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# November 2018

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## Fort Garrison Elementary School

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### MESSAGE FROM DR. BAIER

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

Happy November! The month of October was certainly exciting at Fort Garrison. This month Kindness Week was very successful with special thanks for our school counselor, Mrs. Lepley for all of her work. We were so excited to culminate Kindness Week with a special assembly for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on anti-bullying presented by Baltimore Raven, Bradley Bozeman and his fiancée, Nikki. They were also able to visit many additional classrooms to share their important message. Go Ravens! We ended the month with a festive celebration for Play 60 organized by Mrs. Grapes. Be sure to ask your children about the flash mob dance by our teachers! Also thank you to the PTA for providing the annual Monster Bash. What a terrific evening for our students and families.

The end of the first marking period will be on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Schools will close three hours early on this day.

American Education Week is scheduled for the week of November 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can stop by the Fort to observe excellent instruction. In order to accommodate our many visitors during the week, we have designated a visitation day for each grade level. If you are unable to attend on your scheduled day, please contact the teacher so they can plan for your visit on another day. Parents are welcome to attend on any day Monday through Friday that works within your schedule.

We Are **TEAM** Fort  
Garrison!

Technology

Environment

Accessing

Tomorrow

Motivated students  
& teachers



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### Upcoming Events

- Nov 2** – Student Banking
- Nov 6** – Election Day  
Schools Closed
- Nov 9** – 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period Ends  
Schools Closes 3 Hrs. early
- Nov 12 – 16**  
American Ed Week
- Nov 16** – Ballroom Dancing @ 10:35
- Nov 20** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip  
Toby's Youth Theatre
- Nov 22 – 23**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
Schools & Offices Closed
- Nov 26** – Report Cards Distributed
- Nov 28** – Green Team Field Trip  
Recycling Facility –  
Cockeysville
- Nov 29** – PS/PreK Conf. Day  
No PS/PreK Sessions
- Nov 30** – Elem. Conference Day  
Schools Closed for  
Students

Monday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten and Grade 4
Tuesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Grades 1 and 5
Wednesday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Grades 2 and 3

On Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, report cards will be sent home with students. This is a great time to celebrate student effort, successes and review ways to continue both academic and social-emotional growth. Again this year, comments will not be included on the report card for the first marking period in grades first through fifth. Kindergarten students will receive a progress report which will be reviewed with parents on conference day. BCPS has posted a guide to help you understand your child's elementary report card. This guide can be found at <http://www.bcps.org/academics/grading/>.

On Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, schools will be closed for students for the purpose of parent conferences. This is an important meeting between you and your child's teacher to review your child's academic and social-emotional progress. Although only one day is allotted for parent conferences, parent-teacher communication should be ongoing throughout the year.

In this month of giving thanks, I would like to thank you for sending us your amazing children each day. I am very thankful to be the principal of such a caring and committed community of parents, students, teachers and staff. I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving!



**COUNSELOR'S CORNER – Notes from Mrs. Lepley**

In November students will learn conflict resolution strategies in the school counseling core curriculum.

- Kindergarteners will learn about Buzz the Bee and what to do when they feel “bugged”.
- Students in first grade will discuss how our words and actions attract others to us or repel others away.
- Second graders will review a definition of tattling to determine when to tell/report and when not to. In addition, they will develop a list of skills and strategies to use before getting adult help.
- Third graders will differentiate between mean and nice teasing to determine when they may be hurting someone's feelings.
- In fourth grade students will compare stories from multiple perspectives in order to see an alternate point of view on conflict.
- Fifth graders will be introduced to the concepts of a fixed and a growth mindset to set a goal that can be attained with practice.

Parents, I would love to have your help in planning some upcoming Coffee with the Counselor meetings. We would meet at school to discuss issues relating to parenting elementary age children. Topics could include: how to help my child succeed in school, common developmental concerns of childhood, effects of technology on children and more. I will be attending the November PTA meeting in order to share my school counseling program plan for this year. I would love to see you there and can also accept input via email at [clepley@bcps.org](mailto:clepley@bcps.org)

Looking forward to seeing you in November!

Kate Lepley  
School Counselor

**READING CORNER – Notes from Mrs. Siegel**



Dear Fort Garrison Families,

We are excited to share information with you about our 2018 Read-A-Thon event. All Fort Garrison students will participate in the Read-A-Thon by reading for **300 minutes in their classrooms** over ten days starting on November 12, 2018.

Raising money is easy to do! Parents will receive an email from the Read-A-Thon website inviting them to easily create a private page for donations. Once the page is created, you can send emails to friends and family members for donations. **You will not need to collect any money as all donations are completed online.** All of the money raised by your child will go towards purchasing *reading resources for his/her grade level. Last year, we were able to purchase comfortable chairs for reading, new leveled books, fun materials for Reading/Innovation Night, computer subscriptions for teachers to use to help individualize learning, vocabulary materials for Third - Fifth grades, and many other materials which enhance your child's reading program!*

As students raise money for reading, they will have opportunities to **earn exciting prizes**. The more money they raise, the more prizes they can select online through the Read-A-Thon site. Your child will receive a prize just for setting up his/her Read-A-Thon page. The winning grade in both Primary and Intermediate will receive a dance party, and extra recess!

**All information for your child is private and pages are only shared by you.** If you do not want to participate in raising money during the Read-A-Thon, you can choose to unsubscribe from the Read-A-Thon email you receive.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [ssiegel@bcps.org](mailto:ssiegel@bcps.org).

Stacy Siegel  
Reading Specialist  
Fort Garrison Elementary School  
410-887-1203



How many RAT Bucks are you going to earn this year?!

## LIBRARY NOTES – From Mrs. O'Donnell

### **This Month's News**

Attention all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders... It is time to make teams for our **Battle of the Books** competition. Interested students were given permission packets in library at the end of October. Please detach the permission slip on top and return it to Mrs. O'Donnell as soon as possible. If you have any questions about Battle of the Books or need another copy of the permission form, please let Mrs. O'Donnell know at [lodonnell3@bcps.org](mailto:lodonnell3@bcps.org)

### **What We Are Learning in Library**

Kindergarteners are learning about Fantastic Fiction. We are reading fiction stories and completing organizers to show what we know about story structure.

First graders are making text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections as we read stories in the library.

Second graders are taking a trip around the world as we read stories from different countries and do research about the different places.

Third graders are learning money concepts and how to locate resources in our library during our Save or Spend Unit.

Fourth and Fifth grade students are working on Reading is Lit units. In these units, students read award winning literature and apply reading skills such as finding the theme and identifying character traits to understand the text.

Mrs. O'Donnell

## FROM THE HEALTH SUITE – Mrs. Caulk

### Hearing and Vision Screening

Our Annual **Hearing and Vision Screening** was conducted in September for Kindergarten, First, Fourth, and students new to Baltimore County. If you received a letter from the Health Department, make sure your child has a follow-up evaluation and the **bottom portion of the letter is completed by the doctor and returned to the health suite**. Most Parents here at Fort Garrison are very attentive to their children's needs, including hearing and vision issues, which are essential to their academic success. Thank you!



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### Flu Season

**Flu season** has just begun, so be sure to get your family immunized. The most common strains are included in the seasonal flu vaccine. Consult your Doctor, and visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) for local clinics and more information.

Always remind your children to practice **preventative hygiene, especially hand washing, and coughing and sneezing etiquette**. These simple measures of prevention are still the best defense against all types of bacteria and viruses, from newsworthy to the common cold!

## Medication at School

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 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 sheet, but they must be accompanied by a note from you, and go directly to be stored in the health suite.

## Stay Home if...

Also keep in mind that students need to be **free of fever (temperature 100 F° or above), vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.** When students have Strep, Pink Eye, Ringworm, Impetigo, or other contagious infections they also need to **stay home until they have received treatment for 24 hours.** 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 the transmission of illness in the school.

## Calling All Elastic Waist Pants

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. Donations of **elastic waist jog type pants or leggings** in sizes 4 – 14 would be greatly appreciated as well.

## Head Bugs

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!

## Food Allergies

Last, I would like to mention that we have students with **life threatening food allergies** at every grade level this year. Some of these students have allergies to multiple food ingredients. Because of this, I would ask that when you plan celebrations for school that you provide **non-food ways of celebrating,** as that is the most inclusive, and most safe. As a school, we are doing this now for birthdays. Feel free to send in something special and non-food in treat bags for your child's class to celebrate his/her birthday. **We have an opportunity to develop some new, creative traditions!**

Catherine Caulk, RN, BSN  
School Nurse

## MUSIC NOTES – Mrs. Case & Mr. Stojak

### Important “notes” from the Music Teachers!

- Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students: please check to be sure that your child is practicing the following three songs at home on their recorder, at least twice per week: Ode to Joy, Deck the Halls, and All Night, All Day.
  - All concert songs are available on Schoology in the Concert Folder of Vocal Music
- Parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students: Please watch student take home folders toward the end of November for important information about the following:
  - Final treble clef notation assessment being given in December
  - Order form for a soprano recorder for use in Vocal Music Class starting in January
- Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students: a Winter Musical is planned! Please check take-home folders and email for information about volunteering to help with costumes, scenery and props. Thanks!
- Recorder Ensemble: Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be invited to apply for this group during the month of November. Applications will be sent home with interested students. Mrs. Case will contact students/families being invited to participate in this group in December.

**Don't forget: our first concert of the year is Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 7:00!**

Stephanie Case  
Brian Stojak



## ART ROOM NEWS – MRS. HULSE

Hello Parents,

Please don't forget to order cool gifts for that special family member or hard-to-buy-for person. With over 40 unique and useful keepsakes ready to purchase during the Square 1 Art fundraiser, your child's artwork is the perfect gift for any occasion or celebration. Nothing says “you're loved” like “I made this art keepsake just for you!”

It's the final days of the fundraiser, so don't delay. The school benefits with every order!

**LAST DAY TO ORDER: 11/6/2018**

Grace Hulse, NBCT  
Art Teacher  
Fort Garrison Elementary  
BCPS

## NOTES FROM BETH GRAPES – Physical Ed

### Banking News

On Friday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> we will hold our second banking day of the year. Students can open an account any time throughout the school year so if you would like more information please contact Mrs. Grapes at [bgrapes@bcps.org](mailto:bgrapes@bcps.org). Please tell your student to report to the lobby first thing in the morning to deposit their money. All students who deposit money each month will be eligible for the drawing for a prize that the bank provides. Upcoming banking dates are listed below:

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>

Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>

### PE News

Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade recently participated in the Pacer Test. This is part of the fitness testing program called Fitnessgram, which all Baltimore County students take. This test measures their aerobic capacity and the students practiced the test and participated in heart pumping heavy breathing activities to prepare for the test. I'm so proud of their efforts for trying to get their score in the healthy fitness zone and we look forward to the next battery of tests that will measure their muscular strength and endurance. All students in PE have also been learning about aerobic capacity and have participated in the PACER running event.

Fort Garrison students will once again participate in STACK UP!, the WSSA's (World Sport Stacking Association) attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the number of people stacking in one day. All classes during their specials will come to the gym and participate in a variety of stacking activities on Thursday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to lots of fun this day!

**Ballroom dancing** is coming to Fort Garrison for all **5<sup>th</sup> grade** students the **week of 11/12-11/16**. This is an amazing opportunity that our PTA funds for these students, that teaches them so many different skills in a variety of areas. **On Friday, November 16, 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to come see the final performance at 10:35-11:25.** Students are asked to dress up and this information will be on a flyer coming home the second week in November.

The PLAY60 program was a great success this year with 81 total students participating, 50 of those students completed the whole challenge and overall our students were active for 2,945 hours and 54 minutes! This number is outstanding students!! We also would like to announce that Adina B., in Mrs. Bynum's class, is our PLAY60 student ambassador who may win tickets to a Ravens game this December or will attend a luncheon at the Raven's training camp in the spring. We are also awaiting word to see if we were selected as one of the schools to have a Raven's assembly in late November or early December for the entire school. Fingers crossed we get picked this year!! Thank you parents, for your support of this extra program that helps encourage our kids to be active and stay active their entire lives.

## FROM THE FORT GARRISON PTA

Our most anticipated event, Trunk or Treat and Monster Bash was a success this year! A huge thank you goes out to **Robin Holt** and **Heather Crawford** for putting this together and planning the event. Having it indoors wasn't ideal but they didn't give up and made it work beautifully.

Congratulations to our winners for the raffle and pumpkin carving contest. If you haven't gotten the email announcing the winners, or seen the Facebook post please let us know. This is where we do most of our communications for the PTA so we want to make sure you are on our email list and make sure you are seeing our Facebook posts. I know all the winners are loving their amazing trophies that were generously donated by Lamb Awards.

### Exciting Events Coming Up!

- **Build A Bear Event** - Come build a build a bear at Towson Town Mall this weekend on November 3rd and 4th between the hours of 11:00 to 4:00. Your bear will be donated to a sick child at Johns Hopkins. Build a bear for as low as \$12.00.

- **Restaurant Night** – Join us at CHIPOTLE on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please feel free to eat-in or take out.

- **Holiday Shop** - Holiday Shop will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>. Please send in your money as soon as possible so we can be sure to have enough gifts for everyone to shop. This is one of our largest fundraisers!

- **Box Tops** - Keep sending in your box-tops! Congrats to Mrs. Levine's class with 727! A new contest has started so keep sending them in.

- **Online Directory** - Is now open! An email will be sent from myschoolanywhere with directions on how to access and use the directory.

It's been our absolute pleasure to be your co-presidents the last two years. We want to let Fort Garrison know our two years will be up at the end of the year, so we will be looking for new board members. Positions open will be:

President  
Vice-President  
Communications  
Directory  
Box-Tops

If you are interested it's a great idea to start early and shadow someone that is on the board now so you can have a good understanding of the job next year. If you are currently working on a committee this year but will not be next year, please let us know so we can begin to plan.

We still always love any great ideas and meeting new parents interested in getting more involved in the PTA!

See you at the FORT!

Amanda & Ashley