

# Edmondson Heights Elementary Newsletter

October 2016



## A Message from our Principal

Dear Families of Edmondson Heights:

What a wonderful start to the 2016-2017 school year we have had! As I visit classrooms, I am so excited to see all of our students happily forming relationships with teachers, creating class communities with one another, and deeply engaged in learning aided by personal computer devices in grades K-5. The students have already shown such progress!

This year, student achievement and growth continue to be our main focus. Last year on the MAP test (Measures of Academic Progress), 65% of our students met the expected growth target in math. This was an increase from 43% of students meeting their target in math during the 2014-15 school year. In reading, 58% of our students met the expected growth target, an improvement from 50%. We are working this year to increase our percentage of students who meet or exceed their target growth rates. One of the most important things you can do as a family to support academic growth is to read with or have your child read independently every single day. It may seem like a small thing, but it is the single most important factor in improving school performance!

As a reminder, this year we are not celebrating any special occasions, such as birthdays, with food of any kind and so cupcakes or similar items may not be brought to school. This is in an effort to protect our students with very serious food allergies. We will continue to acknowledge birthdays by calling students' names on the announcements and giving students a book, pencil and a sticker. Students also have the option of bringing a non-food item to the class to share such as a sticker or small toy as long as one is provided for every student in the class. Please coordinate with the classroom teacher.

We are very excited to offer many after school clubs this year. Please be sure to check your student's backpack for flyers and permission slips. This year we will have a Dance Club, a Newspaper Club, a Black Saga Club, an Environmental Club, a Destination Imagination team, Chorus, a Math 24 Challenge Club, sports intramurals, a Student Council, an Art Club, a Foreign Language Club, and a Yearbook Club. This newsletter contains more information about the clubs and gives a contact person for each one. We look forward to seeing many of our students involved in extracurricular activities this year!

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude and congratulations to Mrs. Kathy McPherson who officially retired from teaching on September 30. We are going to miss her very much, but know that she will enjoy her retirement by spending time with her grandchildren, traveling, and relaxing! Please continue to stay in touch with me as the year continues so that I may best serve you to ensure your child(ren) are maximizing their educational growth and opportunities. Thank you!

Juliet McDivitt  
Principal  
410-887-0818 or [jmcdivitt@bcps.org](mailto:jmcdivitt@bcps.org)



### Important Dates

- Oct 12: School Closed
- Oct 18: PTA Meeting 6 pm
- Oct 19: Claire's Pick-up After School 3:30-5:30
- Oct 20: Talk about it Thursday Parent Workshop 8:45- 10 am
- Oct 21: School Closed
- Oct 27: Fifth Grade Field Trip
- Oct 28: Early Dismissal
- Oct 31: Pre-K Field Trip

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# Attendance Matters!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal for the 2016-2017 school year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Every child between the ages of 5 and 17 who resides in Baltimore County is required to attend school regularly during the entire school year. In addition, regular school attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success. It is the key to high school graduation and college and career readiness. Research shows that students who regularly attend school are more likely to read on grade level, less likely to drop out of school, and more likely to graduate on-time. Even as children grow older and more independent, parents play a key role in making sure students get to school on time every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health concerns or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—the absences can cause them to fall behind academically. Absences can add up quickly.

This school year, please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers, counselors, and school support staff for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

When your child is absent, please remember to send in a written note and be sure to include the date and reason for the absence.

Let us know how we can best support you and your child, so that they can show up for school on time every day. We wish your child a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Erin Womble  
Assistant Principal  
ewomble@bcps.org



## Upcoming Afterschool Activities

Clubs will be starting soon! Check out the list of opportunities for your student. Please take note of the dates, grade levels eligible and contact person. More information will be sent home regarding clubs from club leaders. If you have questions, please contact the person in charge of the club. We can't wait to get started!

### More on the 24 Math Challenge

We've kept you waiting and now the time is finally here! Any **3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader** is eligible to participate. For those who are newly interested in 24 Challenge, it's an exciting math game. Children are given four numbers and use addition, subtraction, multiplication and/or division to reach the answer 24. A sample card is pictured in the corner. One solution might be to multiply 4 x 3 and get 12.



Then divide  $4 \div 2$  and get 2. Then take your new numbers, 12 and 2, and multiply them to get 24.

Club Name	Grade	Start Date	Contact Person(s)
Environmental Club	1st and 2nd	October 12	Ms. Plunkett/ Ms. Rardon wplunkett@bcps.org mrardon@bcps.org
Instrumental Music Club	5th	Mid October	Ms. Crutchfield jcrutchfield@bcps.org
Art Club	3rd, 4th, 5th	October 11	Ms. Hernandez/ Ms. McCall ehernandez@bcps.org mmccall@bcps.org
Spanish Club	3rd, 4th, 5th	October 13	Ms. Hernandez/ Ms. McCall ehernandez@bcps.org mmccall@bcps.org
24 Math Challenge	3rd, 4th, 5th	October 19	Ms. Weston/ Ms. Thompson kweston@bcps.org athompson8@bcps.org
Student Council	3rd, 4th, 5th will be Elected Positions	November/ December	Ms. Zentgraf/ Ms. Moser azentgraf@bcps.org jmoser2@bcps.org
Newspaper Club	4th and 5th	October	Ms. Lape/ Ms. Burton jlape@bcps.org lburton@bcps.org
Intramurals	Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd	November 3	Ms. Byers/ Ms. Siverd rbyers2@bcps.org jsiverd@bcps.org

**24 Challenge will meet every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 in room 108 beginning October 19th.** We only have enough space for **20 students** to join so don't delay in returning your permission slip. Stop by to see Mrs. Weston for a permission slip! If you love math this club is for you!!!

## Library News with Ms. McCall



“WITCH” book will YOU choose? Our library collection is MOST impressive and gets stronger and more interesting every month! We were fortunate enough to receive a \$500 stipend for new books in September and this was IN ADDI-

TION to the nearly 200 books donated from the recently closed BCPS: **Scholars K-8!** Most of our learners have taken advantage of our growing collection but so many of them still have 3 or more unreturned books which prevents them from being able to check a new book every week. Please work with your student to find their missing books so they can also take advantage of our growing collection.

### BCPL Collaboration:

Check this link for UPCOMING events at the BCPL-Woodlawn Branch! <http://www.bcpl.info/events/datelines-woodlawn>. One event in particular is our upcoming annual “Family Library Night / Explore Woodlawn Library With Us” scheduled for Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

## Reading with Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Belsinger, Mrs. Heckert

Reading daily is an important part of your everyday routine. The more you read, the better you become at it. Be sure that your child is reading independently every day. If your child is still learning to read, you may read aloud to your child. As they begin to learn sight words and word families, transition your child to do the reading.

Reading aloud is a very important part of becoming a reader. Regardless of your child's age, sharing a story together is such an enjoyable experience and time well spent. This helps to increase your child's comprehension. Reading aloud gives your child access to text that he/she may not be able to read independently, but can compre-

hend and gain knowledge from. This will allow your child to increase vocabulary, build background knowledge, and provides a good role model of reading. This will be a great opportunity for you and your child to have conversations that positively impact reading growth.

## A Message from PBIS

As you may know, Edmondson Heights is identified as a PBIS school. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. It is a national framework of school wide systems of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. The PBIS committee at Edmondson Heights would like to share our celebrations from last year. During the 2015-2016 school year, students at Edmondson Heights: Decreased overall referrals to the Focus Room by 2.3% and from grade level classrooms by 18%. The percentage of students at Edmondson Heights supported within

each of the three tiers met national PBIS expectations; Tier 1 includes students benefiting from school-wide interventions; Tier 2 includes students benefiting from targeted small group interventions; Tier 3 includes students who benefit from more intensive, individualized interventions. For three consecutive years, 78 – 82% of students never earned even 1 referral to the Focus Room!

We want to thank our faculty, staff, students and families for working hard on developing a growth mindset and learning our new rules last year. Thank you! Our Code of Conduct continues to be: I am a learner. Learners embrace challenges. Challenges make my brain grow new connections. Making con-

nections with one another creates our strong class community. I believe in me and I believe in you.

We believe in every student at Edmondson Heights and want to work with you to increase student successes. During the 2016-2017 school year, we will broaden our use of Restorative Practices, including class meetings and justice circles. We will also be introducing the Zones of Regulations to more of our classrooms. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you for your support!



## Help your child be prepared for PE!

Please help your child be prepared for Physical Education! They should wear tennis shoes to school on their gym day. The gym is NOT air conditioned and students should dress for movement! Here is the schedule:

### Kindergarten

**Lundy** – Mondays and Wednesdays  
**Mosby** – Mondays and Thursdays  
**Cornejo** – Tuesdays and Fridays

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Powers** – Mondays and Tuesdays  
**Sollers** – Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
**Plunkett** – Mondays and Fridays  
**Moser** – Wednesdays and Thursdays

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Bell** – Mondays and Fridays  
**Zentgraf** – Mondays, Tuesdays and sometimes Wednesdays  
**Rardon** – Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
**Eigel** – Wednesdays and Thursdays

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**J. Reynolds** – Mondays and Tuesdays and sometimes Thursdays  
**Madueme** – Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
**Cash** – Mondays and Wednesdays  
**Martin** – Thursdays and Fridays

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Abdo** – Mondays  
**Haimiti** – Tuesdays  
**K. Reynolds** – Wednesdays and sometimes Thursdays

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Burns** – Mondays  
**Mobley** – Tuesdays  
**Wrona** – Wednesdays

For safety reasons, please help your child learn to independently tie their shoes! I found a wonderful new trick on Facebook to teach young children a new way to tie shoes. When you see me, ask me to show you!! Stay active!! Ms. Berlin and Ms. Lappe

## Don't get Sick!



Cold and Flu season is upon us! There are a few measures that you can take to help prevent getting sick this time of year.

1. Get your Flu Shot!
2. Wash your hands... A LOT!
3. Drink lots of fluids
4. Dress for the weather
5. If you're sick, stay home and rest!
6. Consult your Physician about how to treat your cold and/or flu.



## A note from the School Nurse:

Students will have an opportunity to get their flu shots at school on December 5th, 2016. More information will be available at a later date. Stay tuned for more details!

## PTA NEWS!

### First PTA Meeting of 2016/2017

October 18th at 6 P.M.  
 School Library

Come out to Learn, Join, Contribute, Support & Participate in enriching your student's learning experience.

Without the help of parents there is no "P" in PTA.

PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth. Research has proven that children do better when parents are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.

## Grade Level News!



- ◆ **Early Childhood:** Welcome to Early Childhood! It has been an exciting start to the school year. The children have spent the first few weeks learning new routines, exploring new surroundings, and forming relationships with new people, both staff and fellow students. We are confident that exciting start will continue! A few dates to remember: October 31<sup>st</sup>- First field trip. Rodgers Farm 10 to 1:30. All parents are encouraged to chaperone. This is great opportunity to see your child's learning in action. Both AM and PM sessions will meet at this time.
- ◆ **Kindergarten:** Kindergarten is hard at work learning letters and sounds, counting to 100, and comparing small groups of objects (identifying more or less/fewer). We would love for our kindergartners to be able to identify all lowercase and uppercase letters by the end of the November. We also encourage counting objects at home and telling how many in all. Kindergarten will go on a field trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore on Monday, October 31st. More information about fees and chaperones will be sent home in the next week. WE WILL NEED CHAPERONES so please make sure to complete the volunteer training at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org)!
- ◆ **Grade 1:** We are so excited for a school year filled with building our community of learners and growing together! Please make sure that your child is reading every night and recording their steps. The best way to become a better reader is to practice reading! Currently in school we are identifying and describing characters, the setting, and events in fiction stories. At home, you can ask your child questions about what they are reading. In math, we are working on solving basic addition story problems and addition equations. At home, you can practice counting pennies and even create your own stories problems! We can't wait to see the growth that this year will unfold! Keep reading!
- ◆ **Grade 2:** Second grade is off to a great start! In Language Arts we have been learning about how friends depend on each other for help. We are starting to write our own story about a time we depended on someone. In Math we have learned about ways to make ten and are starting to solve story problems! We have finished our unit in Health on taking care of our bodies and eating healthy. We are starting our Social Studies unit on The United States. Please continue to have your child read for the 100 Book Challenge every night. Thank you for your support!
- ◆ **Grade 3:** Reading is very important in your child's educational development. Please make sure your child is completing 1 step each night for 100 book challenge. A step consists of 15 minutes of uninterrupted reading. Please sign their log each night that they read, we check the logs each day in school. Your child is welcome to read for more than 15 minutes too! They can read aloud to a younger sibling, to your, or even silently. It would also help if you asked a few comprehension questions too! For instance: What happened in the story? What is the main idea? Who are the main characters? What was the conflict? What was the resolution? You can even have your child write down their response to help with their writing skills! Every 20 steps read will result in a pizza hut coupon for a free personal pizza!!
- ◆ **Grade 4:** This month we have just started our math unit on multiplication. PLEASE have your child memorize all of their basic multiplication facts. It will help them be successful in this unit and future math units. Also, continue work on the 100 book challenge every night! So far fourth grade is doing a great job! Here's a website for free practice flashcards! <http://www.multiplication.com/games/play/quick-flash-ii>
- ◆ **Grade 5:** The fifth grade team is excited to welcome all students and families to the 2016-2017 school year! We are working diligently to plan lessons and excursions that will help students become enthusiastic learners who come to school ready to make connections in their brains and with one another, to create a strong school community. In Reading, we are discovering personal transformations in text. We are also writing personal narratives about transformations that have occurred in our lives or in the lives of people we know. The Advanced Math students are studying whole number and decimal operations and the Fifth Grade Math students are studying decimal place value, addition and subtraction. In Social Studies, students will discover how the 13 Colonies were founded and what events led to the birth of our nation. As we learn about living things in the first Science unit, Wee Beasties, we are exploring, through the use of microscopes, that all living things are made of cells. Our first field trip to Marshy Point and Miami Beach, MD to study ecosystems, will take place October 27th. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you would like to chaperone. Thank you for your support! We look forward to a rewarding year!

## Kid Kudo's

- Ian cleaned up a milk spill.
- Morgan cleaned up math manipulatives on the floor.
- Stacie helped a friend tie their shoes.
- Khalil made good choices and shared a positive attitude.
- Ms. Power's and Ms. Plunkett's class say down quietly.
- Ta'Nahla was a leader at clean up time.
- Noh helped classmates clean up.
- Priceyda helped classmates clean up.
- Donald was kind to a friend in need.
- Chrysdan was a leader in art.
- Priceyda embraced a challenge when her device stopped working.
- Anupuw was a nice friend.
- Breyen closed an open locker that was not his.
- Meadow helped her classmates without being asked.
- Lincoln was kind and thoughtful to a friend.
- Stacie reported an unkind act.
- Kyndal embraced a challenge when her device stopped working.
- Maddison stayed after class to help clean up without being asked.
- Danson helped put away cones at dismissal.
- McKenzie was a leader in the room.
- Joshua showed friends how to share.
- Yael helped classmates remember to get their belongings.
- Trevor helped clean up the classroom.
- Carter picked up trash in the bathroom.
- McKenzie helped a friend clean up.
- Jabari helped others get their devices.
- Adien comforted a sad peer.
- Jalen was a leader in art.
- Keon motivated peers to share.
- Daquan was polite and offered a lady his seat.
- Alexander helped others with their work.
- Richard lead by example and followed directions.
- Ashley was a leader in art.
- Dylan offer to share materials with a friend.
- Micah informed classmates about an instruction they missed.
- Kennedy was caring towards an upset classmate.
- Samantha helped a classmate with their work.
- Omar helped a new student on dreambox.
- Leenia helped peers clean up.
- Himena offered to help a peer clean up.
- Ms. Martin's class worked together to complete all their tasks.
- Rodney told the truth and apologized.
- Makai was a good listener.
- Rodney used the cool down station correctly when he was mad.
- Enjoule let a classmate use her extra shoes for PE.
- Ms. Madueme's class played cooperatively.
- Corey was honest to a peer and teacher.
- Davon helped a classmate.
- Amaya was a role model by raising her hand.
- Koran helped to straighten the classroom.
- Ms. Madueme and Ms. Cash's classes shaped up and met expectations in class.
- Amelia helped a student who was struggling.
- Emonie was helpful with cleaning up at lunch.
- Ms. Martin's class was helpful and respectful to the substitute.
- Jaylin worked well with others.
- Daria and Ayonna restored a friendship and apologized.
- Amonie cleaned the cafeteria table.
- Arianna and Aesha cleaned up the library.
- Ryan reminded his classmates to use the quiet sign.
- Ayoola was a listener and encouraged his peers to listen.
- Amaya said thank you to a peer who helped .
- Kaylah helped a peer who didn't know what to do.
- Angel participated in all the class activities.
- Nicholas help a friend get their bookbag.
- Mark helped another class access pearson.



## Kid Kudo's Continued

- Adolfo, Mark, Sibgha, Ameena, Arianna and Anthony had an excellent clean up in art.
- Keyonna showed care and concern for a peers safety.
- Nelson, AJ and Kanaya were leaders in art.
- Mariah helped clean up a station.
- Savannah was a leader in the classroom.
- Sharon was a leader in art.
- Aiden helped Ms. Robert's in the cafeteria.
- Khaya was on task and helped others.
- Aiden closed open lockers in the hall.
- Cyan always smiles.
- Krislynn cleaned up the floor without being asked.
- Diamond helped a friend find way to the bathroom.
- Ms. Reynold's 4th grade class played cooperatively.
- Thomas had a positive attitude in art.
- Tiffany was a leader in art.
- Noah kept nearby friends focused.
- Sanai was a leader in art.
- Nelson helped Ms. Roberts in the cafeteria.
- Antonio took responsibility for cleaning up.
- Jabre helped clean up games.
- Mariah helped clean up without being asked.
- Armond helped others, participated and completed assignments.
- Ms. Reynold's 3rd grade and Ms. Madueme's class for being great in PE.
- Cameron always participates.
- Kiera helped with cafeteria cleanup.
- Hailey, Amari and Dominic helped clean up after class.
- Destiny helped other clean up after lunch.
- Damond showed amazing respect.
- George helped with lunch cleanup.
- Lanaya and Camille helped clean up the cafeteria.
- Jaelynn provided a friend with a resource.
- Dylan was a positive role model for peers.
- Tavon was a positive influence in class.
- Ahmari helped to clean up tables.
- Nasir checked to make sure a peer was ok after an accident.
- Tavon was respectful in the cafeteria.
- Rylasia helped friends clean up their mess so they could move to the next activity.
- George helped a friend to know what they needed to do.
- Mekhi came to Ms. Womble peacefully to solve a problem.
- Coby helped to sweep the cafeteria floor at the end of lunch.
- Karaun came to Mrs. Womble peacefully to solve a cafeteria problem.
- George cleaned up games in the cafeteria.
- Jayla helped clean her cafeteria table.
- CJ helped put away cones at dismissal.
- Dominic and Jayden listened in the cafeteria.
- Jamal helped with the emergency bus evacuation drill.
- Tala and Mosiah cleaned up after their table in the cafeteria.
- Shaniya helped with the emergency bus evacuation drill.
- Tala helped with the emergency bus evacuation drill.
- George helped clean the cafeteria without being asked.
- Mekhi helped with the emergency bus evacuation drill.
- CJ was good in class with the substitute.
- Mr. Wrona's class stayed on task and embraced a team challenge.
- Ms. Mobley's class respected class rules and worked to complete math assignments.
- Charles, Edgar and Michael cleaned up after class even though the mess was not theirs.
- Kiera helped clean up games.
- Dylon helped clean up a mess that was not his to make the room safer.
- Saniyah found a classmates lost binder.
- Ashley was a good citizen with the class substitute.
- Tafaillagi was a good citizen with the class substitute.
- Cameren was a good citizen with the class substitute.



October 2016

## Code of Conduct

Edmondson Heights Elementary School  
1600 Langford Rd  
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



## Tech Talk

### BCPS ONE

BCPS One is an online portal accessible to not only teachers, but students and parents as well. It allows parents the opportunity to stay engaged in their students education by providing direct access to student information and progress. All you need to do is create a BCPS One account. It gives you 24/7 access students grades as well as an easy way to contact teachers. And SO MUCH MORE!

Sign up for BCPS One or learn more at

<https://bcpsone.bcps.org/>

Or

<http://www.bcps.org/parentu/>

### Class Dojo

Class Dojo helps teachers build amazing classroom communities with students and parents. Students can earn Dojo points for demonstrating skills like being a learner, embracing challenges, being part of the community and more! Teachers use this as a tool to communicate with parents and parents can get updates via the mobile app on how their child is doing throughout their day. If you are not already connected Class Dojo, please contact your child's teacher for more information. Don't forget to download the FREE app on your phone or tablet!



**ATTENTION:** Do you have old, empty inkjet and toner cartridges from you printer or copier? Bring them to school for recycling! We will be collecting cartridges for recycling to help save the environment! As an added bonus, money will be donated back to the school from collected cartridges. It's not much, but every little bit counts. Please contact the front office for details or send your recycled cartridges to Ms. Walter in room 101 at school. Thank you for your help and support!

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

Here's your chance! Enter your child's name and parent/guardian signature confirming the receipt of the October 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!

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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