

October 2019

Fort Garrison Elementary School

3310 Woodvalley Drive • Pikesville, Maryland 21208

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

Principal: Dr. Hope Baier
Assistant Principal: Kayla Denmyer

Website: www.fortgarrisons.bcps.org

We Are **TEAM** Fort Garrison!

Technology

Environment

Accessing Tomorrow

Motivated students & teachers



Message from Dr. Baier

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

We also welcome new families and several new staff members. We are thrilled to have the following new teachers; Mrs. Patti Brocato, kindergarten, Ms. Kelly Bare, first grade, Ms. Caroline Baron, second grade and Mrs. Libby Gambo to third grade. These new teachers bring varied experiences, enthusiasm and love of teaching to our school.

"Sneak-A-Peek at Your Seat and Back to School Night" was a huge success and we have received very positive feedback regarding both events. Thank you for attending!

Over the past year our staff has examined our vision and mission, exploring who we are as a community and our wishes and hopes for our children in the future. Below is our new vision and mission for Fort Garrison. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback!

Fort Garrison Vision

Fort Garrison students will be life-long learners and innovators who will shape the world as positive, responsible citizens.

Fort Garrison Mission

Fort Garrison's mission is to prepare students to thrive in a globally competitive society. Through rigorous, responsive instruction and meaningful engagement students will be empowered to be innovative problem-solvers and caring community citizens.

Upcoming Events

- Sept 30-** Rosh Hashanah - Schools Closed for Students
- Sept 30-** Play60 Challenge Begins
- Oct 3 -** Restaurant Night at MOD Pizza - Woodholme
- Oct 4 -** Stock Market Club Field Trip to Towson Univ.
- Oct 4 -** Earth Day Everyday
- Oct 9 -** Yom Kippur - Schools Closed for Students
- Oct 11 -** Student Banking
- Oct 14 -** Nat'l School Lunch Week
- Oct 15 -** PTA Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 18 -** Systemwide Prof. Day Schools Closed for Students
- Oct 21 -** National School Bus Safety Week
- Oct 25 -** Trunk or Treat/Monster Bash
- Oct 28 -** 5th Grade Field Trip to Oregon Ridge Nature Ctr.

Message from Dr. Baier - *continued*

Volunteer Training

Volunteer training continues to be available for you to complete online through the BCPS website. When you click on the parent link and scroll down, there is an additional link for the training. Please make sure to send in your completed volunteer training application as well as your certificate so that we can include your name on our list of approved volunteers. Your training is not complete until the form has been returned to school.

Reminders

Here are a few reminders:

- Please do not park in the faculty parking lots located on either side of the building as they are designated for **teachers and staff only**.
- Parents must park on either Marcie Drive, Birch Hollow or Woodvalley Drive when dropping off or picking up students. Also, the driveway in the front of the building is for buses only between the hours 8:00 and 9:30 am and again between 3:15 and 4:30 pm. We know this may cause an inconvenience for some families, but student safety is our priority. Please drive slowly and carefully when driving within the school boundaries even in off hours as there are many after school and weekend activities.
- Dogs or other animals are not permitted to be on the property during school hours.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe and prepared at Fort Garrison.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hope Baier

Green School News

From the Mrs. Kunzelman & Mrs. Hulse

In keeping up with our Green School Tradition, Fort Garrison will have an **Earth Day, Everyday Celebration** on Friday, October 4th. Our theme this year is **Save the Bees, Exploring the Relationships between Pollinators, Agriculture, and Our Food Supply**. Throughout the day we will host presentations given by Irvine Nature Center, Master Gardeners, Maryland Department of Environment as well as a Bee Keeper.

Additionally, many students will practice hand pollinating plants, create hexagonal art and play games that help them understand the life and role of pollinators in our world. Grades 3-5 will write letters from the perspective of a Monarch butterfly asking humankind to help save them from extinction. At the end of the day we will gather to conclude our special day by singing about creating a healthy earth and enjoying a video about pollinators. Feel free to wear your wings!



FGES Earth Day Everyday 2016

Fort Garrison is a proud
Maryland Green School!

Music Department

Back to school greetings from the Music Department! **SAVE THE DATE:** first concert of the year for 4th and 5th Grade:

Wednesday, December 18th at 3:00 and 7:00

Fifth Grade Announcements:

- Lessons start this week! All lessons will be on Wednesday this year.
- Keep your calendar safe and know your lesson day so that you don't forget your instrument!
- Lessons are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays ONLY.

Fourth Grade Announcements:

We are seeing a lot of each other this year, since students have me, Mrs. Case, for both Vocal and Exploratory Music. They will receive a grade for EACH class in the second and fourth quarters. They need their recorder each day they attend Vocal Music Class. I suggest keeping it in their backpacks, so that they are always ready and can still practice songs we are learning at home!

Genovese – Tuesday

Protzko – Wednesday

For interested parents, the music department has received audition information for the 2019-2020 season from The Maryland State Boychoir. You may call 410-554-8644 to get more information or request an audition time. Feel free to visit their website, www.marylandstateboychoir.org, or email them: info@marylandstateboychoir.org. Mrs. Case is happy to speak to the parents of boys about this opportunity, and try to answer any questions they may have.

Mrs. Case
Vocal & Exploratory Music



Health Suite News

Fort Garrison Parents,

Welcome back to the bustle of the school year!

Discretionary Consent Form

Thank you for taking the time to thoroughly complete the discretionary consent form that provide me with updated **contact information**, current medication, health issues, and indicate your preference about my ability to give your child **Tylenol, Benadryl, and cough drops**, in accordance with BCPS protocols.

If your information changes through the school year, please be sure to contact me, as that information is crucial in an emergency, and essential for consulting with you about your child.

Medications

Remember that **any medication needed on a regular basis requires a Doctor Order Form and a supply of the medication, even over-the-counter medications**. The discretionary consent form allows me to give your child 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 consent form, but they must be accompanied by a note from you, and go directly to be stored in the health suite.

Preventing Illness

As we approach the flu season, be sure to review hand washing with your children, especially related to before and after eating, and after using the bathroom. Remind them to use tissues for sneezing and coughing, washing their hands afterwards, and to use their arm if there are no tissues nearby.

Remember that students need to be free of fever (temperature 100°F or above), vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

Most of you have been wonderful in responding to my calls quickly. Thank you for that attentiveness, for your child's sake, as well as the positive impact of reducing illness transmission in the school.

Hearing and Vision Screening

Hearing and Vision screening will be conducted by the Baltimore County Health Department in the Health Suite on Friday, September 27th and Tuesday, October 1st. The make-up day is scheduled for Monday, October 14th. Students in Kindergarten, 1st grade, 4th grade, and students new to Baltimore County will be screened.

If your student does not pass the screening, you will receive a letter from the Health Department that includes a **form to be signed by the doctor and then returned to the health suite**. It is a significant service that the county provides, so please return the forms that give the feedback that is needed to keep the program going.

Head Lice

Also, **please remember to check your children for head lice at least once a week**. The eggs, "nits" are what you most frequently will see. They are firmly attached to the shafts of hair, usually an inch or two from the scalp, and are tiny whitish oval sacs. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for treatment options. Inform the health suite so students who sit near your child can be checked, and so more information can be provided to you. They are no longer considered a health threat, but certainly are a nuisance!

Health Suite News – continued

Change of Clothing

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 into their own clothing.

The Health Suite is in need of gently used clothing. If you would like to make a donation please send the clothing in with your student.

Food Allergies

Lastly, I would like to mention that we have students with **life threatening food allergies at every grade level**. Some of these students have allergies to multiple food ingredients. Because of this, I would ask that when you plan celebrations for school you **consider non-food ways of celebrating, as that is the most inclusive, and most safe**. Consider a special song played for your child, a cartoon feature, a guest or a speaker special to the student, party bags with novelty pencils, erasers, stickers (rather than candy), or a short game. Use your creativity as you discuss it with your child's teacher!

Please also encourage your students to keep their food away from others, and to **clean their hands after eating so our food allergic students are not placed at risk**.

Parents of students with food allergies, be sure that your student has **alternative snacks of their own, stored with their teacher** for situations where they can't partake of what is being offered, and be sure to discuss and monitor food choices with your children.

No student is to have food on the bus, as the bus drivers need to concentrate on the road, not on potential problems related to food.

Wishing a healthy year to all!

Catherine Caulk, RN, BSN
School Nurse

Physical Education News From the Desk of Mrs. Grapes



**FUEL UP TO
PLAY60
PROGRAM**

Our school will be again be participating in the FUTP60 program this year. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to learn about the importance of movement, good nutrition, leadership skills and building a better school climate.

The first thing I am asking students to do is sign up for an account at www.fueluptoplay60.com or download the FUTP60 app and set up a student account. Here you will find all kinds of great information and the students can do challenges to earn points for collectibles and possibly receive cool gifts and shout outs from NFL players!

When you complete a challenge be sure to link it to our school's team name, **Fueling Up The Fort** so I can see all the things you are doing outside of school. Students that sign up for an account and complete challenges, and earn at least 15,000 points, will be able eligible to complete an application to be part of our student leadership team and possible school ambassador. These students will help me throughout the school year to provide special learning experiences for them and their fellow classmates.

Our first school PLAY60 challenge will begin on Sept. 30 and will end on Oct. 27th. Students are asked to record their activity every day for 4 weeks on their chart, in trying to achieve 60 minutes of activity. The chart must be turned back in on Monday October 28th to Mrs. Grapes.

Please contact Mrs. Grapes at bgrapes@bcps.org if you have any questions about the program or signing up.

Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA

The PTA welcomes you back to school! We hope your students have had a great start to the school year!

Many thanks to those who have joined the PTA so far! At our first meeting we reviewed and approved the budget and discussed ways to improve our fundraisers and some new ideas.

Thanks also to those of you who came to our Popsicles on the Ground play event on Friday, September 20th. Special thanks to all the parents who helped out with planning or, the actual event, and also to staff members Mrs. Denmyer, Mrs. Grapes, and Mrs. Hulse for contributing their ideas.

- **Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:30 p.m.**
Mrs. Lepley will talk about the guidance program at FGES and the behavior modification programs and rewards in the individual classrooms and school wide.
- **Restaurant night will be at Mod Pizza (Woodholme Shopping Center) on Thursday, October 3rd.**
20% of the sales will be donated to the PTA to support our students!
- **Our annual "Trunk or Treat" and "Monster Bash" will be on Friday, October 25th!**
More information about this event will be coming to you soon! We will need lots of volunteers to make this event as great as it has been in past years, so please make sure to complete your volunteer application and turn it in at school.
- **Please collect and submit Box Tops and be sure to download the new Box Top App.**
This year the program is going digital. We will earn 10 cents for each box top.
- **If you have not joined the PTA yet, membership forms are available in the office and online at:**
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/eac34a_60623fec5c4f4de8bb310d197415ddd3.pdf
Membership forms are accepted all year long!
- **An email will be sent out to everyone soon to update their family information in the PTA School Directory. Families can choose the information they want visible to others.** The directory will be accessible to all PTA members.

Please consider giving us your email address whether you are a member or not, so we can add you to our school directory and most importantly, keep you informed. You can fill out the form below and turn it into your child's teacher or email us at fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Mrs. Debby Katzen, President
Mrs. Carly Greenberg, Vice President

 Yes, I would like to receive email from the PTA.

Parent Name

Parent Email

NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 24, 2019

Dear Principal,

The Northwest Area Education Advisory Council invites you to our Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Pre-Budget Hearing which will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 7:00 pm, at Owings Mills High School. This public hearing gives residents in your community an opportunity to present testimony on school operating and capital budget items that they want included in the FY 2021 Operating Budget and the FY 2022 Capital Budget of the Baltimore County Public Schools.

A sign-up sheet will be available at 6:30 pm for those individuals who wish to present oral testimony. Each person will be given three minutes to present testimony. Individuals presenting testimony as well as those who do not speak can provide the Council with written testimony during the hearing. We will use testimony received to prepare a report informing the Baltimore County Board of Education about issues, concerns, and recommendations pertaining to the Operating and Capital budgets.

Please place this announcement or the flyer about the public hearing in your school newsletter or distribute the flyer directly to parents. We appreciate your support and look forward to receiving oral or written testimony from you or representatives of your school community at our public hearing. For additional information you can contact me at collinsc314@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Clifford Collins

Clifford Collins
Chair
Northwest Area Education Advisory Council

*Clifford Collins, Chair
Debbie Rantala, Vice Chair
Aaron Plymouth
Ty Moeri
Arnold Pottler
LuShaune Stitt
Philip Stotler
Monica Walker*

**NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL
OPERATING AND CAPITAL PRE-BUDGET
HEARING
***WE NEED TO HEAR YOUR
VOICE!*****



Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

At: Owings Mills High School
124 Tollgate Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Northwest Area residents are invited to our public hearing to present testimony on capital budget requests such as building renovations, equipment purchases/repairs and operating budget requests such as books, staff, and technology that they want included in the BCPS FY 2021 Operating and FY 2022 Capital Budgets. Each person will be given three minutes to present testimony. Anyone who wants to testify must sign-up beginning at 6:30 pm.

For more information contact Clifford Collins, Chair, Northwest Area Education Advisory Council at collinsc314@gmail.com