
April 2019

Fort Garrison Elementary School

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MESSAGE FROM Dr. Baier

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

As we enter the fourth marking period, we look forward to the many exciting events that will take place over the next few months including our upcoming Kindergarten Round Up, class field trips, Spring concerts and field day, just to name a few.

Speaking of terrific Spring events, we hope you will be able to join us for our upcoming Reading Innovation night on Tuesday, April 9th. All Fort Garrison families are invited to join us for an evening of family innovation activities and learning. See the attached flier for more information.

We ask families to please not block the faculty parking lot when dropping off or picking up children. The bus loop is also reserved for buses only until 9:30 a.m. Parents should park on Marcie Drive, Birch Hollow or Woodvalley Drive past Birch Hollow or Marcie Drive. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, if your child(ren) will be going to private school or attending another school next year, please let the office staff know ASAP so that we can complete the necessary paperwork. Thanks!

We Are **TEAM** Fort
Garrison!

Technology

Environment

Accessing
Tomorrow

Motivated students
& teachers



Upcoming Events

Apr 5 - Student Banking

Apr 5 - 3rd Marking Period Ends
Schools Close 3 Hrs. Early

Apr 9 - Family Reading &
Innovation Night

Apr 19 – 22
Spring Break – Schools
Closed

Apr 23 – Schools Reopen

Apr 23 – Earth Day

Apr 23 – Report Cards Distributed

Apr 30 – Battle of the Books
10:30 a.m.

We are beginning the process to plan for the next school year. Fort Garrison's staffing for the 2019-2020 school year has been decreased slightly for grades 1-5 based on our projected enrollment for next year. As a result, we have been staffed to have two classes at all grade levels.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns, as I welcome your feedback. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming school events!

Sincerely,

Dr. Hope Baier
Principal



COUNSELOR'S CORNER – Notes from Mrs. Lepley

This month we are expanding our learning from emotional regulation to coping skills.

- Kindergarten students will be learning how to change sour pickle feelings (mad, sad) into flower feelings (happy, glad) by using calm down skills.
- First grade students are learning alternative ways to solve a problem.
- Second graders are learning the difference between unsolvable and solvable worries.
- Third grade students will read a book and practice calm down skills.
- Fourth graders will learn about their social filter and why it's important to keep the thought bubble and talking bubbles separate.
- Fifth graders will jump ahead of the school in learning about education and career choices linked to their interests.

We are also incorporating mindfulness strategies into classroom lessons such as focused attention, breathing as a calm down tool, and learning to notice without judgement.

This time of the year brings about great opportunities to remind your child about kindness in their interactions with others in all areas of their school day from the bus to the cafeteria and everywhere in between. Encourage kindness by recognizing it in your child's interactions and praising what you see. Help your child recognize opportunities for growth in kind interactions and support them in trying new skills.

Thank you for your support!

Kate Lepley & Tabitha Jermyn
School Counselor and Counseling Intern

SAVE THE DATE!

Reading/Innovation Night is Tuesday, April 9. We will have a Family Food Truck Picnic from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. 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!

Spring is here, but many families are busy planning for summer! Attached to the end of this newsletter is a flier from Loyola University that offers a variety of READING and WRITING classes over the summer. I have heard positive feedback from families whose children have attended these programs.

Stacy Siegel
Reading Specialist

LIBRARY NOTES from Mrs. O'Donnell

This Month's News

Battle of the Books

Thirty-eight of our 4th and 5th grade students have been participating in the Battle of the Books competition. These students are working in teams to read a selection of 10 grade 4-6 Black Eyed Susan novels and compete in a trivia competition about the books. We will have an in-school assembly on April 30th at 10:30 where the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes will watch the teams compete in a playoff competition. Two teams will advance to compete against Summit Park Elementary School in an evening event on May 16th at 6:30 p.m. The winning team will receive gift cards and a banner to display at their school.

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!

Selecting Books in the Library Media Center

In the beginning of the year, students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade completed units where we discussed how to choose "just right" books for them in the library. Kindergarteners primarily choose books from the Everybody picture book section of the library, while 1st and 2nd graders are also able to choose appropriate materials from the Non-Fiction and Fiction (chapter books) sections. Our library's mission is to provide free choice of materials and to cultivate a love of reading in our students. While students are not restricted from choosing certain books or series in the library, there are some choices that are more appropriate for our older elementary students.

Now is a great time to review with students some of the tools they've learned for choosing "just right" books, such as using the 5-finger rule and previewing the books to see if they are both interesting and appropriate. Students in all grades are at different developmental and maturity levels and different resources are appropriate for different students. When I notice younger students consistently checking out the "big books" in the library, I encourage them to also take out a book they will be able to read independently. You

can help at home by talking to your children about their book choices. You can also browse our online catalog with your child and help them choose some books they might like in advance of their library day. You can access our Destiny catalog through the BCPSOne Digital Content portal or by visiting destiny.bcps.org and choosing Fort Garrison from the list of schools. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at lodonnell3@bcps.org.

Mrs. O'Donnell
Librarian



FROM THE ART ROOM – Mrs. Hulse

Congratulations to 5th graders Hannah L. and Jonny P. for having their artwork selected to represent FGES at the Baltimore Museum of Art!

The exhibit “**Art Is for Everyone**” will showcase the artwork of BCPS students in grades PreK-12. The reception will be held Sunday, April 14, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m. and continuing until 4:00 p.m. The student exhibit will be open April 10 – 14, 2019.

Spring Music and Art Night

All 4th and 5th grade students will be represented at the FGES Music and Art Night on May 7th. Work created throughout the 2018-19 school year will be on display before and after the musical performance. We are looking forward to sharing the artistic and musical talents of our students!

Summer Art Opportunities

2019 BCPS Summer Art Enrichment Camp

July 8th – July 19th at Perry Hall High School for students in Grades 3-12. Bus transportation will be available. file:///C:/Users/ghulse/AppData/Local/Temp/BCPS_Summer_Art_Camp_Flyer+Application2019.pdf

Young Peoples Studio at MICA

<https://www.mica.edu/non-degree-learning-opportunities/programs-for-youth/programs-for-children-and-teens/young-people-s-studios-summer-art-camp/>

Towson University Summer Art Camp

<https://www.towson.edu/campus/artsculture/centers/communityart/summer/children.html>

Grace Hulse
Art Teacher

MUSIC NOTES – Mrs. Case & Mr. Stojak



It's almost here! Students in **Fourth and Fifth Grade** will present a musical entitled, "Choices Count!" on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. Emails were sent two weeks ago with important information. Please contact Mrs. Case at scase@bcps.org if you have further questions.

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. Detailed information will be in the May newsletter.

Kindergarten students will sing for their parents and families near the end of the year (date TBD). Look for more detailed information about this next month.

BCPS is again offering a half-day music camp at a lower cost for students in Fifth Grade and above at the end of June. It culminates in a performance at Oregon Ridge. See the applications posted across from Mrs. Case's classroom 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. **Specifically, the Peabody Children's Chorus would like a teacher recommendation for any students interested in auditioning.** Please contact Mrs. Case for a recommendation.

The Music Department,

Stephanie Case
Brian Stojak

NEWS FROM BETH GRAPES – Physical Education



Student Banking at the Fox Branch

Thank you to all those families that have participated in the banking program so far this year.

Reminder: You may see Mrs. Grapes anytime during the school year to set up an account. The upcoming banking dates are:

April 5th

May 3rd

FUTP60

Recently our student ambassadors assisted in doing a lunch waste analysis to see how much food is being wasted at our school. Our team will be meeting soon to discuss our results and brainstorm ways we can reduce our food waste and do a better job at recycling materials during lunch. Looking ahead, I am currently

in the process of applying for grants to help make recess better for all students and looking at ways to make nutritious choices in the cafeteria for next year. Depending on what funding we receive, I may need parent volunteers to help in possibly constructing equipment that can be used at recess time. Thank you in advance for any help that can be provided!

Kid's Heart Challenge

Wow FGES!! We ended up raising \$11,194 for the AHA this year! Our school will be receiving \$850 for PE, so I can purchase new items to keep our kids moving in fun and challenging ways! An extra special shout out to Della C. for being our top fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

Field Day

Field Day will be Friday, June 7th. The rain-date will be Monday, June 10th. We need many volunteers to make this event a success, so please use the following link to indicate when you can volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4AAEA929A20-field3>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at bgrapes@bcps.org. Thank you.

Beth Grapes
Physical Education

FROM THE HEALTH SUITE – Nurse Caulk



Kindergarten registration: Kindergarten registration is April 16th! Essential to registration are immunizations. All children need 4 DPT vaccines, 3 Polio vaccines, 3 Hepatitis B vaccines, 2 MMRs, **and 2 Chickenpox after the first birthdate (2 is a new requirement!)**. Be prepared to share medical and developmental history for your child. Spread the word to families new to FG!

Fifth Grade Transition to Middle School: Parents of 5th grade students moving on to a BCPS middle school will be receiving forms to obtain an updated physical and dental exam. Return these forms to the middle school nurse. **New vaccine requirements for middle school include a Tdap booster and a meningitis vaccine by the time the student enters 7th grade.** Parents may want to see that their student obtain these vaccines while they are getting the updated physical for 6th grade.

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 into their own clothing. Also, please make sure your children have **secure shoes** to run and play and climb. It's quite a hardship to suffer a broken bone or sprained ankle just as the weather is nice enough to engage in sports and outside play once again.

Springtime Allergies: Spring really is here! For some, that means making sure to take those prescribed medications that prevent a miserable day of stuffy noses, irritated eyes, and itchy skin, or worse, asthma and breathing troubles. Parents please pay close attention to these needs as you send your children off to school in the morning. Doctor orders and an inhaler at school can be helpful for those with more significant asthma.

Catherine Caulk, RN, BSN
School Nurse



NEWS FROM the Fort Garrison PTA

What a great first annual "Daddy Daughter" and "Mom and Son" night of fun! Thank you so much to Melissa Benson for all her hard work. She used her skills from her catering company, Eleven Courses to plan the event to perfection. If you have any feedback, feel free to email us at fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com. We loved hearing from everyone about what they loved and what should be changed for next year.

Also, a huge thank you to Electra Entertainment for providing us with 2 DJ's for a great night and to the hardworking volunteers for setting up, breaking down, and running the snack bar!

Thank you to everyone who went to CuVino's for lunch or dinner on March 25th. It was a successful restaurant night! If you haven't been there be sure to check it out! We are working hard on our last restaurant night of the year. Feel free to reach out if you have any great ideas of places. Thanks to Melisa Gofstein and Jill Glick for planning these nights!

Two exciting PTA events that will be coming up are "Orioles Night" and "Movie Night". Be sure to write down these dates and keep an eye out for the PTA fliers (distributed on yellow paper). The movie will be a surprise this year but is sure to be a crowd pleaser!

Important Dates:

PTA Meeting – April 15th (CANCELED)

Orioles Night – May 3rd

Flower Sale – May 10th

Movie Night – June 5th

Have you seen the cool signs around the building for Lasermania? This is a Fort Garrison event, but the PTA is sponsoring the Laser Show that you and your children will see at the Family Reading and Innovation Night on Thursday, April 9th. This is the third year we have sponsored these laser type assemblies and we are excited to be able to share the experience with the parents this year.

We also wanted to share that the PTA purchased two new microphones for the stage so that we can hear all the beautiful shows orchestrated by Mrs. Case perfectly! These are just a couple of examples of where the money goes that we work so hard to raise.

We are still encouraging parents to come in and volunteer to help in the cafeteria during lunch. There won't be a signup genius for this anymore. If you would like to come in, please email us 24 hours in advance. The kids love it when the parents come in and the lunch staff really appreciates our help. Feel free to email us any questions about this.

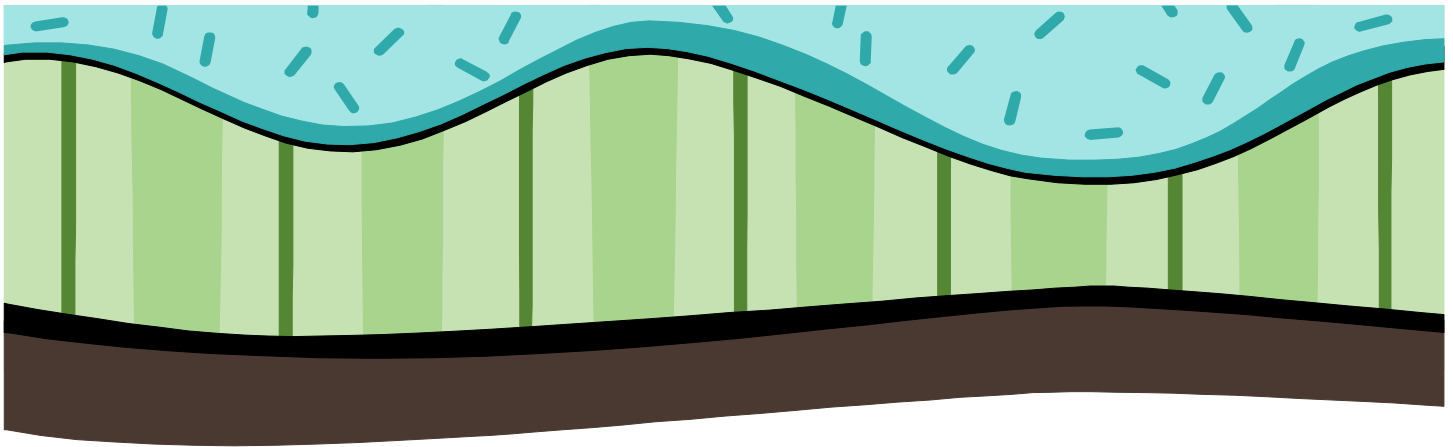
We are excited to announce next year's board members of the Fort Garrison PTA:

President – Debbie Katzen
Vice President – Carly Greenburg
Treasurer – Jeff Zoller

We are working closely with Debbie and Carly and think they will do an amazing job next year! If you want to become more involved or looking for an active role in the PTA, please let us know. There's always help needed.

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.



Fort Garrison's
FAMILY READING & INNOVATION NIGHT
FEATURING

LASERMANIA

TUESDAY, APRIL 9th | 5:00 - 8:15 p.m.

5:00 - 6:30 | Optional Food Truck Picnic Dinner
Front loop, outside of main lobby - No outside food
Bring a blanket to picnic outside

6:30 - 7:15 | Lasermania

(Must be seated in Gym by 6:30 p.m. Late arrivals will only be admitted halfway through the show due to the darkness needed!)
Join us in the gym as we rock out to a high energy, laser light show. Lasermania is pure laser fun set to positively-themed, pop/rock music that is guaranteed to bring the house down.

7:15 - 8:15 | Family Innovation Activities & Interactive Reading Innovation Challenges
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.onevoice.*

Graphic Design by Laura Robb - www.laurarobbdesign.com