

Ashburton Elementary School

6314 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 * 301-571-6959



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

November 1, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it is already November. We have a busy month ahead. To start off, I am pleased to invite you to a presentation by our counselor, Mrs. Gillespie, on the topic of anti-bullying. School-aged children and their parents will learn the difference between teasing and bullying, strategies for children in a variety of situations, and how parents and children can work together to make sure Ashburton a bully free school.

Friday marked the end of our first grading period and November 1st begins the second quarter. On November 10th and 11th students will be released from school early so you can attend parent-teacher conferences to discuss your children's academic progress. You can expect to hear about your child's specific learning progress, and how well your child is meeting grade level objectives. You will have an opportunity to ask questions about your child or the curriculum. Your child's teacher will send a reminder regarding your conference time; please try to honor it since the teachers have many back to back conferences. First quarter report cards will be sent home on November 10th or handed out at the parent conference.

Our official MCPS September 30, 2011 enrollment is 779. We always continue to enroll throughout the school year along with our trend for the total enrollment to increase each year. The official enrollment does not include our PEP Pilot students so we have almost 800 students. MCPS monitors our enrollment closely and has not only given us more support for kindergarten but also for the kindergarten special education class. We are pleased to welcome the three new staff members to Ashburton: Claudia Cantalice, Sam Futrovsky, and Kristina Garner.

The PTA will hold their annual Book Fair during the week of November 7-11. Classes will visit the Book Fair so that children may see the offerings and purchase books. Parents are encouraged to visit during the week or when they come for conferences.

Mr. Dartouzos will again sponsor the Jump Rope for Heart program, held on November 11th from 12:35 to 3:05. Second grade through fifth grade students will participate in an active afternoon as they increase their awareness to be physically fit and the need for cardiovascular research (although a financial donation is not required to participate).

I want to thank all of our families who came to last Friday's Halloween parade and classroom parties. We hope you had as much fun as the students and enjoyed the WJ pep band during the parade! Thank you to our room parents for putting together such great parties. I would also like to thank all of volunteers for another amazing Fall Festival! It is a very labor intensive event that takes a lot of planning. We thank Meggin Griffin and Anne Maury, and Kathy Rose for coordinating it, the many parents who helped in a variety of ways, the

Calendar

November 1- PTA Meeting- Anti-Bullying Presentation 6:30 p.m.

November 7-11 PTA Book Fair

November 10 & 11- Early Release, 12:35 p.m., Parent Conferences

November 10- Report Cards distributed (grades 1-5)

November 10- 12:45-3:00 Flu Mist Clinic

November 11- Jump Rope for Heart 12:35-3:05 p.m.

November 16- Dine Out with Ashburton at the Silver Diner

November 23- Early Release, 12:35 p.m.

November 24-25- Thanksgiving Holiday

December 6- PTA meeting

middle school volunteers and the fifth graders who helped with the haunted hallway. We also want to thank the WJ Drama students and Alexis from Adventure Theater. It was so popular we regret that not everyone made it through the line.

Attendance is critical to instruction in school. We have noticed that a number of children are late each day and miss the beginning of their class work. I urge you to make it a priority to have a morning routine where children have ample time to get up, get dressed, eat breakfast and get to school on time. Using the neighborhood school bus helps with the routine. Students are late if they arrive after 8:50 a.m., and must stop at the office to sign in and get a late pass. Students who are habitually late miss important directions and class work. Parents will be notified when tardiness is excessive and will be asked to attend a conference to discuss ways to resolve the problem. Please make every effort to limit the amount of school missed due to appointments. Teachers plan instruction through 2:55 p.m. and students are responsible for work missed if they are not in class.

Additionally, we prefer not to interrupt instruction to give messages to students except in emergency situations. Please send notes to the teacher (email is okay before school but teachers may not have time to check in the afternoon) to notify them about changes in after school plans—both for the student who is going home with a friend and the one who has invited the friend over. Please send a note to the teacher if your child is to attend an after-school activity. Some activities are run by private organizations and we do not always have a roster to share with teachers. The surest way to make sure your child gets to an activity or does not go home on the bus without a parent to meet him/her is to send a note to the teacher.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support and partnership to help students achieve their very best. I hope to see you at many of our November events.

Sincerely,

Janet Dunn, Acting Principal

Please note that we send children outside for recess every day unless we have inclement weather or it is below 32 degrees. Please make sure that your child is dressed for going outside. Please label your child's clothing with his/her name as we accumulate numerous items in the Lost and Found that are unmarked.

Thanks for all of the donated games for indoor recess. The efforts of the PTA and the generosity of our parents produced many games and activities for those rainy or cold days when children are kept inside.

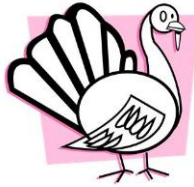
The Health Room Needs Clothes for School-Aged Children- even older children occasionally have accidents where clothes get wet and need to change. If you have clothes (mostly pants) for older children that you can donate, it will be much appreciated. Additionally, if your child has borrowed clothes from the Health Room, please wash them and return them for another child to use. Thanks.

PEP Newsletter

Dear Families,

Our theme for the month of November will be Friends and Family.

We will be learning about what builds relationships within families and friendships. Possible topics include good manners, home routine, Thanksgiving and family traditions.



Vocabulary:

Sharing, my turn, your turn, caring, helping, playing, friend, friendship, together, classmates, family, turkey, pilgrim, thanksgiving, thankful, corn, breakfast, lunch, dinner, morning, day, night, harvest, orange, brown, feathers, beak, wattle, gobble-gobble

Suggested Reading:

Do You Want to Be My Friend? By Eric Carle

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

The Rainbow Fish Counting by Marcus Pfister

Clifford and His Friends by Norman Bridwell

One For Me, One For You by C.C. Cameron

Noisy Nora by Rosemary Wells

The Family Book by Todd Parr

The Mommy Book by Todd Parr

The Daddy Book by Todd Parr

The Grandma Book by Todd Parr

The Grandpa Book by Todd Parr

Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti by Anna Grossnickle

Me and My Family Tree by Annette Cable

Where Are Maisy's Friends? by [Lucy Cousins](#)

Thanksgiving Is for Giving Thanks by Margaret

Sutherland and Sonja Lamut

10 Fat Turkeys by Tony Johnston and Richard F. Deas

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie
Alison Jackson

Songs:

Make New Friends but Keep the Old

The More We Get Together

Five Friends

Friends, Friends 1-2-3

Who Are the People in my Family?

The Sharing Song

10 Little Turkeys

Did You Ever See a Turkey?

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS:

- Sequence pictures of routine activities that are done at home (brushing teeth, dressing, getting ready for bed, waking up, etc.)
- Make a house with pictures of family members in the windows
- Design a house by identifying and putting together different shapes
- Sort dolls by family role (mom, dad, sister, brother, baby, grandparents)
- Color, cut, sequence, and paste characters from story-Napping House
- Create a Personal Family Tree with pictures and drawings
- Create an All About Me book
- Make an all about me poster and present it to the class
- Make a family quilt with pictures of family members
- Sort pictures of family members to make a collage
- Make popsicle stick puppets with our family members
- Practice prepositions by placing laminated pictures of children on “pop” from Dr. Seuss’ *Hop on Pop*.
- Use hand prints to make a “kissing hand” after reading the story by Audrey Penn
- Make a friendship chain with pictures of classroom friends
- Make a friendship wreath with handprints and pictures of classroom friends
- Focus on sharing and taking turns with friends (act out scenarios during circle time)
- Have a friendship tea party while practicing our manners and sharing skills (say please, thank you, pass the plate, etc...)
- Make a paper plate turkey with different colored feathers that make a pattern

- After talking about traveling for Thanksgiving, sort clothing into suitcases
- Share what we like best about our friends, and then draw a picture
- Sing Ten little turkeys finger play and then paste 10 turkeys on a gate in sequential order
- Make a class turkey using our handprints as the feathers

SNACK/COOKING IDEAS:

- “Friends” portrait Rice Cakes; add facial features and hair with M&M’s, licorice, and coconut, to iced rice cake
- Make a house using graham crackers, cheese triangles, and cream cheese
- Make a turkey using a ritz cracker and candy corn as the feathers
- Have a classroom thanksgiving feast and practice saying thank you!

NOTES and REMINDERS:

- Parent conferences are on November 10th and 11th. No PEP
- No PEP on November 23rd (the school has a half day)
- No PEP November 24th and 25th. Thanksgiving break!

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to e-mail us with any news, questions or comments.



November Happenings In Kindergarten

A special thank you to all of the parents who came to help out with our Halloween parties! It was a great day!

Math

We will be continuing counting and numeration. The students will continue to practice counting to 100 by ones and by tens. They will match numerals to sets of objects, and use objects to show greater than, less than or equal to. It is very important for your child to consistently and accurately count a number of objects, not just rote count. So count at home, outside, and at the market to practice! Please make sure you are also practicing the correct formation of all of the numbers 0-20.

Science

This month we will continue to look at the season of fall, and how the natural world around us changes. We will be focusing on the basic needs of living things, and will be discussing the life cycle of plants. Your child will be planting a seed and watching it grow!

Social Studies

We will be focusing on physical and human-made features such as landforms and bodies of water.

Writing

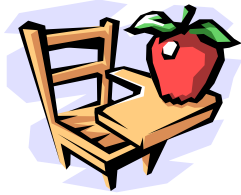
In writing, the children will be learning how to come up with a topic and then organize their ideas into a short story. They will also be learning how to go back and edit their writing.

Reading

We will continue to focus on letter sounds and word families. We will also be reading a variety of texts and will learn how to answer comprehension questions. We are meeting with small groups to work on phonemic awareness, letter knowledge, sight word recognition, and reading comprehension. Your child’s teacher will give you more specific information about his/ her reading skill level and this differentiated small group instruction at parent conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 10th and Friday, November 11th. The students will have a half day on both of these days. Teachers will send a note home in folders to confirm the date and time you signed up for at Back to School Night. Please return the forms to your teacher to confirm!

The Kindergarten Team



First Grade News

Dear First Grade Families,

It has been a wonderful and exciting few months here at Ashburton! We have had a lot of fun learning about each other, and about First Grade! Your child has been working very hard!

As November approaches, we wanted to let you know what we will be focusing on in all areas of the curriculum.

Reading and Writing: Teachers have begun to pull students into small groups for reading. First graders will be reading at their own level and continue to progress at their own pace. *When a plastic bag comes home with a book, please ask your child to read the book to you! Then, have your child return the book to school **the next day**, so that they can bring home another book.* In Writer's Workshop, students will be revising, editing, and publishing their writing.

Math: We will continue expanding students' concepts of number sense. First Graders are learning how to model two and three digit numbers and will begin to write these numbers in expanded notation. We will continue to focus on using different types of addition and subtraction strategies to

solve number sentences and word problems.

Science: First Graders will begin exploring different objects, making them move and describing and comparing how they move. They will be involved in hands-on activities that involve observing, classifying, and recording data in cooperative learning groups.

Social Studies: Students will observe and describe ways that people of different cultural backgrounds meet human need and contribute to the community.

Please remember that homework goes home on Monday and is due back on Friday. Although your first grader may not be reading independently *yet*, it is important to read to him or her for ten minutes a night. This helps him or her to develop concepts about print, and it encourages a love of reading.

The half days on November 10th and 11th are for parent-teacher conferences. Many of you were able to sign up for conferences on Back-to-School Night. Those who were not able to sign up at that time will be receiving a conference time from teachers during the first week of November.

Sincerely,
The First Grade Team

Town News from Second Grade

It's hard to believe that the first quarter is over! October was a busy month and we had a great time celebrating Halloween at the end of it! **Thank you** to our room parents who organized our Halloween parties, and to the parents who came in to help out. We

had a wonderful afternoon thanks to your efforts!

In November, we'll be continuing our study of informational text in **reading**. We will be focusing on how text features help us better understand what we're reading as well as asking meaningful questions to learn more about a topic. We'll discuss how to find the answers to our questions within the text we're reading or elsewhere if need be. Additionally, we'll be working on our vocabulary skills. We'll be using context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word as well as looking at how prefixes can change the meaning of a root word.

Please continue to encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes each night (Monday through Thursday) during the week. The Reading Sheet is due back each Monday with a written response to one question. Students should be answering a different question each week.

In **writing** this month we will be focusing on writing to inform. We'll practice using descriptive details to make our writing more informative. Students will also work on sentence fluency and organization of a paper.

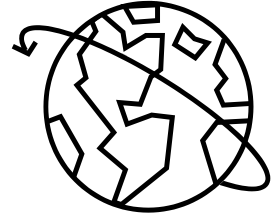
We will also begin our **spelling** program in November. Be on the lookout for a spelling letter explaining our spelling system.

In **math** we will continue to practice strategies to solve equations using mental math. We will begin looking at odd and even numbers as well as strategies to solve multi-digit addition and subtraction problems.

Science will be focused on describing and classifying objects based on observable properties. Students will be organizing objects based on their observations. They will be creating categories as well as sorting objects into categories as they learn about

observable features of a variety of objects.

We will be learning about geography in **social studies**. Students will be exploring places on Earth including the equator, north and south poles, continents, oceans and countries using tools such as globes and maps. They will be comparing different geographic regions around the world and discussing how basic human needs are met in different geographic areas.



Parent-teacher conferences will be held on November 10th and 11th. Reminder notices will be sent home soon. If you have not signed up for a parent-teacher conference to discuss your child's progress during the first quarter please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

On November 16th we will be going to the **Music Center at Strathmore** to see the National Philharmonic. Permission slips will be sent home soon. This is an exciting field trip for the students. Though we appreciate the offers, volunteers are not needed for this trip.

Happy November!

Ms. Ashin, Ms. Bouquet, Ms. Canard, Ms. Fox, Ms. Melendez and Mrs. Rush

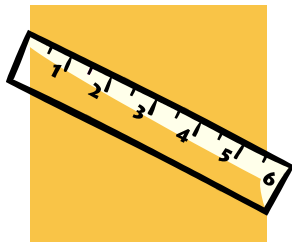
News From Third Grade November

We have had a very successful and productive first quarter in third grade. The students have learned their routines and we are getting a lot

accomplished in each of our classes. We'd like you to continue to review school rules at home with your children. Here is what you can expect during the month of November.

Math:

3rd Grade: Students instructed on the third grade curriculum will begin Unit 2 in math. Unit 2 deals with measurement concepts. Students will learn both standard and non-standard units of measurement. Third graders will be using rulers on a regular basis and will measure items in both centimeters and inches. Students will also work on estimating and calculating area and perimeter during this unit. *At home*, you can support your third grader by encouraging him or her to measure objects in your home. Students can also estimate how long they think an object



is. Third graders should also be encouraged to use non-standard measurement such as their feet or their wingspan

to measure rooms in your home. One more suggestion would be to have students estimate and calculate areas using tiles on the floor or ceiling. Third graders should be practicing their math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication) for at least 10 minutes each night as well.

4th Grade: Students instructed using the fourth grade curriculum will be covering multiplication and division. Students will be working with fact families and fact triangles to help learn their facts in class. *At home*, please make sure your third grader is practicing his or her multiplication and division facts for 15 minutes each night.

Reading:

In Reading, we students will learn about non-fiction texts. We will be studying determining importance, identifying main idea, sequencing events, and summarizing. *At home* you help your third grader by asking him or her to identify the events in a non-fiction book, tell you the main idea or big picture of a non-fiction passage, and write a brief summary of articles or books that include the main details of the article or book.

Social Studies:

In social studies, students will be learning about the production process and how it relates to consumer and producer choice. They will also be exploring different opportunity cost scenarios and determining the advantages and disadvantages in each scenario. *At home*, you can help your third grader by reviewing opportunity cost concepts and helping them to identify what resources go into the production of various household items.

Science:

In Science, students will learn about the pollination process, the role of bees, and how plants and bees have a symbiotic relationship. Students will also be asked to identify and explain other symbiotic relationships found in nature. Students will also explore how seeds travel.

Reminders:

Please continue to sign the Weekly Evaluations each weekend and work with your third grader to master his or her spelling words every other week. Mrs. Burton's writing classes will start being able to use flash drives to continue their typing/publishing at home (if students wish, this is not required.)

Thank you for your support and dedication!

The Third Grade Team

News 4 You

We are hard at work in fourth grade! The students are still adjusting to the new challenges and responsibilities in fourth grade. Please remind your children of the Ashburton Expectations including **respect everyone** and **listen and follow directions**. Many students have made a smooth transition and are TQ Stars everywhere, everyway, and everyday! Keep it up!

Students are taking home **Friday Folders and TQ charts** at the end of every week. Please discuss your child's celebrations with them and help them focus on the wonderful things that are happening in school each and every day! Empty Friday folders are expected to be returned the following Monday, along with the signed TQ chart.

If you have yet to schedule a **Parent/ Teacher Conference** or need to change the date/time you signed up for, please contact your child's **homeroom** teacher as soon as possible. Please arrive at your conference at the time scheduled, as the conferences have back to back time slots. We look forward to meeting with you soon!

Here is what we will be covering for the month of November:

Reading for Literary Experience and Reading To Be Informed: Students continue to explore the various forms of informational text. This month they will also explore either realistic fiction or historical fiction in reading groups and in whole group activities.

Writing for Personal Expression and Writing to Inform: Students will continue to write using the Six Traits Model. This month students will focus on the previous traits, Ideas and Organization, along with two new traits, Conventions and Word Choice. In addition, students will use the social studies topic of Native Americans in order to write to inform.

Social Studies: In social studies, students will begin to discuss the development of culture and the means by which groups adapt to their environment. Students will be interpreting and organizing primary and secondary sources of information including pictures, graphics, maps, artifacts, timelines, videotapes, journals, and government documents. Students will use the AGOPPE research method to gather information to write a "Native American Cultural Research Project" in November.

Mathematics: Fourth grade students are currently working on geometry concepts. Students have been constructing circles using a compass and measuring angles using a protractor. For some this is their first time using these math tools. Help your child by looking for geometric shaped objects when you are out and about! They can spot a polygon, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, and angles from afar now!



Students are reminded that it is best to study basic facts on a daily basis. As students move into number patterns and relationships, all 4th grade students should be studying their facts every night for at least FIVE MINUTES. Students have a fact calendar that should be updated daily and signed weekly by a parent. See Mrs. Brenner or Mrs. Imhof if you need flash cards!

REMINDER: All fourth grade students have weekly quizzes. Please be sure your child has reviewed his/her materials in preparation for their quiz. They can refer to their math spiral notebook to review notes and sample problems covered each week.

Science: This month, students will continue their study of environmental science. We will be focusing on the changes that occur within ecosystems.

Thank you,

Mrs. Brenner, Ms. Davis, Mrs. Imhof, Ms. Leiser, and Mrs. Weaver

Fifth Grade's Fabulous News

Wow! Time is flying! It is already November and the start of the second marking period. First marking period report cards will be discussed at Parent-Teacher conferences on November 10th and November 11th.

Math

Math 6 students will be completing Unit 2A Decimal Operations and Applications. This section covers estimation and reasonable answers, multiplying and dividing decimals, and metric measurement. They will begin Unit 2B Decimal and Fraction Connections and Applications. This section covers writing decimals as fractions, estimating fractional sums and differences, and customary measurement. It is so important that the students take the extra time to check their work. They should be using their estimation skills to ask themselves, "Is my answer reasonable?" This way the students can catch if they put the decimal in an incorrect location.

Math 5 students will be studying geometry, learning more about lines, angles, polygons, and circles. They will explore the characteristics of and relationships among geometric shapes and structures. Parents are encouraged to help kids to note lines, planes, and shapes in objects in the world around them. There will be a lot of vocabulary to learn in order to fully grasp and apply geometry concepts. Students may find using flash cards to be helpful in assisting them with the content covered in this unit. It will be important for students to note details carefully and to use symbols accurately when naming geometric figures.

Reading

Classes are currently exploring informational texts. They are practicing using strategies for increasing comprehension of challenging texts. They have identified the five major organizational text structures used in informational texts in order to be able to use the structures to make text information more accessible and useful to them as readers. This

month we will also begin studying our next literary genre, poetry. The students will learn about the characteristics of poems. They will enjoy reading and listening to poetry, as well as examining the poet's craft and identifying craft techniques. Students will finish reading their historical fiction small group novels. Literature circle discussions will also continue.

Writing

Students are continuing to work on writing for personal expression. As they put the finishing touches on their picture adventure stories, they also will begin their journey into the wonderful world of poetry. They will add to their writing craft toolbox by exploring the craft techniques of poets and trying out the techniques, as they create their own masterpieces.

Science

Students in science will build on their knowledge of forces and energy to start their investigation of electricity and magnetism. We shall begin the unit by considering renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy. We shall then focus on electricity, starting with static electricity, exploring both how it is produced by various materials and the phenomena it produces. The students will compare static electricity with lightning before moving into the world of electric circuitry. Our classes will be lighting small light bulbs by simply using a bulb, a battery and wires, giving the students with hands-on bases for creating and describing electric circuits. They will be able to determine when circuits are complete or not and will be identifying and describing different types of circuits. After we get our "grounding" in electricity, the students will investigate conductors and insulators.



Social Studies

During November, the fifth graders will continue learning about the reasons the colonists were growing more and more angry with King

George III, Parliament as a whole, and their policies of the late 1700's. We have been discussing the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, the Quartering Act, the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre, as well as the Intolerable Acts. We will continue to come back to these events as the students also study how the colonists made the dangerous leap from working inside and outside of the British political system (to create change) to going to war to create a new, independent nation. Simultaneously, we will be reading The World Turned Upside Down which is a historical fiction novel taking place in Annapolis at this time period.

Thanks,
The Fifth Grade
Team

From the Art Room:

This year the arts department (like the entire school) has grown. Besides Mr. Roth (now in his seventh year at Ashburton), Ms. Earnest is wheeling her mobile studio to classrooms on Wednesday and Thursday, and Ms. Lewis is happily here again each Friday afternoon.

The main goal of our art program is to make sure all students will:

- Learn about art, artists and art techniques.
- Solve problems creatively.
- Express their individuality.
- Be successful.
- And be safe and have fun!

We strive to expose students to a wide variety of media, techniques, concepts and artists. Some of the topics that we've covered so far this year include: portraits and self-portraits; still-life drawings; maps; cartooning; lettering; stenciling; figure drawing; architectural cross-sections; optical illusions; mythological creatures; Miro; O'Keeffe; Matisse; and more.



Feel free to contact us, or stop by and see the fine examples of student art displayed in the halls. We hope that your refrigerators also become the galleries of the many bright and creative students of our school.

- Jonathan Roth, Allison Earnest and Lynn Lewis

Gifted and Talented News -Ms. Weigle

There are just 3 announcements this fall.

1. If you are interested in your third grade child applying to the Highly Gifted Center for grades 4 and 5, the application deadline is November 7. The applications are mailed to the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS). "These centers are designed for students whose academic needs for advanced instruction may not easily be met in their local school." (Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction)

2. If you are interested in your fifth grade child applying to
 - Middle School Humanities and Communication Program ([about this program](#))
 - Middle School Mathematics, Science, Computer Science Program ([about this program](#))

the application deadline is also November 7, 2008.

For more information about these programs and for application forms, go to www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/.

3. Throughout the year, Montgomery College offers special programs for Elementary students, such as MC Adventures and Kid's College. For updated information on these programs,

go to
www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.

All screening for MCPS's Gifted and Talented identification will take place in the spring, so I will write about that in the March 1 newsletter.



Ashburton

Elementary School

Jump Rope for Heart Event for Grades 2nd-5th!!
November 11th at 12:35 -3:05 in the Gym!!

Hello 2nd-5th Graders... Come and Get Moving With Mr. D. This Year Ashburton will have the Jump Rope for Heart Event on November 11th from 12:35-3:05 in the Gym!! EVERY student who attends will receive a special prize from the PTA. Someone dies from Cardiovascular Disease every 33 seconds but families can raise money for the American Heart Association in order to provide research and education for a healthier America. You may also raise money online by sending emails though the website visiting by www.americanheart.org/jump. Although donations are appreciated, ALL are welcome to get moving and join in some fun physical activity!! Don't miss out on this party! There will be jumping, dancing, music, raffles and FUN! See you there!

Sincerely,

Mr. Dartouzos (Mr. D.)
Physical Education Teacher
Ashburton ES
Daemon_A_Dartouzos@mcpsmd.org



PTA Insider

Fabulous fall
has arrived!



November 2011

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1 PTA Meeting – 6:30 pm
- Nov. 7 – 11 Scholastic Book Fair
- Nov. 10 – 11 Early Dismissal – 12:35 pm
and Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 16 Dine-Out Nite – Silver
Diner in Rockville
- Nov. 18 Camp Ashburton (But it
may be cancelled if we
don't get a volunteer by
11/4 to chair this event!)
- Nov. 23 Early Dismissal – 12:35 pm
- Nov. 24 – 25 No School – Thanksgiving!
- Dec. 6 PTA Meeting 7 – 8 pm

From the PTA Board

Wow, October was a busy month, and November is jam-packed with activities too! But first a recap of October. Our October PTA meeting combined with the Volunteer Training was very successful and informative for all. A special thanks to Karen Scarborough – Staff Development Specialist for Ashburton - on conducting both the daytime and evening volunteer training sessions. I would also like to give a heartfelt thanks to Sonali Arurkar, our very own Co-Vice President, for training the Room Parents at both the daytime and evening sessions. Additionally, I would like to thank my Co-Vice President Marci Norton for conducting the evening PTA Meeting in my place. I was not able to attend due to a family crisis and both of my VP's did a great job on my behalf! The Open House was a great experience for all parents - both new and seasoned. Many parents were able to see "first hand" their child's classroom routine. I would like to thank Veronica Walgamotte and Sarah Kotlove as our hospitality team for organizing the wonderful coffee and goodies for our parents that day.

Many thanks go out to all the Ashburton Families that donated "Rainy Day Games" during our October – Rainy Day Game Drive. We received a good number of games and have filled many teachers' requests for new games in their classrooms. We are happy to report that the children are enjoying them immensely! THANK YOU!





From the PTA Board (cont'd)



Stay Informed!

Want to get up-to-date Ashburton Community information? Wondering how to find a good reading tutor? Want to find a sports team for your child? Interested in this information and more? Then sign-up for our new Ashburton Community Listserv at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AshburtonESDiscuss/>
Questions, contact Rachel Yang.

Our October Dine-Out Night at Five Guys was wildly successful and well attended. A big thank you to all the families who attended! Our next dine-out is scheduled for Nov. 16th at the Silver Diner (Rockville location: 12276 Rockville Pike). Just a couple of volunteers are needed. If you are planning on going and are interested in helping, please contact Wendy Calhoun.

As of this writing, we are 1 day away from the Fall Festival and are very excited about it!! By the time you read this, I expect to be thanking at least the following people (if not more) Meggin Curione and Ann Maury for organizing such a massive event; Chris Gregorio for recruiting and managing a huge team of over 30 SSL Students from NB and WJ. Plus Yoo-Ah Kim our "Fast Pass Organizer" AND the many parent volunteers who gave their time to ensure all our activities ran smoothly!! Lastly a big thanks to the AES Administration and Building Services Team for helping us accomplish this evening of great fun! THANK YOU ALL!!

Another great event that we have been looking forward to may be cancelled! Camp Ashburton, which was to be held on Friday, Nov. 18th, still does not have a chairperson(s). It is a shame since this is a night where Ashburton child(ren) can be dropped-off and enjoy an evening of entertainment (and you get the night off). There is a DJ, arts & crafts, plus games and food to make the night especially fun. So if we do not find a chairperson by Nov. 4th, this event will be cancelled. Remember, "Many hands make light work." You can share this position with another person as well! Please contact either Sonali Arurkar at or Marci Norton at if you are interested in chairing this event.

Registration for PTA Membership is being finalized, be on the lookout for your PTA registration card and school directory! Our next PTA Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 1st is a special one. Mrs. Gillespie, our guidance counselor, will be giving a presentation about Bullying. The meeting time has been bumped up to 6:30 pm so as to be "child friendly" and "all Ashburton Families" are invited to attend with their children from K-5th Grade. We look forward to seeing you there! Have Fun, Make Memories, Get Involved!

All the best,

Kathy Rose

Ashburton PTA President on behalf of the PTA Board

A Simple Way to Help Raise Money for Ashburton

Help us raise money by joining Giant A+ Bonus Bucks, Safeway e-script, and Harris Teeter's programs. Look for a flyer to send back in with your information and our wonderful Bonus Bucks chairperson Mary Miller can input your data, or you can follow the link provided by the ListServ and register directly. Please keep in mind that you need to register each year, so even if you registered last year, you need to do it again. This is such an easy way to support your school. Our goal is to have 90% of Ashburton registered within the next month!

Join the Ashburton PTA

If you haven't registered yet to join the PTA, we are still accepting registrations. But please be patient. Our wonderful Membership VP's are busily updating the directory information and sending your e-mail to our ListServ moderator so that you will receive school announcements. This takes several weeks, and you will receive your PTA membership card and directory beginning of November! Direct contributions to the PTA are always welcome, however, we hope that you and your family will take part in the many fundraisers the PTA sponsors so that we can continue to support our school in a meaningful way. All registrations as well as direct contributions, can be made payable to the "Ashburton PTA" and left in the PTA mailbox in the Ashburton office.

Ashburton Scholastic Book Fair

Get Ready for our Scholastic Book Fair week, coming to the Media center – Nov. 7th-11th. Information has already gone out, and we are in need of a few more daytime volunteers. If you can help for an hour, it would be greatly appreciated! The children look forward to this fair every year and the teachers do to. What a great way to take care of gift-giving needs and encourage your child to embrace reading! Please contact our chairperson Katrina Sukduang at right away if you can help in any way possible.

Join us in the media center at Ashburton during the following days and times:

- Monday, Nov. 7 9:00am to 4:00pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 8 & Wednesday, Nov. 9 8:30am to 4:00pm
- Thursday, Nov. 10 & Friday, Nov. 11 8:30am to 6:00pm

Suggestions for the PTA? Let us know!

Kathy Rose, President		
Sonali Arurkar, Co-Administrative VP		
Marci Norton, Co-Administrative VP		
Wendy Calhoun, Co-Membership VP		
Veronica Walgamotte, Co-Membership VP		
Mark Schuloff, Treasurer		
Jen Luna, Secretary		

Submit Content for the PTA Insider!

If you have information you'd like to share in future issues of the PTA Insider, please submit to Lien-Anh Van Wagener. Content is due by the 22nd of each month for review.



Silver Diner

Rockville Pike (in shopping center with Trader Joe's and TJ Maxx)

November 16th

