February 2019

Fort Garrison Elementary School
3310 Woodvalley Drive
Baltimore, MD 21208

Telephone: 410-887-1203
Fax: 410-887-1204

Dr. Hope Baier, Principal
Kayla Denmyer, Assistant Principal

www.fortgarrisons.bcps.org
www.fcrgarrisonpta.com

MESSAGE FROM DR. BAIER

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

Our second marking period ended on January 25th. Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, February 7th. Comments will be included in second and third marking periods. Also, students will receive grades in special area classes this marking period and again in the fourth marking period. The report card should be used as a tool for parents to gauge their child’s acquisition of skills. When your child gets good grades encourage him/her to keep up the good work. If your child gets poor grades, try to find out why and then work with your child to help correct any weaknesses as soon as possible. Please feel free to utilize the resources within our school to help you help your child improve. Whenever you have a concern or question about your child’s progress, please contact the school and set up a conference with your child’s teacher(s) and any support staff who work with your child. Classroom teachers, reading specialists, school counselors and the administration are available to meet with parents to develop strategies to help a student improve.

Winter MAP assessments will take place in the month of February for all students. Fall MAP testing did not take place this past year, therefore, student progress will be assessed from Winter of 2018 to Winter 2019. Students do not need to prepare anything in advance, but just to

We Are TEAM Fort Garrison!

Technology
Environment
Accessing Tomorrow
Motivated students & teachers

Upcoming Events

Feb 1 - Student Banking
Feb 1 - World "Read Aloud" Day
Feb 4 - Bus Evacuation Drill
Feb 4 - School-wide Reading Incentive Program Begins
Feb 6 - Primary Musical Performance – 7:00 p.m.
Feb 7 - Report Cards Distributed
Feb 8 - 2nd & 3rd Grade Dance Party – 2 to 3 p.m.
Feb 18 - President’s Day - Schools Closed
Feb 25 - PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
get a good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast. Teachers will send home information regarding specific testing dates.

Every year, BCPS asks parents to take the Stakeholder Survey. Last year, BCPS used your responses to shape our budget, staffing, and programs. Our school used your responses in the development of our School Progress Plan. Once again, we need your voice. The survey only takes about five minutes or less, is anonymous, and is available in 16 languages for students, parents, and community members. If you are a BCPS staff member, or if you have children in more than one school, you are encouraged to take the survey more than once to reflect these different experiences. The survey is available at www.bcps.org from January 18th to February 24th via phone, tablet, or computer. Let us know if you would like to take the survey at school. We want you to participate. Your voice matters!

Thank you,

Dr. Hope Baier
Principal

COUNSELOR’S CORNER – Notes from Mrs. Lepley

February is Black History Month and to celebrate all the diversity we have in Baltimore County we are focusing on celebrating differences.

Kindergarten, first, and second grade are focusing on positive characteristics in order to list ways they are unique and special. Third grade students will discuss cliques and including others. Fourth grade students will read a book related to segregation and including others. Fifth grade students will further their learning regarding equity and equality using classroom examples.

We are welcoming Ms. Tabitha Jermyn as the School Counseling intern this semester at Fort Garrison Elementary School for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Jermyn is currently in her final semester of her School Counseling graduate program at Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Jermyn has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) with a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Jermyn most recently interned at a high school in Baltimore City, and also has experience working with children in a domestic violence shelter and the JCC in Pittsburgh, PA. Ms. Jermyn is so excited to join the team at Fort Garrison Elementary.

Coffee with Counselor:

Our next Coffee with the Counselor will be held on Thursday March 21, 2019 at 4:15 pm. Our topic will be Empowering your Child. Please join us and bring a friend! You can RSVP by emailing me at clepley@bcps.org to let us know you will be coming.

Thank you!

Kate Lepley
School Counselor
Teacher Auction Reading Incentive Drawing

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

I am very excited to tell you about our school-wide reading incentive program that will begin on Monday, February 4, 2019. Each student will receive a monthly reading log. Please keep track of your child’s reading throughout the week. Then, on the following Monday, send in the completed reading log for the week, filled out with a parent/guardian’s signature and your child will receive a ticket. They must put their name and homeroom teacher’s name on the back of each ticket and save their tickets. Lost tickets will not be replaced. Your child may read more than the required reading, however each student is only eligible for one ticket a week for a completed reading log.

Students must save their tickets because they will use their tickets to purchase fun items at Reading/Innovation Night on Tuesday, April 9 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. (information to follow). In addition, your child will have an opportunity to drop their tickets in bags labeled with the teacher auction items that they would like to have. Then, after FGES Reading/Innovation Night, names will be picked out of the bag to determine who won the teacher auction item.

Remember that reading can be done alone, with a family member, or as an entire family. Make it fun-time each other reading the same paragraph three times and see if your time increases each time you read the paragraph. Have fun, earn tickets, and good luck in the Teacher Auction Raffle and have fun purchasing special treats with your tickets.

If you have any questions, please email Stacy Siegel at ssiegel@bcps.org. I hope to see you all at an AMAZING, interactive, FGES Reading/Innovation Night on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. We will begin this night with a special Laser Light show graciously sponsored by our PTA! DETAILS WILL FOLLOW. KEEP ON READING!

Stacy Siegel
Reading Specialist

MUSIC NOTES – Mrs. Case & Mr. Stojak

DON’T FORGET:

Students in first and second grade will perform a musical entitled “Swamped!” on February 6th at 7:00 p.m. Students are to report to the gym between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m.

In Vocal Music class third grade students have begun using recorders. Each student is responsible for bringing their recorder with them each week. The third grade classes come to music on the following days:

- Monday - Rotating
- Wednesday - Bynum
- Friday - Spaulding
I recommend that students keep their recorders in their backpack. They should practice using the resources posted on BCPSOne and immediately return the recorder to their backpack.

**Recorder Ensemble:**

Students have made significant progress on two of the seven songs we are learning. Please check with your students to be sure they are practicing at home several times per week.

Fourth and fifth grade students have started Chorus rehearsals for the second semester. They will perform a musical on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Stay tuned to subsequent newsletters for concert information and opportunities to volunteer.

The Music Department,

Stephanie Case
Brian Stojak

**NEWS FROM BETH GRAPES – Physical Ed**

**Banking News:**

We have been consistently serving about 15 students each month that are choosing to save money, which we all know is such a hard thing to do. Starting them young sets such great habits for them so if you are interested in opening an account please contact me at bgrapes@bcps.org. There has been a date change in March so please take note from the original schedule sent out. Here are the next banking days:

- Feb. 1st
- March 15th
- April 5th

**Kids Heart Challenge – PE:**

Thank you so much to everyone that have already signed up for this special event that helps raise money for the American Heart Association. This fundraiser is being held until Monday, February 25th at which time all paperwork and checks (NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED) are due to Mrs. Grapes.

This month in class we will be learning about ways to keep our heart healthy through the characters in the challenge and how this event helps others in need. The app is a neat tool that interacts with the students, so if you get a chance please download it so the characters they earn will come ALIVE!

Please email me at bgrapes@bcps.org if you have any questions or need more information. We will be holding the event during that week either in class or on one day. Students will be given more information in class.
FROM THE HEALTH SUITE – Nurse Caulk

Handwashing to prevent transmitting illness;

Essential to have an order for medications – even OTC;

Adequate sleep and nutrition to keep immune systems strong;

Look for lice weekly – tiny white oval eggs on hair shafts;

Temperature check – keep students home if temp is 100° or more;

Humidify the air to decrease nosebleeds, chapped lips and dry itchy skin;

Sneeze and coughing - cover, tissues, wash hands!

Upgrade to a spare change of clothes for the winter to be placed in your child’s locker;

Ingest fluids of great quantities to keep well-hydrated, and get immunized;

Take precautions – stay home until free of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hrs.;

Enjoy the winter with your children!

Catherine Caulk, RN, BSN
School Nurse

FROM THE FORT GARRISON PTA

We are working hard on some great PTA events that will be coming up! Orioles Night and Movie Night will be in late May so be on the lookout for exact dates soon. Even though it’s strange right now to think about sitting outside on a nice summer night we are excited that Movie Night will be outside again this year.

The popular Mother’s Day flower sale will be on May 10th. Each child will be able to take home a flower on behalf of the PTA. Teacher appreciation week is May 6th-10th and we are already busy planning fun ways to spoil all the amazing teachers here at the FORT!

Also, we are planning an exciting new event this year - Daddy and Daughter Dance and Mother and Son Night of Fun! They will both be on the same night, one in the cafeteria and one in the gym on March 22nd. Melissa Benson is working hard on this so be sure to look for ways to help plan or even assist on that night.
As always, please continue to send in box tops. We appreciate everyone who helps us raise money for the PTA. The current contest will be extended for this, and we are looking for a new Volunteer to organize this for us. Please contact the PTA if you are interested in filling this position.

We would love for you to join us at the next PTA meeting on February 25th @ 6:30.

See you at the FORT!

Amanda & Ashley
www.fortgarrisonpta.com
HARMONY AT HOME:
Promoting Better Behavior and Self Control

featuring
Russell Barkley, Ph.D.
Clinical psychologist and internationally recognized authority on ADHD or ADD

Tuesday, February 5, 2019
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School
Rosen Arts Center
3300 Old Court Road, Pikesville

$15 advanced registration; $20 after January 31
Register Today!
shemeshparentlecture.eventbrite.com
For more information contact
rsvp@shemeshbaltimore.org or 410-843-7524.

Dr. Russell Barkley is the foremost authority on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. He is a leading speaker, author and thinker on the topic of emotionally healthy families. Dr. Barkley offers practical, realistic guidance to thousands in over 23 best-selling books and 700-plus lectures.

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NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 22, 2019

Dear School Principal,

The Northwest Area Education Advisory Council invites you and your school community to our public meeting on career and technology education (CTE) in the Northwest Area. Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7:00 pm, at the Performing Arts Center of Deer Park Middle Magnet School. Mr. Douglas Handy, Director of CTE & Fine Arts and Dr. Michael Grubbs, Coordinator of CTE will share recommendations from the Northwest Area Task Force. These recommendations comprise an effective system of CTE and training for students in the Northwest Area. They will also discuss CTE programs that will be implemented in selected Northwest Area schools in the 2019-2020 school year and explain how the CTE programs align to recommendations of the Task Force.

I urge you to please place this announcement or the flyer about our public meeting in your school newsletter and/or distribute the flyer directly to parents and organizations in your community. For additional information you can contact me at 410-887-0766 or e-mail at ccollins3@bcps.org.

Sincerely,

Clifford Collins
Clifford Collins
Chair
Northwest Area Education Advisory Council
NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO A PUBLIC MEETING ON CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION IN THE NORTHWEST AREA

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Time: 7:00 pm
At: Deer Park Middle Magnet School
Visual Arts Center
9830 Winands Road
Randallstown, MD 21133

The community is invited to a presentation on the expansion of Career & Technology Education (CTE) for Northwest Area students. Presenters will discuss education programs recommended by the Northwest Area Career/Technology Task Force. These programs will comprise an effective system of CTE and training that will be implemented in selected schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

For more information contact Clifford Collins, Chair, Northwest Area Education Advisory Council at 410-887-0766 or ecollins3@bcps.org.