Principal’s Message

Greetings! I am pleased to share our first school community newsletter of the 2019-2020 school year with you. What a wonderful start we’ve had to our school year! Our staff continues to work hard to make sure our school climate is one that is warm and welcoming to our entire school community. From the music playing through the halls and outside the building each morning during arrival, to the beautification of our student restrooms, we are maintaining a focus on creating an atmosphere of pride for all who enter our doors.

I hope you had a chance to visit your student’s classroom for American Education Week to witness all the great things happening in our school! I also hope you had a chance to write a comment on our “What Makes You Proud” board to help us celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Each day, they work hard on rigorous learning tasks aligned to state standards and deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

Our first PTA meetings and Trunk-or-Treat event were huge successes because of your participation. We will continue to offer a variety of family engagement activities throughout the school year, so we hope that you will continue to offer your ideas, time and support. These wonderful events cannot happen without you!

I very much appreciate the positive feedback and support I have received from you in my first year as the principal of Edmondson Heights ES. I’m excited about continuing my work with you and staying relentless about taking our school to new heights! Happy Holidays to those of you who celebrate!

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Womble

Happy Holidays

School Hours: 8:25 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
School Website: https://edmondsonheightses.bcps.org/
School Phone Number: 410-887-0818
Safety Tips: Arrival and Dismissal

The safety of our students is our top priority each day. You can support our efforts by following the safety tips below:

- When dropping your student off to school in the morning by vehicle, please be sure to park your vehicle safely instead of having your student exit your car in the middle of the street. Stopping your car in the middle of the street causes unsafe situations for our students trying to cross the street and causes traffic jams.

- Remind your student to cross the street at marked crosswalks where there is a staff member, crossing guard or police officer present.

- Do not drive into the bus loop during the hours of 8:00-9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:30-4:00 p.m. This is a posted rule that is enforced by the Baltimore County Police Department and ensures safety for our students during the arrival and dismissal processes of our full-day and half-day programs. Our buses and daycare vans must be able to safely drop off and pick-up students during these times.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Your Administrative Team,

Ms. Womble & Ms. Feidler

What’s Happening in P.E. Class?

With the closing of first quarter, we are off to a great start in Physical Education class! The students just finished the Movement Education Equipment unit in which they challenged themselves to climb on an indoor jungle gym made up of nets, ladders, A-frames, bridges and balance boards. They also had the chance to challenge themselves on the rope swing, Monster Mountain and climb the rope to become part of the Bell Ringer’s Club, or even the Top of the World Club! Please see your student’s Class Dojo for pictures. As we move into the second quarter, students will be participating in the Volleyball and Basketball units. Please help them remember to wear sneakers so they are prepared for class. Second quarter Physical Education days for your child are as follows:

Kindergarten:
Cornejo – Thursdays
Campana – Wednesdays
Mosby – Tuesdays

Grade 1:
Powers – Tuesdays
Moser – Mondays and Fridays
Hodge – Wednesdays
Reynolds – Thursdays

Grade 2:
Robison – Tuesdays
Zentgraf – Mondays and Fridays
Eigel – Wednesdays

Grade 3:
Martin – Wednesdays
Mills – Mondays and Fridays
Brown – Thursdays

Grade 4:
Cash – Thursdays
Anagnostiadis – Tuesdays
McCreesh – Mondays and Fridays

Grade 5:
Bell – Mondays
Sollers – Tuesdays and Fridays
Minarovich – Wednesdays
Gaigler – Thursdays

~Ms. Berlin, P.E. Teacher
The Math Corner
Fact Fluency Practice Ideas!

Early Childhood
The grocery store is a perfect place to practice math skills. Little ones love to have a visual list of their own to use while shopping. Have students count out a specific number of food items, weigh fruits and vegetables and compare.

Primary (Grades K-2)
Do you have a deck of cards? Cards can be used to focus on multiple math skills. Students can match numbers, make equal sets, compare numbers, and make addition and subtraction problems!

Don’t forget about classic card games like Go Fish—students can “Go Fish” for certain numbers or amounts!

Intermediate (Grades 3-5)
Do you have an old board game? Board games are a great way to practice math skills! Students can play card games, Jenga, or BINGO to solve problems and record answers.

Don’t forget about Dreambox!
Your student can log into Dreambox on BCPS One -> Instructional and Productivity Tools -> Dreambox. Complete awesome lessons on math skills and help the class earn prizes! Ask your student’s teacher for their log in and password.

For more information on math resources:
https://www.bcps.org/parents/academic-support.htm

~The Math Action Team
Creating a Home Library
By: Reading Rockets

Starting a home library for your student shows him/her how important books are. Having books of his/her own in a special place boosts the chance that your student will want to read even more. Here are some ideas for creating your own home library.

Finding books

• Become a treasure hunter! Browse book store sales, garage sales, flea markets, used book stores, and sales at your local library.

• Organize a children's book swap with friends, community groups, or your school.

• Encourage family and friends to give books as gifts for birthdays, holidays, and other celebrations.

• Don't forget quality nonfiction and children’s magazines!

Building your library

• A cardboard box or small wooden packing crate that you can decorate together might make a good bookcase. Or you might clear one of the family bookshelves.

• Pick a special place for your student's books so that he/she knows where to look for them - in a cozy corner of your student's bedroom or close to where the rest of the family gathers and reads if your student is very social.

• Help your student to arrange his/her books in some order – his/her favorite books, books about animals, or holiday books. Use whatever method will help him/her most easily find the book he/she is looking for.

• “This book belongs to…” Bookplates give your student a sense of ownership and can add "newness" to a used book.

• If you and your student make your own books together, you can add those to your home library.

• Borrow books from your local library. Go to the children's section and spend time with your student reading and selecting books to take home and put in her special spot. You might even have a box or space just for library books, so that they don't get mixed up with your student's own books.

• NEW THIS YEAR: The Edmondson Heights Book Wagon will be coming around to classes giving students the opportunity to select free books to keep at home! These books will come with a sticker from the Maryland Book Bank.

When collecting and reading books are a part of family life, you send your student a message that books are important, enjoyable, and full of new things to learn! Happy Reading!

~Ms. Weston, Reading Specialist
~Ms. Belsinger, Reading Resource Teacher
A Message from Ms. Berman, School Social Worker

One of my roles as your school social worker is to help families locate and connect with resources both within the school and in the community that can help strengthen families so that our students are able to come to school each day ready to learn and grow. One of my favorite community resources is the Family Tree (familytreemd.org) because they provide support and great tips that help parents. I work along with our teachers, administrators, counselors, school psychologist and staff to help develop plans to support the social and emotional needs that can have an impact on school achievement and overall well-being. I serve as Homeless Liaison providing a connection for students and families. I work at both Edmondson Heights and Johnnycake Elementary Schools, so feel free to contact me at either school.

Autism Caregiver Support Group
Are you or someone you know impacted by Autism? Please join us at Johnnycake Elementary School for ideas, resources and a friendly ear. We get it and are here for you. We bring together parents/families, community resources and the school to support growth of our children with Autism. Meetings are open to all. Dates are as follows:

- November 21, 2019—1:00-2:30 p.m.
- December 20, 2019
- January 31, 2020
- February 28, 2020
- March 27, 2020
- April 24, 2020
- June 5, 2020

Please RSVP to iberman@bcps.org. Need a language interpreter? Please ask and we can request this service for you.

A Message from Ms. John, School Psychologist

Hi,

My name is Jasma John and I am the school psychologist at Edmondson Heights Elementary School. Many people don’t know the role of the school psychologist nor recall meeting a school psychologist when they were in school. I would like to introduce myself and say that I am happy to be a part of the Edmondson Heights community and look forward to working with the students and their families.

Some of the responsibilities I have as a school psychologist are that I am considered or often referred to as “the door keeper” and team member for special education. I help to identify how students learn best and provide helpful interventions and recommendations based on the testing and observable information that has been collected. I enjoy working with students and previously taught in the classroom in the District of Columbia (D.C.) and in Prince George’s County. I am a mother of two boys and understand the different learning styles of boys and students in our communities. It is my passion to help equip parents and teachers with a different approach to teaching, as well as establishing and maintaining relations with students.

The first ten years of my career, I worked within Charles County Public Schools. I am excited to be working for Baltimore County Public Schools as it also allows me to be closer to my family who live in this county. I was born in Baltimore City and attended elementary and middle school within the city. I then moved onto high school in Columbia, Maryland. I am also the proud alumnae of Morgan State University and Bowie State University. So, with pride I can say, Maryland is my home😊. I enjoy helping students and families within my schools on a daily basis and make students’ success my first priority. As part of my role, I partner with Ms. Berman, our school social worker, on many community and student related projects. My job allows me to provide preventive recommendations and intervention services, crisis response to students and most of all, family and school collaboration. In many ways, I am one of the conduits between home and school. The responsibility I take pride in the most is providing supports for students in order for them to meet their greatest potential. Please partner with me in helping our students to be successful, because I believe it takes a village to accomplish that. I look forward to meeting you in the future either in the school hallways or in IEP Team or Student Support Team (SST) meetings. I am at Edmondson Heights two days a week and maximize my services through our building on a weekly basis. If you would like to reach out to me by email please do so at the following email address provided- jjohn4@bcps.org. Thank you and I look forward to a great year at “The Heights!”
A Message from the School Counselors

Happy November! It’s hard to believe we are already at the end of the first quarter of another school year! Where did the time go? The beginning of a new quarter is a good time for reflection. As we reflect on the past few months, we have been thinking about all the fun happening here at Edmondson Heights. Students have been engaging in Guidance classroom lessons since September. In September, students learned about teamwork and communication. Students learned that we are a team here at Edmondson Heights and to be successful, we must use appropriate communication skills. In October, students learned about bullying in school. They took a pledge to stand against bullying and to keep our school community safe. They did this by saying the pledge and signing their names. In November, students learned about goal setting, perseverance and conflict resolution. Students learned that to achieve any goal in life, they must commit to a plan and overcome any obstacles that may get in their way. While reviewing conflict resolution, students learned how to properly communicate about their differences using “I” statements. They also learned how to respect their classmates’ opinions. As we lead into December, please feel free to contact us and share your thoughts. We hope to gain valuable feedback from each of you.

On December 11, Southwest Academy will visit Edmondson Heights ES. Fifth grade families, keep an eye out for the student elective form that will be sent home. This will only be distributed to students zoned to attend Southwest Academy for middle school. Please continue to look at Class Dojo for upcoming events with the counselors.

Virtues

The Virtue of the month is Honesty. Honesty is being open, trustworthy and truthful. When people are honest, they can be relied on not to lie, cheat, or steal. Honesty is telling the truth. It is admitting mistakes even when you know someone might be angry or disappointed.

How to See a School Counselor

Small group counseling and individual counseling happens by self-referral, parent referral, teacher referral, administrator referral or is counselor initiated.

How to Contact the School Counselors

Lomax Fonville (Grades K-2)
Phone: 410-887-1066
Email: lfonville@bcps.org

Kati Nearhouse (Grades 3-5)
Phone: 410-887-1066
Email: knearhouse@bcps.org

Look what’s been happening at Edmondson Heights…

Be the “I” in Kind

I Pledge Against Bullying

Pep Rally
A Message from the Health Suite

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please send in a change of clothing that can be kept in your student’s locker for emergencies, accidents, and spills. I am asking that each student (all grades) have at least one spare outfit that is appropriate for the current weather/temperature. For second graders and younger, please send in extra sets of underwear and socks as well. In the event your student comes home in one of our emergency supply clothing, please launder and return them ASAP.

If you have any laundered clothing that you wish to donate to the emergency supply bin, please send them in with a label indicating that it is a donation. Daily, I am using the spare clothing supply and I would greatly appreciate any extra clothing.

Thank you in advance for your help,

Ms. Brown, RN
School Nurse

A Note from the Music Room

Dear Families,

Winter is coming! We have been having an amazing time in music class this year at Edmondson Heights. We have learned to hear music, match pitch and perform with accompanying rhythms. As we begin second quarter, we will learn to read music and play instruments along with what we sing.

Our winter program will be on December 10, 2019. We will be performing “Olaf’s Winter Adventure.” The parts and dress code for the performance are listed below.

Kindergarten will be singing and dancing to “Jingle Bell Rock.” Please wear black, green, red, or white.

First Grade will be singing and dancing to “A Little Bit of You” and “Marshmallow World.” Please wear white or blue.

Second Grade will be singing and dancing to “In Summer.” Please wear bright colors and sunglasses.

Elsa and Anna will wear pajamas.

Olaf will wear all white (a white hoodie is preferred).

We will have 3 performances of our winter program on December 10, 2019 at 9:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Ms. Richardson
Vocal Music Teacher
EHES Library News

Curriculum Connections
As the leaves drop from the mighty oaks that frame the views from our library media center, our students from kindergarten through 5th grade have been taking a deep dive into what it means to be a digital citizen. We have focused on digital citizenship, safe online behavior, and creating a balance between screen time activities and non-screen time activities. We even brainstormed activities to do that don’t require us to use screens. When our students reflected on how much time they were in front of a screen, many realized that they needed to seek balance and put their phones, tablets, and laptops away a little more often and go for a walk or read a book!

Reading with Your Scholar
This year, I would like to offer a new service to our school community! Having trouble picking out books to read to your student? Look no further than the EHES library to help pick out a selection of 5 picture books or for our older readers, a chapter book for you to read to or along with your student. If you are interested, send me a note on Class Dojo, through your child’s homeroom teacher or via email at drobbins2@bcps.org. I will connect with you to complete a short interest survey and will then send a bundle of books and activities home to you in a backpack for you to enjoy with your students. That way, you don’t have to worry about what to read at bedtime or when you are looking to spend that quality time with your students. It’s like the Blue Apron of book selection!

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you this year around The Heights and sharing more exciting programs and opportunities with you to help us celebrate literacy and reading!

~Mr. Robbins
Library Media Specialist

Greetings from the Art Room!

Our little artists have been so busy creating all kinds of fun artwork. Take a peek and see what we’ve been up to.

Students in Art Club kicked off the school year with a field trip to the National Historic Hampton Mansion. Students learned about the history of how the mansion was built and also made art inspired by the mansion itself.

Fifth graders celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by learning all about Molas, a decorative textile with bright colors and linear designs made by the people of Panama. Students chose the subject for their artwork, planned the composition, and planned the linear design for their background. Excellent work, 5th grade!
Fourth graders have been working on their Mexican Mirrors for Hispanic Heritage month. We talked about traditions and cultural customs of Mexico and also learned about radial symmetry when designing our mirrors. Great job, 4th grade!

Third graders have just finished up their Fall Owl mixed-media project. This multifaceted lesson allowed students to practice some illustration skills while drawing their owls, observe cool and warm colors in nature, and get their hands dirty while blending oil pastels to a smooth finish. All that work paid off because the projects turned out amazing!

Primary students (Grades K-2) have been making fall inspired art with our Leaf Rubbings. Students take a close look at leaves and capture their texture with crayons on paper. We have also been focusing on identity and looking at how artists express themselves through self-portraits. I can’t wait to see where our creativity takes us the next marking period!

~Ms. Hernandez
Art Teacher