

November 2017

Fort Garrison Elementary School

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A MESSAGE FROM DR. BAIER

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

Happy November! The month of October was certainly exciting at Fort Garrison. As stated in the last newsletter, our Earth Day, Every Day and "Kindness Rocks" celebrations were very successful. We ended the month with festive Halloween activities and the annual Monster Bash hosted by the PTA. What a terrific evening for our students and families to gather. Thank you to the room parents, parent volunteers, and PTA for planning these special events for our students.

American Education Week is scheduled for the week of November 13-17th. 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 Thursday that works within your schedule.

Monday, November 13 th	Grades 2 and Grade 4
Tuesday, November 14 th	Grades 1 and 5
Wednesday, November 15 th	Grade 3 and Kindergarten
Thursday, November 16 th	Pre-K Conference Day
Friday, November 17 th	Conference Day

On Thursday, November 16, 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.

We Are **TEAM** Fort
Garrison!

Technology

Environment

Accessing
Tomorrow

Motivated students
& teachers



Upcoming Events

Nov 10 – Student Banking

Nov 10 – Picture Makeup Day for
Clubs & Single Photos

Nov 13 – 17- American Ed Week

Nov 16 – Pre-K Conference Day –
No AM or PM Pre-K

Nov 16 – Report Cards Distributed

Nov 17 – Elementary Conference
Day – School Closed

Nov 23-24 – Thanksgiving Holiday –
Schools Closed

Nov 28 – Family Reading &
Innovation Night

New 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. 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 17th, 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.

Our annual Family Reading and Innovation Night will take place on Tuesday, November 28th. We hope you will be able to participate in the creative and fun stations planned for this evening.

Please mark your calendars now for our Winter Concert taking place on Thursday, December 7th.

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!

READING CORNER – NOTES FROM READING SPECIALIST

We are so excited to have kicked off our Read-A-Thon. The Read-A-Thon raises money for our students. Last year, we raised over 12,000. We were able to buy new leveled books for our students, subscriptions to Flocabulary and Reading A-Z, programs to challenge our fluent readers as well as programs to support our struggling readers. Please take the time to set up your child's Read-A-Thon page. If you are unable to find your child's code, simply email me at ssiegel@bcps.org and I will email you a new code. I will be sending emails about the Read-A-Thon through their website! The grades in K-2 and 3-5 who raise the most money, will win a DJ dance party and extra time in our innovation station and recess! Your child also wins prizes for getting sponsors! Each day, we will have fun and exciting activities during our Read-A-Thon!

Please save the date - Tuesday, November 28 is our Family Reading and Innovation Night (flyer attached), and this year will be better than ever. We have great food trucks coming this year, and will have a Family Picnic in the gym! We will have our teacher auction, fun innovative family activities, as well as fun prizes so students can cash in their Reading Tickets that they have been earning each week. We hope you can join us! Please remember to bring your tickets to reading night!

Stacy Siegel

FROM THE HEALTH SUITE – MRS. Caulk

Thank you Fort Garrison parents for your vigilance in balancing your children's need to be kept at home when they are sick rather than in school, and for 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.



Please keep in mind that students should always be **kept home until free of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours. 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. Discretionary medications are just for the occasional health issue, not for reoccurring issues. Also, for the safety of all students, medication must be transported adult-to-adult and not packed in the student's backpack.**

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. 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 an anti-fungal to treat them. **Treatment for 24 hours and doctors 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.

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, and stickers or a short game rather than candy. 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 that our students who have food allergies are not placed at risk.

Parents of students with food allergies should be sure that your child has alternative snacks of their own stored with his/her teacher in case they can't partake of what is being offered. Also 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, BSN
School Nurse

FROM THE GREEN TEAM

The Green Team will be constructing a tree from recycled material

this month. Along with the FGES Student Council, we will be collecting gloves, mittens, scarves and hats to decorate the tree. The items will be donated to the Maryland State Department of Aging.



Coming this February... Save the Date! Save your shoes!!

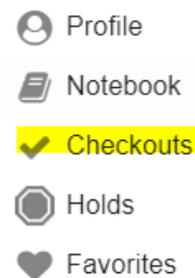
We will be collecting used shoes and boots that are clean and in good condition. All sizes are welcome. These shoes will go toward a collection for the homeless. Details to follow!



FROM THE LIBRARY – MRS. O'DONNELL

Are you curious about what books your child needs to bring back for library? Do you want your student to check out eBooks from home? Ask your child to login to BCPSOne and find Destiny under Digital Content. Choose Fort Garrison from the list and have your child login using the button in the top right corner. Once your child is logged into Destiny you can:

- **See what books they currently have checked out.** Go to the “hamburger” menu on the left hand side and find “Checkouts”.
- **Check out eBooks or Interactive books from home.** Find the ribbons that say “eBooks” or “Interactives”. Click on a book and use the “Checkout” button. These books return automatically.
- **Help your child choose a book to check out next time they are in library.** You can use our Destiny catalog to browse books we have in the library and encourage your child to checkout that book on library days.



NOTES FROM BETH GRAPES – PHYSICAL ED

Student Banking

Our student banking program is in full swing and it is never too late to open an account. Mrs. Jones our director from First Financial Federal Credit Union attended the last PTA meeting to give parents a better understanding of the program. Please contact Mrs. Grapes at bgrapes@bcps.org for more information and applications in order to setup an account. Each month we will hold a drawing for a small prize, for all those that make a deposit. Congratulations to Ava Rapkin for winning last month's drawing. The upcoming dates for student banking are:

Nov. 10

Dec. 8

Jan. 12

Feb. 9

March 9

PE News

The PLAY60 program was a huge success this year and we had over 70 students participate and turn in their paperwork. Of those 70 students, 40 of them were successful at completing the challenge of 60 minutes every day of the week. We had a whole lot of moving going on! I'm so proud of each and every student who took on this challenge whether they met their 60 each day or not. Our student PLAY60 Ambassador winner is Ruxton Smith and he will be invited in the spring to attend a luncheon at the Raven's facility. Those students who turned in their paperwork will be receiving a prize for their participation a little later this month.

All students are working on improving their soccer skills in class right now. We are finding fun and creative ways to challenge and improve our skills no matter where they are currently. Besides soccer, between now and winter break we will be focusing on fitness concepts and then improving our eye hand coordination by participating in juggling and throwing activities. Fourth and fifth grade students will also begin taking their Fitnessgram tests in the next coming weeks. These tests are to help the students and parents recognize areas in their fitness levels that may need more attention than others and to also show the areas they are excelling in.

Today some classes will be participating in STACK UP 2017, which is a nationwide activity to try and set a New Guinness Book World Record by the most people sport stacking at multiple locations in one day. This is our first year participating in this event. We are hopeful to help break the record by stacking for a minimum of 30 minutes during the students' specials time. Check back in December to see if we accomplished the goal!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER - MRS. LEPLEY



The first quarter has ended! Ms. Cohen, the school counseling intern, is working alongside me to conduct classroom counseling lessons, support students in small group counseling, and work with students individually as needed. We are also available to

consult with parents about anything that comes up in terms of your child's academic, or social/emotional development and we often consult with teachers as well. School counselors are a regular education support for all students.

This month 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 growth mindset to set a goal that can be attained with practice.

Coming Soon

In December we will be hosting a College and Career Week! On December 5, 2017 we would love to have parents come to school to share information about their careers with our students. Please consider signing up to be a presenter at our Career Fair! Kindergarteners will learn about careers in their classroom. Grades 1-5 will come to the gym at selected times to visit tables where parents will be set up to share about their careers. We are looking for parents who can bring exciting artifacts and items to help bring their career to life for our students when they visit your table! Please see the attached flyer for more information and feel free to share with grandparents too! Email me at clepley@bcps.org to volunteer! Thanks to all of the parents who have reached out so far. We will be in touch soon to start a complete a schedule of events for this exciting day!

Kate Lepley
clepley@bcps.org

FROM THE FORT GARRISON PTA

We are so pleased with the wonderful Monster Bash and Trunk or Treat event! Thank you so much to Robin Holt and Heather Crawford for all your hard work! Also thanks to everyone who volunteered we couldn't have done it without all the support.

We hope everyone is getting their orders in for Yankee Candle. Don't forget it's not just candles, but they also sell great wrapping paper, gifts and even popcorn. If you need help ordering please contact us so we can assist you. This fundraiser ends on **November 10th**.

We have another restaurant night on **November 15th** at Rita's Ice at the Quarry. It's from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., so come straight from school or with the whole family for dessert.

Our next PTA meeting will be **Monday, November 20th**. We hope to see everyone there!

See you at the FORT!

Amanda Shapiro and Ashley Smith
fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com



Fort Garrison Family Reading & Innovation Night



**Tuesday, November 28th
5:00-7:30 PM**



5:00-6:30

Optional Food Truck Picnic Dinner

(Front loop, outside of main lobby - No outside food)

Bring a blanket to picnic in our gym

6:30-7:30

Family Innovation Activities

Families will be able to participate in Innovative, Creative, Fun Stations



Interactive Reading Activities

Bring your child's reading incentive tickets that they have earned to trade in for teacher auction items, photo booth, cotton candy, popcorn, and other fun items.



Fort Garrison Elementary

PTA

everychild.one voice.®





**THE NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO OUR

GRADING AND REPORTING MEETING**

BCPS Curriculum and Instruction staff will present information and respond to questions about the current state of Grading and Reporting procedures in Baltimore County Public Schools.

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Location: Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
4300 Bedford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208**

For additional information contact Clifford Collins at ccollins3@bcps.org.