Message from Dr. Baier

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

Happy Fall! The month of October was certainly busy at Fort Garrison. Our Earth Day Every Day was an exciting day celebrating and learning ways to take care of our planet. This also supports our Green School rating. Kindness Week was also very successful with special thanks to our school counselor, Mrs. Lepley for her coordination. Finally, thank you to the PTA for providing our students and families with another wonderful Monster Bash.

This year Fort Garrison is required to complete a Childcare Selection Process. All schools who offer childcare services go through this process over a three-year period. Two staff members and three parents will participate. Any interested parents should submit their names to me by November 19th. Our PTA president will draw names at the November 20th meeting.

The end of the first marking period will be on Friday, November 8th. Schools will close three hours early on this day.

American Education Week is scheduled for the week of November 18th – 22nd. 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 visitation days 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.
The American Education Week visitation days are as follows:

- Monday, November 18th Grades 4 and 5
- Tuesday, November 19th Kindergarten and Grade 1
- Wednesday, November 20th Grades 2 and 3

On Friday, November 22nd, schools will be closed for students for the purpose of Conference Day. 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.

Report cards will be sent home with students on November 21st. 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/.

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!

Sincerely,

Dr. Hope Baier
Dear Fort Garrison Families,

We are excited to share information with you about our 2019 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 11, 2019. This is the ONLY fundraiser that goes directly to the teachers!!!

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 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, 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, extra recess, and Kona Ice Truck Visit!

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. Please keep in mind this is the ONLY fundraiser that goes directly to teachers and we need your HELP!!

To kick off our Read-A-Thon, on Monday, November 11, we are asking students to dress up as their favorite book character. On Monday, November 18, we are asking students to dress up as their favorite teacher! Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ssiegel@bcps.org.

Sincerely,
Stacy Siegel
Reading Specialist
Fort Garrison’s Green School is off to a great start! Our “Earth Day Everyday Celebration” on October 4th gave the students hands-on activities to learn about how and why our world needs pollinators.

In November, our Green Team will be stocking our insect hotels for the winter and our recycling team will begin to collect recycled materials for the school year. Watch for a ‘Save-the-Date’ about upcoming Green School events to arrive in your email soon!

Fort Garrison is a proud Maryland Green School!

Music Department

A BUNCH of important “notes” from the Music Teacher!

1. **Parents of Fourth Grade students:** Please challenge your child to practice *Ode to Joy* and *What’s That?* at home on their recorder, at least twice per week.
   - All concert songs are on Schoology in the Concert Folder of Vocal Music.
   - All concert songs are available in hard copy in the Music Room

2. **Parents of Third Grade students:** Please watch student take-home folders toward the end of November for important information about the following:
   - Final treble clef notation assessment to be given in December
   - Order form for a recorder for use in Vocal Music class starting in January

3. **Parents of First and Second Grade students:** A Winter Musical is planned! Please watch take-home folders and email for information about volunteering to help with costumes, scenery and props. Thanks!

4. **Recorder Ensemble:** Students in Fourth and Fifth 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.

**Please don’t forget:** Our first concert of the year will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. for students and 7:00 p.m. for families!

Mrs. Case
Vocal & Exploratory Music
Congratulations to fourth graders Aubrey, Jason, Eva, Amber, Rafe, and Dale for creating and submitting a sculpture for Ladew Garden’s Glow event in October. The sculpture was a three panel fall silhouette scene lit with solar powered lights. The sculpture was on view during October 19th and 20th at Ladew along with student work from several other Baltimore area schools, professional artists, and community pumpkin carvers.

Square1 Art order forms and stickers will be arriving soon. In the next few weeks look for your opportunity to order gifts and keepsakes with your child’s original art printed on them.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help support special projects and materials for use in the art room that benefit all FGES students.

Mrs. Hulse, Art Teacher

Library Notes from Mrs. O’Donnell

The year has gotten off to a great year start in Library! Kindergarteners bring home one book each time they have library and students in grades 1-5 have an opportunity to check out up to 4 books at a time. When students forget to return their books, they may only choose one book the following class period. Please remind your child to bring back their library books on a weekly basis. You may send them in on any day of the week!

If you want to see which books your child currently has checked out, you can look by signing into our Destiny catalog using your child’s login. It can be accessed by going to BCPSOne -> Digital Content -> Destiny -> Fort Garrison. Click on the three line “hamburger” menu and choose “My Stuff”. Under this heading you’ll be able to choose “Checkouts”. If a book is lost or damaged, please send in $5 towards a replacement.

**Battle of the Books**

Attention all 4th and 5th 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/ beginning of November. Please detach the permission slip 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.

**What We’re 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 literature 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
Librarian
lodonell3@bcps.org

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**Physical Education News**

**From the Desk of Mrs. Grapes**

**Fox Branch – Student Banking**

Our banking program is up and running and we have opened many new accounts to start the year. Accounts can be opened anytime during the school year by filling out an application which you can get from Mrs. Grapes. If you have any questions, please email bgrapes@bcps.org. Students with an account who make a deposit are entered in a drawing for a gift card each month. Upcoming banking dates are:

- Nov. 8th
- Dec. 13th
- Jan. 10th
- Feb. 14th

**Physical Education**

Students in 4th and 5th grade completed the dancing through the decades and ballroom programs in October. It was such a pleasure to watch the students learn and grow. If you were not able to attend the performance, look on the FGES Facebook page to see some of the performances that were recorded. A very special thank you to our PTA for sponsoring this event for our students. This is one of the many things your memberships and fundraisers help to bring to our students so please make sure you join and participate if you haven’t done so already so we can continue having these programs for our students next year.

All our students have been working on a variety of skills since the beginning of the year. In class we focus on teaching basic physical skills like throwing, catching, kicking and rolling, but we also have worked hard on learning the importance of being a team player, good sportsmanship and identifying our strengths and weaknesses. Students are right now wrapping up a fun Halloween unit practicing the above-mentioned skills. We will begin taking a closer look at fitness in the classes and connecting what exercises and activities help me to be more flexible, stronger and aerobically fit.

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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. 14th. We look forward to lots of fun this day!

The PLAY60 movement challenge concluded on Oct. 27th. This year we had 46 students turn in their papers who attempted the challenge and 35 of the 46 achieved 60 minutes or more of activity every day for 4 weeks. The total minutes moved for these students was 131,042!! I’m so proud of those students who took this challenge on and gave it their best effort to complete. Thank you, parents, for helping to support this program and helping your student record their efforts.

Our Fuel Up To Play60 student leadership team was announced on Friday, Nov. 1st. It is an honor to be selected to this team to help our school community move more and eat better. Our first meeting was held on Wednesday, Nov. 6th at 8:30 AM. I’m looking forward to watching this group of students become leaders in our school community.

Beth Grapes
Physical Ed Teacher

Health Suite News

Thanks Fort parents, for your vigilance in balancing your children’s need to be in the classroom with their need to be kept home when they are sick, and your timeliness in picking up your students when they are sick. These measures help to keep sickness in the building to a minimum, while keeping the academics moving forward.

Preventing Illnesses

Keep in mind that students should always be kept home until free of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours.

Medications

Any medications to be given at school require a doctor’s order form and a supply of the medication; this includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or Motrin as well. Discretionary medications are just for the occasional health issue, not for reoccurring issues. Also, medication must be transported adult-to-adult, and not packed in the student’s backpack, for the safety of all the students.

Other Illnesses

In addition to the normal illnesses, we have had some other contagious issues off and on, such as conjunctivitis (pink eye) and skin lesions such as ringworm or impetigo.

Pink eye can be viral, bacterial, or allergic. In general, if you see pink in the white of the eye, with itchiness or crustiness, please have your doctor check the eye before sending your child to school.
Health Suite News – continued

Even if it is allergy related, rather than a contagious infection, your doctor can prescribe medication to alleviate the symptoms for your child and allow better concentration in school. Students diagnosed with contagious pink eye should be told to avoid touching the eye, and to wash their hands, as they can spread the infection to their other eye and other family members.

Ringworm is a fungal infection characterized by a circular red, itching lesion. Students frequently scratch one lesion, touch other parts of their body, or other people, and create new lesions. It requires treatment at least twice a day, consistently, with an antifungal cream in order to resolve the infection. Impetigo is a bacterial infection often seen around the nose and mouth where clusters of open or crusty lesions multiply and persist.

Pink eye, ringworm, and impetigo are spread by touch, and require antibiotics or anti-fungals to treat them. **Treatment for 24 hours, and a doctor’s note**, permit children back in school without danger of transmission to other students. In a community where hundreds of children are gathered closely together, we need everyone’s watchful eyes and responsiveness to minimize contagious health issues. Thank you again for your respectfulness in this regard.

**Food Allergies**

Lastly, 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, you must plan celebrations for school that are 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 students. No student is to have food on the bus, as the bus drivers need to concentrate on the road, not potential problems related to food.

Catherine Caulk, RN BDN
School Nurse
A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA

The PTA continues to work hard to build community and support our students and teachers. If you have not been receiving emails from the PTA about school events and would like to, please fill out your email release and send it back to school or email us at fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com and ask us to add you!

Monster Bash was well attended! Thanks to all the parents who worked so hard to decorate their cars and the school or donated candy to make this event so wonderful! Special thanks to our retiring co-chairs Robin Holt and Heather Crawford who have worked so hard this year and for so many years on the Monster Bash. We will miss you, but our new chair people hope to continue the tradition!

Congratulations to our pumpkin contest winners:
Most Creative - Lanie M.
Scariest - Shravya R.
Silliest - Adina B.
Most Elaborate - Logan D.

Some of other recent contributions to the school include:
- The Welcome Banner colored at our Popsicles and Play event is now hanging above the gym doors.
- Fourth and fifth grade recently participated in a week of dancing sponsored by the PTA! Parents were invited to watch the culminating performances and the kids did a great job!

Upcoming:
- Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, November 20th! Mrs. Lepley (rescheduled from October) will talk about the guidance program at FGES and the behavior modification programs and rewards in the individual classrooms and school wide. We will also model how you can check your student’s grades online with BCPSonline. At our last meeting we went over updates from the committees, approved monies for the nurse to purchase a privacy screen and discussed opening the directory up to all parents next year.
- Holiday Shop Order Forms were sent home this week! All items will be $3.00. Students pre-order for who they are ordering and then will be given the opportunity to select gifts for those people at the Holiday Shop. A sign-up genius for parent volunteers will be sent out closer to the date!
- We would like to remind parents to complete the volunteer training so they can help at school or chaperone a field trip! Applications and training can be done online. https://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info/

Reminders:
- We are interested in having a volunteer coordinate volunteer opportunities for parents such as helping in the cafeteria as we did last year. We also need volunteers to co-chair some of our committees (Dance, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week – spring, Plant Sale – May, and Kindergarten meetups – summer.
- Please continue to collect and submit Box Tops and download the new Box Top App. Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip and send them to school. For each clipped or Box Top, we earn 10 cents. Be sure to send them to your school before they expire. Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging to the new Box Top label. Use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school’s earnings online. A list of all participating products can be found at https://www.boxtops4education.com/Participating-Products-Page.
- PTA membership and Spirit Wear are accepted all year! Membership forms are available in the office and online at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/eac34a_60623fe5c5af4de8bb310d197415ddd3.pdf
- Spirit Wear Orders can be placed at https://shop.wgmprinting.com/fortgarrisonelementaryschool/shop/home.

Thank you!
Debby Katzen, PTA President and Carly Greenberg, PTA Vice President
fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com
Fort Garrison Elementary will join forces again this year with numerous other Baltimore County elementary schools for “Kid’s Helping Hopkins” Build-A-Bear Weekend.

The event will take place at the Build-A-Bear store at Towson Town Mall on November 16th & 17th 2019 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Teachers, staff, students, and their families, as well as local community members are invited to come to the store any time at their leisure over the two days, in order to build teddy bears for sick children. All bears created will be donated to The Johns Hopkins Children’s Center on behalf of the schools involved. Bears can be made for as little as $12.00 + tax.

We are expecting a positive turn-out and are hoping to build 400 teddy bears! Teachers will be on hand both days to help, and all the bears will be delivered to the Child Life Department of The Johns Hopkins Children’s Center.