


Pine Grove Elementary School Newsletter

Diane Richmond, Principal, dreichmond@bcps.org
Melissa Markle, Assistant Principal, mmarkle@bcps.org
Follow us on Twitter  @PineGrove_BCPS
2701 Summit Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234
(410) 887-5267

May and June 2019

Dates to Remember

- May 6 – May 10** – *National Teacher Appreciation Week* ~ Thank you, PTA for the Wonderful Treats Planned!
- Monday, May 6** – Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Conference Day, No School for Pre-K or Kindergarten
- Tuesday, May 7** – Pre-K Conference Day, No School for Pre-K
- Wednesday, May 8** – *Art & Book Swap Palooza Night*: Food Trucks at 5:30 p.m.; Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 9** – Mrs. Fitzgerald’s and Mrs. Kenny’s Class Trip to the Very Special Arts Festival, 9:30 – 1:45
Ms. Morin’s and Mrs. Linton’s Class Trip to Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 21** – Math 24 Challenge, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the Library
- Tuesday, May 21** – Mrs. Burgess’s and Mrs. Heckscher’s Class Trip to Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 9:30 – 1:30
- Wednesday, May 22** – Grade 2 Trip to Maryland Science Center, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 23** – Band and Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., students report at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 27** – Memorial Day, Schools and Offices Closed
- Tuesday, May 28** – Grade 4 Chorus and Grades 4 & 5 Recorder Club Concert, 6:30 p.m., students report at 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 30** – Mrs. Fitzgerald’s and Mrs. Kenny’s Class Trip to The Maryland Zoo, 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 5** – Grade 2 **Field Day**, 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kindergarten **Field Day**, 1:15 – 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 6** – Grade 3 and Ms. Kenny’s Class **Field Day**, 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Grade 1 and Mrs. Fitzgerald’s Class **Field Day**, 1:15 – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 7** – Grade 5 **Field Day**, 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Grade 4 **Field Day**, 1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 13** – Grade Five Farewell Program, 9:30 a.m.
- Friday, June 14** – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early, PGE Dismisses at 12:50 p.m.
- Monday, June 17** – Last Day of School, Dismissal at 12:50 p.m.

Spring Concerts

Band and Orchestra Concert – May 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Grade 4 Chorus and Grades 4 & 5 Recorder Club Concert – May 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The orchestra and band students have been working since October to perform in the Spring Instrumental Music Concert. The Spring Concert will take place on Thursday, May 23, 2019 beginning at 6:30 PM. Students should report at 6:00 p.m. The dress for the concert is semi-formal (no jeans, t-shirts, or sneakers, please!) If you have any concerns/questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Messinger at 410-887-5267, bmessinger@bcps.org, or send in a note with your child. Please invite your family and friends to support your child's interest in music!

On Tuesday, May 28, 2019, we will have our Spring Concert with 4th grade Chorus and 4th and 5th grade Recorder Club performing. The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. Performers need to arrive at 6:00 p.m. and wear a white short-sleeve shirt and black pants or black skirt. All are welcome to attend!

Residency Verification

Baltimore County Public Schools' policy requires that all students transitioning from Grade 5 to Grade 6 and Grade 8 to Grade 9 verify residency prior to the start of the school year. Provisions for student enrollment and attendance are outlined in Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5150, *STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance*. A copy of Policy and Rule 5150 can be obtained by accessing the link:

http://www.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/5000toc.htm or by requesting a copy from the school.

Verification of residency requires five (5) documents from the parent/guardian: (1) photo identification; (2) one of the following documents providing proof of domicile: deed or lease, title, mortgage coupon book, real estate tax bill or receipt; **AND** three (3) pieces of business mail or documentation dated within sixty (60) days of the date submitted. All documents must reflect the same address.

For your convenience, PGE school personnel are available daily to verify residency. **All paperwork is due at Pine Grove Elementary by June 3, 2019. Please be advised that failure to provide transition year residency verification will result in the withdrawal of your child.** Thank you for your cooperation in updating your residency to ensure compliance with Board Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5150 and a smooth transition to middle school.

Planning for Next Year

Are you planning to move? Will your child go to a different school for the 2019—2020 school year? If the answer is yes, please contact the office at 410-887-5267 as soon as possible. This information will assist us as we plan next year's grade level organizations. Teachers and administrators are working together to form class groupings for next year. Students' current teachers know them best and provide input into creating classes that best meet students' academic, social, and developmental needs. Balanced classes are formed based on a variety of factors including classroom performance, achievement data, learning styles, and social and emotional characteristics. We also try to balance the number of boys and girls in classes. Due to the number of factors that are involved in creating class groupings, we are unable to place students based on parent requests. Thank you for understanding and honoring the many factors that are considered when assigning students to homeroom classes.

Special Education Workshops

The Office of Special Education is offering two-hour workshops open to all BCPS employees and parents. Participants must register by calling the Special Education Resource Center 410-887-5443 or sending an e-mail to the Special Education Resource Center at serc@bcps.org.

Behavior Management at Home

Staff in the Office of Special Education will offer a two-hour workshop open to all BCPS employees and parents. Dr. Tana Hope from The Child and Family Therapy Clinic of the Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute will present effective home behavior management strategies for use with elementary age children and teens. Ways to increase cooperation, foster prosocial behavior, and promote positive family interactions will be explored.

This professional learning opportunity will be offered on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., White Marsh Library Meeting Room

Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., North Point Library Meeting Room

Executive Functions (EF): What's the Big Idea?

Staff in the Office of Special Education will offer a two-hour workshop open to all BCPS employees and parents. Beth Lambert SST/504 Facilitator, will present on how EF, often referred to as the “hidden curriculum,” can impact a student’s success in the classroom. Similar to other academic and learning skills, some students may need varying levels of support and intervention. Strategies for teaching and reinforcing specific EF skills will be shared.

This workshop will be offered on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Reisterstown Library Meeting Room

Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Arbutus Library Meeting Room

Dual Exceptionalities

Twice-exceptional (2E) students are those identified for advanced academics programs and services who also qualify for an Individualized Education Program or 504 Plan due to an educational disability. These students have unique academic and social-emotional needs. Strategies for meeting those needs and supporting the success of these students will be discussed.

This professional learning opportunity will be offered Wednesday, May 29, 2019, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Greenwood Campus, Building E, Room 114.

Naviance Training

Representatives from the BCPS Office of School Counseling will share the College and Career Readiness software program Naviance, which is available to all BCPS middle and high school students and their parents. Attendees will learn ways Naviance can be used to assist with goal setting, career exploration, and eventually the college application process.

This professional learning opportunity will be offered Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the White Oak School Main Training Lab.

Mind Over Matter Parent Workshop

Staff in the BCPS Department of Social-Emotional Support will host a free program about student mental health and substance abuse for parents, caregivers, and BCPS staff called “Mind Over Matters: It Starts With Me – It Ends With Us” from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at the Sheraton Towson, 903 Dulany Valley Rd., 21204.

The program will feature keynote speaker Frank Kros, as well as workshops about a variety of challenges facing children today, including opioids, Juuling, anxiety, and suicide prevention. Parents or caregivers who wish to attend should pre-register by e-mailing their name and the school their child attends to Ms. Glenda Myrick at

gmyrick@bcps.org or by calling 443-809-0238.

Counselor's Corner

The year is coming to a close- but we are not done yet! This month we will focus on educational and career choices. Students in kindergarten through fourth grade will explore career choices and discuss how their skills and interests may lead them towards different career pathways. Fifth grade students will focus on transitioning to middle school and review skills such as locker combinations, time management, scheduling, and differences between elementary school and middle school.

Nurse's News

Spring is here and with it comes the sun and heat. A few reminders on sun safety and exercising from www.Healthychildren.org.

Sun Safety for Kids

- The first, and best line of defense against harmful ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure is covering up. Stay in the shade whenever possible, and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Select clothes made of tightly woven fabrics, cotton clothing is both cool and protective. Try to find a wide-brimmed hat that can shade the cheeks, chin, ears and back of the neck. Sunglasses with ultraviolet (UV) protection are also a good idea for protecting your child's eyes.
- Apply [sunscreen](#) with an SPF 15 or greater to areas of your child's skin that aren't covered by clothing. Before applying, test the sunscreen on your child's back for an allergic reaction. Apply carefully around the eyes, avoiding eyelids. If a rash develops, talk with your pediatrician.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.
- If your child gets sunburn that results in blistering, pain or fever, contact your pediatrician.

Heat Stress Tips for Exercising Children

Children need exercise to be healthy, so don't discourage them from getting outside and having fun when the sun is out but watch out for signs that they may be overheating. Particularly on a hot day, parents should make sure that their child plays safely.

- The intensity of activities that last 15 minutes or more should be reduced whenever high heat or humidity reach critical levels.
- Before outdoor physical activities, children should drink freely and should not feel thirsty. During activities less than one hour, water alone is fine. Kids should always have [water or a sports drink](#) available and take a break to drink every 20 minutes while active in the heat.
- Clothing should be light-colored and lightweight and limited to one layer of absorbent material to facilitate evaporation of sweat. Sweat-saturated shirts should be replaced by dry clothing.
- Practices and games played in the heat should be shortened and there should be more frequent water/hydration breaks. Children should promptly move to cooler environments if they feel dizzy, lightheaded or nauseated.

Field Days

Field Day is a day when your child will participate in fun-filled, outdoor activities with other students from their grade level.

Please have your child dress appropriately for physical activities and the weather. Be sure to **apply sunscreen** on your child before leaving for school and ensure your child brings a water bottle to school. **Your child should bring a change of clothes, as some of the events involve water.** See the letter sent home by Mrs. Porciello for information about volunteering. This will indeed be a fun-filled day for the children and everyone involved!