!



Third graders have had a busy October! In ILA, students have been reading for Book It. They have also been learning about text features and comprehension strategies for informational text.

In math, students have been learning and using addition and subtraction strategies. They have also been applying those strategies when adding and subtracting larger numbers. Many students have been challenged with open ended problem solvers. They have found that some problems can have more than just one answer.



The fourth graders will continue to read a variety of literature as they learn comprehension strategies for both fiction and nonfiction texts. Word study has begun, and your student is learning new strategies for spelling and understanding the meaning of words. Students are continuing to use their Reader's Notebooks to record their thinking as they read. They are also continuing to use their Writer's Notebooks to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Encourage your student to read and write often to practice the skills he or she is learning!

Social Studies

In Social Studies, the students are learning about how the colony of Maryland started. They are identifying people such as George Calvert, Cecil and Leonard Calvert and terms such as indentured servant and charter. Do you know how Maryland was named? Ask a fourth grade student to help you if you don't know. The next step is to talk about Maryland and the Revolutionary War.

Math

Students continue to practice basic facts and work on addition and subtraction computation skills. We are currently beginning the Statistics Cluster, where students will be collecting, organizing and displaying data in various ways. Some of the new graphs include double bar graphs, line graphs (both single and double), circle graphs and stem and leaf plots. Students will be learning how to analyze data by finding the range, median, mean and mode. We will also be hunting for treasure on a coordinate plane!



Science Unit 2

Rocks, minerals, and the changes in the Earth's surface are the main topics of our current unit 'Planet Earth'. Ask your student to share what they have done in the classroom as hands on activities.

ILA: In Reading, Literature Circles have started. Students will be able to develop strategies they are learning in class and also dig deeper into their stories for better understanding.

Beginning in November the fifth grade will take a story that they have written in their Writer's Notebook and go through the writing process to produce a finished piece.

Math: Fifth graders are beginning to multiply decimals and whole numbers. It is very important that your child is fluent with his/her basic facts. We've reviewed basic multiplication fact strategies and the students are expected to practice them at home as needed. Students are also multiplying to find the area of polygons and volume of 3-dimensional figures. Our next unit will be division of whole numbers and decimals.

PTA Book Fair November 16-20, 2009



It's Book Fair time again. Students in Grades 1-5 will be shopping during their media specials. This includes students in grades 3-5, who are scheduled for PE that week. If you want your child to purchase books, please send them with money on their media day. Kindergarten students will be able to participate. Look for information to be sent home. The book fair will not be open before and after school. Evening hours are scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 from 4:45 to 7:45.

**We need adult volunteers. Contact Jen Ralph at 410-374-0416, if you would like to help.*



Picture Re-Take Day!

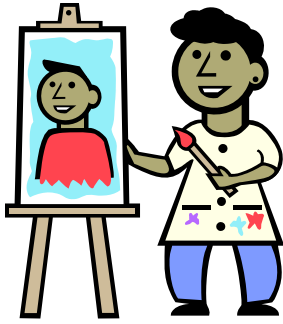
Please watch for more information coming home in the near future.

LOST AND FOUND!



Our Lost and Found is piling up with items.

If your child's jacket, sweater, etc is missing, please stop by and dig through the PILE!



THE ART CART EXPRESS

Our Artists of the month for October:

Jacob Newton
Sam Jones
Vincent di Leonardi
Joey Orovich

Ethan Risner
Camryn Albright
Mason Widener
Katie Tutalo

Enjoy their artwork in the showcase by the Media Center.

PE Ponderings

In PE we have been busy working on throwing and catching skills as well as kicking. Our younger students have been learning the difference between an underhand toss and an overhand throw:

Underhand Toss

- Face target
- Step forward with opposite foot
- Swing dominant arm forward and release bean bag/ ball
- Object should follow a rainbow pathway

Overhand Throw

- Hold the ball next to your ear in your dominant/favorite hand
- Stand sideways with the opposite side of your body facing target
- Point with opposite hand toward target
- Step with opposite foot toward target
- Twist trunk to throw overhand toward target

They have also been learning to make a control kick or pass by stepping next to the ball with their opposite foot and sweeping their dominant leg to kick the ball with their instep. They have practiced power kicking by running up to the ball and using their shoelaces or the top of their foot to kick the ball.

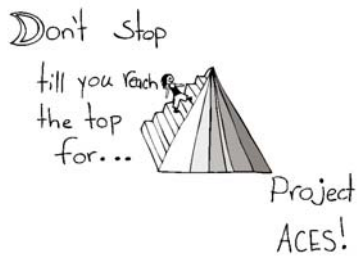
Students in grades 3-5 have participated in a variety of games and stations utilizing their throwing and kicking skills.

Even though Project ACES is over we hope that everyone continues with their physical activities. Practicing curl-ups, push-ups, and the sit & reach stretch can easily be done while watching TV. Don't forget to do some running to get ready for the PACER test.

We say goodbye to Mrs. Millstone as Mrs. St. Rose returns from maternity leave in November.

Mrs. Clower





From Health Room

Thanks to all the students, parents, and staff who helped out with the daffodil project! Students had a great time and learned many lessons about respect and responsibility. Now, we'll all have to be patient for our reward in the spring as the flowers bloom.

Another thank you goes out to all who helped make Project ACES a success. At this time, we had 86% of our students participate and hand in their exercise logs. This will make SGE a "gold" school once again! This project is truly, a group effort.

Counselor's Corner

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Update

Respect

Responsibility

Honesty

Effort

Our PBIS programs are going well as we recognize and promote positive character traits throughout all aspects of the students' day. Our Top Tiger matrix contains examples of each character trait in different settings. Students are enjoying the opportunity to earn Paw Pride tickets for everything from showing respect by walking quietly in the hallways to showing effort by being prepared and participating in class discussions. Tickets can be turned in for various rewards including bringing in an item for show and tell, sitting at the teacher's desk and special activities with staff members.

Another aspect of PBIS is the daily chart that allows parents to see which color their children have earned each day based on their behavior. This chart also helps students to monitor their progress. Our pep rallies are one of the most exciting components for our students as well as a great way to boost school spirit. During our kick off pep rally, students met Iggy, our school mascot, participated in cheers and dances, and saw skits about the character traits.

Students have commented that:

The Pep Rally was fun!

Paw Pride tickets are awesome because you can earn extra recess!

PBIS makes you try harder...when you get tickets, it makes you want to get even more!

We are excited that PBIS has been so beneficial for our students and we're looking forward to its continued success.

Reading Corner

Tips for Growing Readers

Reading Rule number 1: It all starts with reading aloud.

And reading aloud should start from birth, say the experts. "You cannot overestimate the importance of this," says Betsy Rogers, a first- and second-grade teacher in Birmingham who is Alabama's 2003 Teacher of the Year. The more words your child hears from the beginning of her life, Rogers says, the bigger her vocabulary will be — which will pave the way when she learns to read herself. As Jim Trelease, author of **The Read Aloud Handbook**, points out, "Listening comprehension comes before reading comprehension."

Many parents make the mistake of no longer reading aloud once their children are able to read to themselves. Trelease argues that you should read aloud to your children well into middle school, using books that are two or three levels above those the kids can read themselves. In other words, if your first-grader is perfectly capable of reading *The Cat in the Hat* by himself, have him read it to you, then read a chapter book to him.

Sue Schultz, Reading Specialist

*Keynote speakers: Thomas Cargiulo,
Director of Maryland Alcohol & Drug Abuse Administration, "What's In Your
Medicine Cabinet"*

*Angel Bivens, Maryland Poison Center
"When OTC's (Over The Counter Drugs) and Household Product Cross The Line"*

**Doors open at 6:00P.M.
Speakers begin @ 6:30P.M.
St. John Portico
47 Monroe Street
Westminster, MD 21157**

Thanks!
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410-751-3331
410-751-3695 (fax)

November 2009

Student Calendar



- November 2 Vision & Hearing Re-screening
6 Report cards are sent home
9 **1:00 Dismissal Grades K - 5, No Pre-K**
Lunch will be served, but ice cream will NOT be sold
10 Hampstead Fire Department visits
12 Volunteer Training - Spring Garden Elementary 7:30 a.m.
Gr. 4 & 5 to Manchester Valley High School - 9:15 a.m.
13 1st Grade Breadmaking - 2:00-3:30 p.m.
PTA sponsored Fall Family Bingo - Doors open at 6:15 p.m.
17 2nd grade to Baltimore Museum of Industry - 9:30-2:30 pm
Volunteer/Chaperone Training - 6:30 p.m.
PTA Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
18 Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:45 - 8:00 p.m.
PTA Book Fair - Extended hours 4:45-7:45 p.m.
19 5th Grade - MD Science Center visits - 12:30 p.m.
"K" Friendship Stew Meal - 1:45 p.m.
20 School Spirit Day - Crazy Sock Day
North Carroll Ensemble Assembly - 2:30 p.m.
23 **School Closed for Students**
24 **School Closed for Students**
25-27 **Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Break**
- December 3 **1:00 Dismissal Grades K - 5, No Pre-K**
Lunch will be served, but ice cream will NOT be sold

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