

# Edmondson Heights Elementary Newsletter

2017



## A Message from our Principal

Dear Edmondson Heights Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to see life settle back into a normal routine. We are busy at Edmondson Heights pushing forward into the next units of the curriculum. As a reminder, the 2nd marking period ends on Friday, January 13 and report cards will be distributed on Thursday, January 26 for grades 1-5. Please be sure to review the report cards carefully and reach out to your child's teacher with any questions.

Our assistant principal, Ms. Erin Womble, has been selected for the Baltimore County Public Schools' Associate Principal Program. An internship is a part of the program and so Ms. Womble will be working at an alternative school site from January 6-February 3. Ms. Womble will return to her normal duties at Edmondson Heights Elementary School on Monday, February 6. While she is away, a substitute assistant principal will cover her duties. We will miss Ms. Womble while she is away, but congratulate her for being selected for this program and wish her total success in her internship!

As we face what are typically the coldest months of the year, please monitor the forecast and be sure to help your child dress appropriately to stay warm. In the morning, our school building doesn't open until 8:15, which is when we have teachers come on duty for our 8:25 opening. Please do not send your child to school early since they will have to wait outside and face the cold temperatures until our doors open at 8:15. If snow and ice grace us with their presence again this year, please also monitor for potential school closings or delays. If Baltimore County Public Schools are delayed for one hour, we will start school at 9:25. If we are delayed for two hours, school will start at 10:25. The best way to be informed of any delays or closings is to follow Dr. Dance and BCPS on Twitter or check the Baltimore County Public Schools' website at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org).

As always, please contact me with any questions, concerns, or compliments. Thank you!

Juliet McDivitt  
Principal  
[jmcdivitt@bcps.org](mailto:jmcdivitt@bcps.org)  
410-887-9818



### Important Dates

- Jan 3-10: 2nd and 3rd grade Dental Sealant
- Jan 11-12: Hearing and Vision Tests
- Jan 12: Talk about it Thursday Parent Workshop 8:30-10
- Jan 13: Early Dismissal
- Jan 16: School Closed: MLK Day
- Jan 17: School Closed
- Jan 19: PTA Meeting

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## Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing

In February 2017, students in Grades K-5 will take the Winter MAP assessment in reading and mathematics. More detailed information about specific testing dates for each grade level is forthcoming. Here is more information about MAP assessments:

### What are MAP assessments?

MAP is a pair of assessments, one in reading and one in mathematics, which your child will take on a computer two to three times during the school year in the fall, winter, and/or spring, depending on grade level. Grades 1 and 2 take MAP three times per year. All other grades take MAP twice per year.

There is no time limit on the assessments. On average, students take from 35 – 50 minutes to complete each test.

MAP assessments narrow in on your child's current achievement level by presenting questions based on how your child answers. The difficulty of each question adjusts based on your child's previous answers. This is called a computer adaptive achievement test.

### How are MAP assessment results used?

MAP assessment results are used to monitor your child's growth in mathematics and reading achievement over time. Much like a growth chart illustrates your child's height from one year to the next, MAP assessments measure student growth in reading and mathematics from test to test and from one year to the next.

MAP assessment results will not be used as part of your child's grade in either mathematics or reading. MAP assessments provide just one part of a picture of student achievement and growth. Just as one tool doesn't give you a full picture of your child's physical growth, no single assessment can give a full picture of your child's knowledge and skills.

### What does MAP measure?

MAP assessments measure achievement in mathematics and reading. The specific domains of mathematics and reading measured on MAP assessments are:



#### Mathematics

##### Grades K-5:

- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Number and Operations
- Measurement and Data

##### Grades 6-8:

- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- The Real and Complex Number Systems
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability



#### Reading

##### Grades K-2:

- Foundational Skills
- Language and Writing
- Literature and Informational Text
- Vocabulary Use and Functions

##### Grades 3-8:

- Literature
- Informational Text
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

## Join the PTA



Our next meeting  
is Thursday  
January 19, 6 pm  
at Edmondson  
Heights.  
Please join us and  
support our school!

The number one reason to join the Parent Teacher Association is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

- ◆ Get Connected. There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.
- ◆ Discover Great Resources. The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
- ◆ Tap into a Network. PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- ◆ Watch Yourself Grow. By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause—your child and all children in the community.
- ◆ Speak Up. PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
- ◆ Witness Improvement. By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role by supporting building improvements through advocacy and play an important role in fundraising for curriculum based programs and social events.
- ◆ Be a Role Model. By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.

*For more information visit [www.facebook.com/EdHeightsPTA](http://www.facebook.com/EdHeightsPTA) or contact [Edmondsonheights.PTA@gmail.com](mailto:Edmondsonheights.PTA@gmail.com)*

## A Note from PE

As cold weather approaches please make sure your child is prepared for Physical Education! If your child wears boots to school, please put tennis shoes in their book bag on gym days. Boots are unsafe to run in and your child will be unable to participate in Physical Education. We need to keep our children moving all year long!

Thanks, Mrs. Berlin and Ms. Lappe



## End of 2016 Reflection

All students were given the opportunity to participate in a school wide End of the Year Reflection. Students were asked questions like:

- ◇ What was your biggest achievement of the year?
- ◇ What was the biggest risk you took?
- ◇ What did you do this year that you have never done before?
- ◇ What is one way you grew academically this year?
- ◇ Who had the greatest impact on your life this year?
- ◇ If you could travel back in time and tell yourself one thing, what advice would you give yourself?



## How to Help Your Child In Reading

### Higher Level Questions:

- ⇒ Are you looking to increase the discussions about books you have with your child? Below are some questions that you can ask your child as they are reading. Be sure to also have them give you text support for how they got their answer. Happy reading!

### Narrative Text – Fiction

#### **Beyond the text:**

- ⇒ Why do you think the character was able to \_\_\_\_\_?
- ⇒ How do you think the character felt about \_\_\_\_\_?
- ⇒ What did the character learn?

#### **About the text:**

- ⇒ Why did \_\_\_\_\_ (character) say “\_\_\_\_\_”?
- ⇒ Find the place in the story where the character felt \_\_\_\_\_.
- ⇒ What did this show you about \_\_\_\_\_?
- ⇒ What was the writer’s message?



## A Note from the Nurse

### **When should I send my child to school?**

The suggestions below are for children 5 to 18 years of age. Recommendations may be different for infants and younger children.

#### No

- \* Fever: If your child has a fever of 101 or higher, keep them home until his/her fever is below 101 for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication. If the fever does not go away after 2-3 days or is 102 or higher, you should consult a health care provider.
- \* Diarrhea: If, in addition to diarrhea, your child acts ill, has a fever or is vomiting, keep him/her at home. If stool is bloody, if the child has abdominal pain, fever or vomiting, you should consult a health care provider.
- \* Vomiting: Keep your child at home until the vomiting has stopped for 24 hours. If vomiting continues, contact a health care provider.
- \* Coughing: Keep your child home and contact a health care provider if symptoms are due to asthma, provide treatment according to your child’s Asthma Action Plan and when symptoms are controlled send your child to school.
- \* Rash with Fever: If a rash spreads quickly, not healing, or has open weeping wounds, you should keep your child home and have him/her see a health care provider.
- \* Strep Throat: Keep your child at home for the first 24 hours after and antibiotic has begun.

#### Yes

- \* Parent Illness: If you are sick, your child still needs to attend school. Your illness does not excuse your child from attending. We all are sick at times so plan ahead for these days.
- \* Chronic Disease: Your child should attend school. School personnel are trained to assist your child with his/her chronic disease and associated needs.
- \* Not Wanting to Go: You should keep your child in school, but try to determine what is causing the changes. Talk to school personnel and consult a health care provider. Your child may be experiencing bullying or trauma, may be behind in his/her studies or not getting along with others. These and other issues may require you or school personnel's attention.
- \* Cold Symptoms: If your child is able to participate in school activities send him/her to school.
- \* Pink Eye: Your child can attend school, but call a health care provider to prescribe medication/treatment.
- \* Head Lice: Your child can be in school if he/she has had initial treatment of shampooing of hair with a product for lice.
- \* Pains: If there is no known injury and your child is able to function, he/she should be in school. If pain is severe or doesn't stop, consult with a health care provider.

### Expository Text - Nonfiction

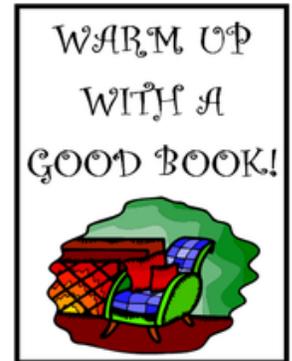
#### **Beyond the text:**

- ⇒ What is the most important thing about \_\_\_\_\_? Why?
- ⇒ What does the writer say to make you feel/think \_\_\_\_\_?
- ⇒ How does \_\_\_\_\_ change?

#### **About the Text:**

- ⇒ What side do you think the writer was on? Why?
- ⇒ How did the author make this book interesting?
- ⇒ Show the sections in the book and tell what kind of information is in each.

CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S  
TEACHER FOR MORE  
SUGGESTIONS!



## Grade Level News!



- ◆ **Early Childhood:** Registration has started for the 2017-2018 school year for ages 3 and 4. If your child has younger siblings and you are interested in having them be part of our Early Childhood program, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can have registration squared away by June 2017. Thank you so much and remember to register your 3 and 4 year olds for next school year!
- ◆ **Kindergarten:** Kindergarten was quite busy in 2016! With all that we have practiced, kindergartners should be able to identify all uppercase and lowercase letters (as well as many of the letter sounds); count aloud to at least 50 without mistakes; read, write, and spell at least ten out of twenty sight words; and write a simple sight word sentence, among other talents. We are wrapping up a math unit on patterns. Ask your child to make (red, yellow, red, yellow) and name (ABAB) a pattern at home. Please note that kindergarten will no longer have snack time due to the interruption to instructional time. Thank you for your understanding.
- ◆ **Grade 1:** First grade has had an exciting December! We went on a field trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI). At the field trip, we learned all about the history of Baltimore and we even got to build our own community. In reading, we finished Unit 2 which was learning about nonfiction texts. Students created a project to share information about an animal. First graders became experts about animals by reading various different nonfiction texts. In math, we began to focus a lot on subtraction. Students used several different tools to learn how to subtract such as number lines and counters. Now, students are solving addition and subtraction story problems. In order to solve the problem, students are being asked to figure out if they should add or subtract to find the answer. Be sure to read every night at home! Keep up the great work first grade!
- ◆ **Grade 2:** Second grade has had a great end to 2016! We hosted a successful back to school night for parents where we shared strategies to help students in reading and math. Thank you to the parents who joined us for that event! In reading, we have focused on characters and how they react to certain events. We have been busy reading and improving our guided reading level in class. A second grader should be on a level K at this time in the year. Ask your students teacher for their guided reading level if you are not sure! In math, we have been working on even and odd numbers, and adding multiple numbers at a time. Students are learning many different strategies like using place value, number lines, and hundred charts to help get the answers! In science, students are building a wall that can withstand a ball being crashed into it. The students are really enjoying this project.
- ◆ **Grade 3:** As part of the third grade science curriculum, third grade will be involved in a unit called Safe Racer. In this unit, third graders will work in cooperative teams to construct a competitive racer. This racer, along with its driver, Eggbert (an uncooked egg), will be involved in a series of distance and safety tests. During the unit, students will have the opportunity to create the racer, test the racer, and make modifications to it following a preliminary set of trials. We need your help. Materials to construct these vehicles can easily be collected at home. Use of recyclable materials is encouraged in the construction of the team vehicles. Some possible materials include: soda bottles, foam packing peanuts, milk cartons, bubble wrap, cotton balls, egg cartons, pillow stuffing, or cardboard. Items for construction should be collected from home and brought into school as soon as possible. Actual construction on the vehicles will occur in the middle of the unit. Please assist your child in gathering possible materials and bring them to school as soon as they have been collected. Arrangements have been made to store the materials in the classroom until they are needed. Thank you for your help!
- ◆ **Grade 4:** Ms. Haimiti's class and Ms. Reynolds class have both started the fractions math unit! Fourth graders touched on fractions in third grade, but will be digging a little deeper this year! Ms. Gaigler's class is working on the division unit. All of fourth grade is learning about "Taking a Stand" in ELA. Students' will be able to pick topics they want to take a stand on and create an infographic. Some topics include recycling and endangered animals. Fourth grade is looking forward to a successful new year!
- ◆ **Grade 5:** In the area of English Language Arts, our 5th graders are just about to move into Unit 3; Historical Transformation. Each student will check out text from the school library, of the Historical Fiction genre. During Unit 3, students will have time during rotations to independently read the text they have chosen. Students may also use this text for 100 Book Challenge steps each night. Near the end of the unit, students will create a "book talk" presentation in which they will explain whether or not the chosen text should be included as a "must read" based on how well the story was told by the narrator. A multimedia component will also be included in the presentation. Each lesson during unit 3, will prepare our students to complete the final project with success. In Math, students are finishing the second unit on multiplying whole numbers and decimals. Students would greatly benefit from practicing their multiplication facts each night. The advanced math students are continuing to work on fractions and will be moving into Algebra – expressions, equations and inequalities. Please check Class Dojo for updates on your child's behavior and work habits and to see what we're working on in the classroom. Thank you for your support!

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## Kid Kudos

- Amonie for embracing challenges and making fabulous choices during library on December 5.
- Ms. Martin's class for doing a fabulous job with team building activities on December 1.
- Noah in 4th grade for trying to be good even with the class was not making good choices on December 5.
- James and Joshua for staying after class to clean up the art room on December 2.
- Jaziah, Benito, and Rodney for cleaning up the music room after class.
- Antonio for helping Ms. Gaigler pick up materials in the classroom.
- Charvez for helping clean up the classroom at the end of the day.
- Antonio and Antwan for trying the Kindergarten's shoes during gym.
- Kamiya and Kayla for helping their class during cafeteria clean up.
- Tiffany and Sharon for being recycle helpers during lunch.
- Dominic for helping a classmate pick up supplies that had been knocked on the floor.
- Christian for helping the teacher pick up materials that had been knocked on the floor.
- Neveah for helping her classmates learn a new game in the gym.
- Marcellus for helping Ms. Pascoe with the keyboard.
- Maya for showing phenomenal behavior in the cafeteria.
- Eric for assisting Dominc to the health suite.
- Dylan for being a fabulous leader in the library.
- Tafa, Tala, Sydney, Shemy, and Shaniya for being awesome library helpers.
- Kayne giving another student a pencil.
- Mallory for helping a friend wash her hands in Kindergarten.
- Sandra for helping clean up the cafeteria.
- Mila for going to the door for concert guests during the vening.
- Damond and CJ for straightening up the music room without being asked.
- Tala and Tafa for straightening up the music room.
- Deshawn, Kennedi, and Rodel for helping straighten up the music room.
- Ms. Lundy's class for being awesome listeners during story time.
- Ian for finding Ms. Cook's cell phone and returning it to her.
- Jacob for helping gather snowballs for a friend in gym.
- Brooke for cheering up a classmate who was feeling down.
- Cedric, Taniria, and Alex for cleaning up the library for Ms. McCall.
- Hayden for trying to help a classmate calm down.
- Ashley for helping a friend find her materials.
- Jalen, Zion, and Obed for winning the most points in Art on December 16.
- Rodney and Kendal for embracing a challenge in the library.
- Jeimy, Himena, and Axel for helping a new student adjust in the class.
- Chase for being a huge helper in the library in 4th grade.
- Ryan and Tiffany for cleaning up in music.
- Damond, Edgar and Kenneth for cleaning up a mess in the cafeteria.



January 2017

## Code of Conduct

Edmondson Heights Elementary School  
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Baltimore, MD 21207

Phone: 410-887-1069  
Fax: 410-869-0240  
Website: <http://edmondsonheightses.bcps.org/>

*We are learners.*

*Learners embrace challenges. Challenges make my brain  
grow new connections.*

*Making connections with one another creates a strong class  
community. I believe in me and I believe in you.*

*We will be the change we wish to see!!!*

**Find us on  
Facebook  
and Twitter!**



@EDHeightsES



[www.facebook.com/EdHeightsPTA](http://www.facebook.com/EdHeightsPTA)

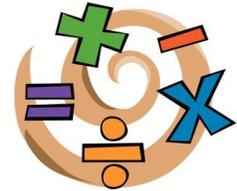


## Tech Talk

**Keep up on your math and reading using these websites at home!**

### Math:

- ⇒ [www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/DogBone/gamebone.html](http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/DogBone/gamebone.html)
- ⇒ <http://calculationnation.nctm.org/>
- ⇒ <http://interactivesites.weebly.com/decimals.html>
- ⇒ [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)
- ⇒ [www.math.com](http://www.math.com)
- ⇒ [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)
- ⇒ [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)
- ⇒ [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
- ⇒ [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)
- ⇒ [www.splashmath.com/Fun-Math/Practice](http://www.splashmath.com/Fun-Math/Practice)
- ⇒ <https://xtramath.org/>



### Reading:

- ⇒ [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)
- ⇒ [www.readingresource.net](http://www.readingresource.net) (other links listed on site)
- ⇒ [www.education.com](http://www.education.com)
- ⇒ [www.professorgarfield.org](http://www.professorgarfield.org)
- ⇒ [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)



**And don't forget the resources on BCPSOne including Tumblebooks, Dreambox and more!**

## *Enter to win a chance to have lunch with Ms. McDivitt!*

Here's your chance! Enter your child/children's name(s) and parent/guardian signature confirming the receipt of the school newsletter. Tear off the bottom signed portion from the newsletter, keep the newsletter, and send in the signed slip. Each signed slip that is handed in will be entered into a drawing. At the end of the month 5 names will be selected to have lunch with Ms. McDivitt! That's right! So fill this out, tear it off and send it in! **Please list all children in the household who attend Edmondson Heights.**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_