
March 2019

Fort Garrison Elementary School

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MESSAGE FROM Dr. Baier

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

The month of February has brought some dramatic weather our way. As a working parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to rearrange schedules to address late arrivals, early dismissals, or days closed due to inclement weather. Please make sure your child understands dismissal changes, especially if he/she attends Hot Spots or other after school programs. Additionally, at times you may receive a School Messenger call to alert you of changes in dismissal or transportation. Please listen to the entire message instead of calling Fort Garrison. There are many weather alert apps which you may choose such as BCPS Now or WBAL that can also be very helpful in staying abreast of weather related changes. Also, you can find valuable school information by following us on Facebook and Twitter! Hopefully our winter weather is on its way out and spring is around the corner!

Thank you for completing the Stakeholder Survey! If you haven't already done so, you can still complete the survey by March 6th. The survey is available at www.bcps.org 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!

It doesn't seem possible that more than half of the year is over already. At this point in the year we are well into the third marking period. Our school prides ourselves on consistently meeting or exceeding the attendance standard of 94% set for students by MSDE. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.

We Are **TEAM** Fort Garrison!

Technology

Environment

Accessing

Tomorrow

Motivated students
& teachers



Upcoming Events

- Mar 4-8** National School Breakfast Week
- Mar 8 -** Student Banking
- Mar 11 - 14** Scholastic Book Fair
- Mar 14 -** 4th Grd. Field Trip - JA Biz Town
- Mar 18 -** PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 21 -** Coffee w/Counselor – 4:05 p.m.
- Mar 22 -** Daddy/Daughter Dance & Mom/Son Night of Fun
- Mar 25 -** Restaurant Night @ CuVino Trattoria Pizza
- Mar 28 -** 1st Grd. Field Trip – Goucher College

Being on time for school is important as well. A student who arrives ten minutes late every day will miss nearly one hour of instruction each week. Your child's report card indicates their daily attendance rate as well as how many days your child has been tardy. Please review that data and make any adjustments to your daily schedule that are needed to help your child be here on time and regularly. Thank you for supporting your child's education!

Thank you,

Dr. Hope Baier
Principal



COUNSELOR'S CORNER – Notes from Mrs. Lepley

The school counseling core curriculum topic for the month of March is emotional regulation. Students in kindergarten will read and act out a story to show how children can stand up for someone when they are being hurt. Students in first grade will learn how to use self-control when they have something to say and not interrupt unless it is an emergency. The students in second grade will describe effective emotional management techniques in order to cope with their anger in a healthy way. Students in third grade will be discussing test anxiety and develop a list of test taking strategies. Fourth grade students will define peer pressure in order to make safe decisions. The students in fifth grade will prioritize activities they have to do and activities they want to do in order to manage their time and by making and following a schedule.



Coffee with the Counselor is BACK!

On **Thursday March 21 at 4:05 pm** we will be meeting in Room 22 to discuss Empowering your Child. This topic will cover ways to empower your child academically, socially, and emotionally. It is informal with a brief presentation and some time for group discussion about parenting elementary school aged children. Snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to me by emailing clepley@bcps.org. Can't wait to see you there!

Thank you,

Kate Lepley
School Counselor

READING NOTES from Mrs. Siegel

We had a wonderful assembly from a local author about Food Allergies and the Writing process last month. This month we are looking forward to the Scholastic Book Fair that will be at our school on Monday March 11 through Monday March 14. Once again, parents will be able to order online. We will hold a Family Night on Monday, March 11 from 4:05 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Students will also be able to visit the book fair that week during the school day to shop for books. A portion of each sale will go back to our school!

SAVE THE
DATE!

Reading/Innovation Night is Tuesday, April 9. We will have a Family Food Truck Picnic from 5:00 – 6:30. Then at 6:30, we will have an AMAZING Laser Light Show followed by Reading/Innovation family activities. Please bring the tickets that your students should be earning each week on that night. There will be a teacher auction, and other fun items they can trade for their tickets. We look forward to making this an amazing evening!

Stacy Siegel
Reading Specialist

LIBRARY NOTES from Mrs. O'Donnell

This Month's News

Black Eyed Susan Picture Book Award

This month in Library, students will be reading several books that have been nominated for the 2019 Maryland Black Eyed Susan Award. This award is voted on by children in the state of Maryland. This year 15 books have been nominated in the Picture Book category. Students will be evaluating the picture books and voting for their favorite using an online ballot. To see the full list of this year's nominees, visit <http://maslmd.org/2018-2019-black-eyed-susan-book-award-nominees/>.

Battle of the Books

Teams of 4th and 5th graders have been participating in a reading competition called the Battle of the Books. Students work in teams of up to 5 students to read a selection of 10 Black Eyed Susan nominated novels and graphic novels. The students will compete in a trivia competition about the selected books. This year we are thrilled to have 8 teams competing!

Important Dates:

- **April 30th, 10:30 am** – *Playoff Battle: Grades 3-5 will come to an assembly to watch the 8 teams go head to head in a playoff round. Two teams will advance to the next battle. Families of students who are competing are invited to come watch.*

- **May 16th, 6:30 pm** – *Final Battle: Fort Garrison's two advancing teams will face off against two teams from Summit Park. One winning team will claim a banner for their school and gift cards for each team member.*

The participating students have been working so hard to prepare for the battles. We are very proud of the dedication and effort these students and their coaches have put forth. Wish them luck!

Mrs. O'Donnell



FROM THE ART ROOM – Mrs. Hulse

March is Youth Art Month! Celebrate with your family by visiting one of Baltimore's amazing museums. Both the Walters Art Museum and the Baltimore Museum of Art are free and have hands activities for children every weekend. <https://artbma.org/> <https://thewalters.org/>

FGES Artists on Display

Student work from grades K-3 will be on display at the Pikesville Library March 1 through April 25. Families of student artists will be notified via this week's Thursday folder.

Congratulations to 1st grader Riley B. and second grader Zoey S.B.! Their work was selected to represent FGES at the annual Youth Art Month exhibit at the Walters Art Museum.

Fourth and fifth grade artists will have an opportunity to share their art work on May 7 during our First Annual Music and Art Night at Fort Garrison. Look for more information about this event next month.

Grace Hulse
Art Teacher



MUSIC NOTES – Mrs. Case & Mr. Stojak

It is time to start thinking about the final concerts of the year!

- **Students in Fourth and Fifth Grade** will present a musical entitled, Joust! on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. Please refer to the email sent recently detailing the important dates!
- **Fifth Grade** students participating in the Instrumental Music Program will present their culminating concert on Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00 p.m. **Third Grade** will present recorder selections they have been learning on the same evening. Be watching for final information in next month's newsletter.

- On a date TBD near the end of the year, students in **Kindergarten** will sing for their parents and families. Look for more information regarding this next month.

BCPS is again offering students in Fifth Grade or higher a low-cost, half-day music camp at the beginning of summer in June. It culminates in a performance at Oregon Ridge. See the applications across the hall from Mrs. Case's room for more information.

The music department continues to receive information about music camps and local performing ensembles. Much of it is posted in the library hallway. Feel free to contact Mrs. Case with questions about these opportunities.

The Music Department,

Stephanie Case
Brian Stojak

NEWS FROM BETH GRAPES – Physical Education



Student Banking at the Fox Branch

Our program continues to service about 14 students monthly and we would like to help many more begin their journey of learning about the importance of saving money. If interested, you may get an application from Mrs. Grapes at any time.

The upcoming banking dates are:

March 8th

April 5th

May 3rd

Kid's Heart Challenge Wrapping Up

Wow FGES you rock!! We raised \$11,033! Thank you so much to all students and parents that helped make the fundraising portion a success again this year. I will be placing the order soon for all the other gifts that students have earned and they will arrive in approximately three weeks.

The winter weather has certainly affected our schedule in PE, so we will do our class events to celebrate the Kid's Heart Challenge hopefully the second week in March. In class students are learning about the characters and the health concepts that each represents. If they haven't talked with you about them already, ask your child about what Ruby, Splash, Sprinkles, Oscar, Finn and Fiery are teaching them and the pledges they are making to live healthy lives!

FuelUpToPlay60

Recently I met with 15 students from grades 3 thru 5 who were selected to become student ambassadors at our school to help promote this worthwhile program. These students will help get information out to students regarding nutrition and movement, in a variety of ways. This is a new program to our school, so it will be a work in progress with some growing pains, but I hope all of you will support this program in any way you can.

We will be applying for grants this spring to hopefully provide some great new learning opportunities and equipment for our school! I'm asking also for all students to go to FuelUpToPlay60.com and create an account. Once an account has been created, they will have access to a variety of information and there will be challenges for them to complete to earn collectibles and possible shout outs from NFL players! When they complete a challenge, please be sure to link it to our team name, **Fueling Up the Fort** so I can see what good things our students are doing. If you have any questions please contact me at bgrapes@bcps.org.

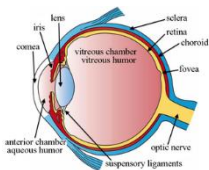
Field Day 2019

Alright students and parents mark your calendars for the best day of the school year . . . Field Day!! This year we are looking to have Field Day on Friday, June 7th and Monday, June 10th as the rain-date. The schedule will be grades K - 2nd in the morning from 9:30 - 11:30 and grades 3 - 5 from 1:30 - 3:30.

FROM THE HEALTH SUITE – Nurse Caulk



As spring approaches, we begin to think about allergies and outdoor play safety, as well as the off and on issues throughout the year such as pink eye, strep, and head lice.



PINK EYE

If your child has a pink sclera (white of the eye), accompanied by itching, it could be caused by an allergen, a virus, or a bacteria. Because bacterial conjunctivitis is contagious, you may be asked to pick him or her up and get a doctor note stating your child is not contagious and able to return to school. Generally, it is helpful to see the doctor no matter the cause, as non-contagious issues can be addressed so that your child is not distracted by the symptoms, and free to focus on learning. Most commonly eye drops are prescribed appropriate to the cause.



MEDICATION

Remember that any medication needed on a regular basis at school requires a Doctor Order Form and a supply of the medication, even over the counter medications. The Discretionary Consent form allows me to give Tylenol and cough drops for the occasional headache or cough, in keeping with the protocols. Students are not allowed to carry medication; it must be provided adult-to-adult. You may send in cough drops with a note if you have already given permission on the discretionary sheet, but they must be accompanied by a note from you, and go directly to be stored in the health suite.



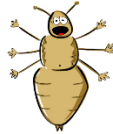
PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Falls from playground equipment are a major source of injury, so please be sure your student is wearing shoes that fit securely as they climb and run. Also, reinforce "one person at a time" guidelines and "look where you are going" to prevent collisions. For many students common sense is an acquired skill – not one they are born with!



MUD, BLOOD, AND SUCH

I would also ask that parents provide a change of clothing for each student, which can be kept in their locker. "Things happen", such as bloody noses, spilled drinks, mud, and not making it to the bathroom in time. Students feel so much better when they can change in to their own clothing.



THINGS THAT CRAWL

Head lice continue to plague us off and on. Many of you are vigilant in checking your students' heads at least once a week, looking for those tiny glued-to-the-hair-shaft white ovals that are nits – the eggs of lice. Although lice do no harm, they are distracting with the itchiness, and certainly a tremendous amount of work to eradicate. Therefore I ask that all parents join in the vigilant head checking.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Last, Kindergarten registration is quickly approaching on **April 16**. There will be a health packet to complete for each child who enters. Essential to registration are immunizations – **registration is not considered complete until evidence that a child is fully immunized** has been provided. **All children need 4 DPT vaccines, 3 Polio vaccines, 3 Hepatitis B vaccines, plus 2 MMRs and 2 Chickenpox vaccines that are all after the first birth date.** Be prepared to share medical and developmental history for your child as well. Look over and complete as much as you can of the parent portion of the packet, as this will allow registration to move quickly and smoothly. Spread the word to families new to FG!

Catherine Caulk, RN, BSN
School Nurse



NEWS FROM the Fort Garrison PTA

The PTA is hard at work planning some exciting events for the FORT! Get your calendars out and write down these important dates!

March 18th - Next PTA meeting

March 22nd – Daddy/Daughter Dance and Mom and Son Night of Fun!

March 25th – Restaurant Night @ CuVino, a Fort Garrison family owned restaurant

May 3rd – Orioles Night

May 10th – Mother's Day Flower Sale

Movie Night – dates will be determined and sent out ASAP

Please keep an eye out for more details on these events.

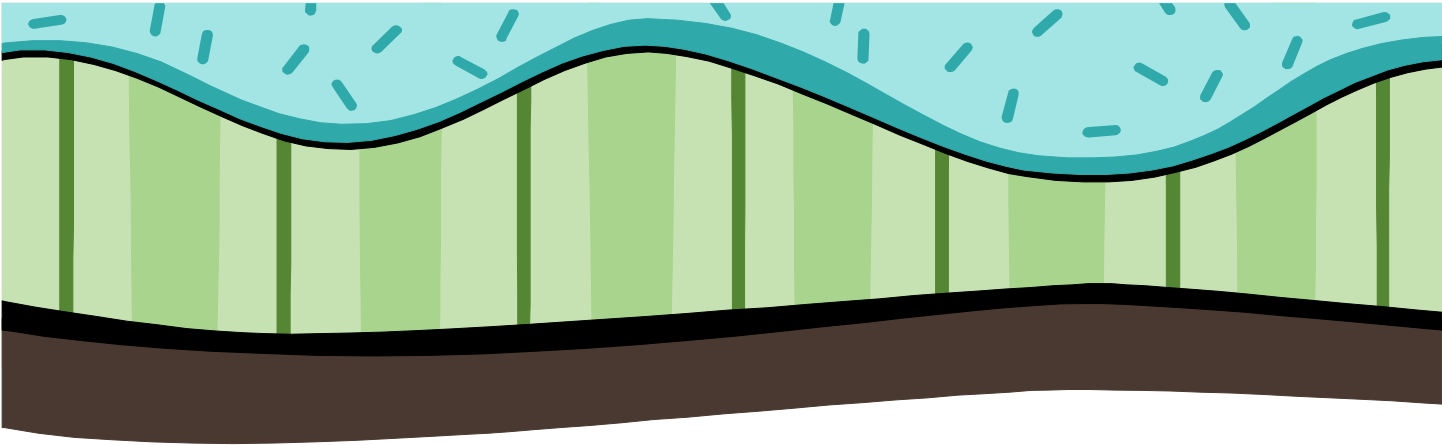
A flyer will also come home about great deals for Hershey Park. You can buy tickets through us at 40% off the regular price. Our school earns \$5 on every ticket sold. Thank you to Jessica Normington for organizing this.

We want to thank Koopers for a great restaurant night! It was a freezing night and we appreciate the families that came out! Koopers kindly donated two \$50 gift cards as well as what we made and we will be using that money for a raffle during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6th-10th).

Please continue to come in and volunteer for lunch. The kids love it! There will be a new sign-up genius sent out with dates for next week and until the end of the year, so be on the lookout for it. Thanks!

See you at the FORT!

Amanda & Ashley
www.fortgarrisonpta.com



Fort Garrison Elementary

Kindergarten Registration!

Tuesday, April 16

If you have a child or know of someone who has a child that will be five on or before September 1, 2019 and live in the Fort Garrison school district, you are eligible to register for kindergarten!

Please call Mrs. Sevy or Ms. Bazemore at 410-887-1203 for an appointment.

You will be notified by mail of your scheduled appointment time.

