

Ashburton Elementary School

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



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

October 3, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are off to a great start of the school year. We were excited by the news of the birth of Dr. and Mrs. Garran's son, Christopher, on September 9th. We know that they are doing well and while Mrs. Garran is cherishing the time with her son, she misses her Ashburton families.

As I get started in my role as the Acting Principal, I am getting to know our staff and students. I am impressed with how students are settling into routines and learning. I am working closely with Ms. Cino on all of the daily operations of the school and am happy to speak with parents. I look forward to meeting our parents and families at the upcoming events in October.

I understand that enrollment has continued to steadily increase over the past few years at Ashburton. This year we have nearly 800 students and we are in contact with our Community Superintendent's office regarding staffing. Due to large class size in all of our kindergarten classes, we have been allocated additional paraeducator support staff for kindergarten.

We have many exciting things happening this month and this year. Please refer to your calendars that were sent home in the summer (also listed on the Ashburton website). Additionally, many of you requested that you receive the newsletter electronically and we appreciate your efforts to save paper.

We have an informative parent volunteer training scheduled on **October 4th**, at either 9:30 a.m. or as part of the PTA meeting at 7:00 p.m. We will take part in Walk to School Day on **October 5th**. Families should meet at the Davis Library parking lot at 8:15 a.m. to walk to school; however, buses will run as usual for students who cannot come. We have participated in this International Walk to School Day for a number of years to promote pedestrian safety and a healthy lifestyle. **October 10th**, Columbus Day, is our annual Open House. All parents and the community are invited to visit classrooms from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. or until lunchtime. (Afternoon PEP class parents may come in the afternoon.)

We hope we can count on you to support us in efforts to maintain safety at all times. For the safety and security of all students, we are asking that parents "kiss and say goodbye" at the front or breezeway door. Students who need assistance will be escorted to class by patrols or staff. Any time adults are in the building, they must sign in at the office. We discourage drop-in visits to classrooms as it may interrupt instruction; however, planned volunteer visits are encouraged and you are always welcome to come have lunch with your child.

Important Dates

October 4-Volunteer training 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

October 4- PTA meeting

October 5- Walk to School Day

October 10- Open House 9-12:30 for parents/community

October 11- Dine Out with Ashburton at Five Guys

October 17- Student Portrait Day

October 21-No school for staff and students Statewide teacher's convention

October 28-Family fall Festival 6:30-8:30 p.m.

October 28- Halloween parade and parties 1:45- 2:45 P.M.

October 31 -Professional Day- no school for students

We need all parents who drive to school to follow safe driving and parking practices. Please do not let your child off from the left side of the car. We have a drop-off loop off of Pomona Drive for safe drop-off. Please follow the directions of the adults at the drop-off loop to keep the cars moving quickly and safely. Finally, please discuss safe practices for riding the bus with your children. Remind them that it is a privilege to ride the bus and students who violate bus rules will be suspended from the bus for a period of time. Thank you for your support and help keeping your children safe.

Sincerely,

Janet Dunn, Acting Principal

Ashburton Updates and Reminders:

Please remember: State regulations require us to have a written note when your child is absent. Please call the school and leave a message on the answering machine or email the teacher or Mrs. Lynch (Dana_R_Lynch@mcpsmd.org) to let us know when your child is not at school. Ms. Lynch will need to call you if you do not call us.

School starts at 8:50 a.m. and children are marked late if they enter after that time. Children miss critical instructions and organization for the day when they come in late which can impact the rest of the day. Please make every effort to send children to school on time and plan to keep afternoon appointments to a minimum. Teachers plan instruction until the end of the day.



Please update emergency information as needed- we've already had a number of instances where children needed to call home for forgotten lunches, where the office needed to contact parents regarding transportation, or the health room has needed to contact parents regarding illness. We must have current phone numbers in case of a real emergency.

Lice- We are a typical school and have occasional cases of lice. We urge parents to call the school and let the health room know if you find lice in your child's head. The health tech tracks the number of cases so that we may be proactive in notifying parents in classrooms (after two reported cases) or for the whole grade level (if there are multiple classes involved or the students switch classes). Ms. Delizo needs to check students after they have been treated in order to return to class. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

MCPS will change over schools from air conditioning to heating after October 3rd. During this period of unpredictable weather and indoor temperatures, please have your child wear layers so that they can be comfortable. Additionally, please note that we send children out for recess every day unless it is raining or temperatures are extremely low. Children should come to school prepared to go outside for recess with coats, hats, and/or gloves each day.



Please provide your children with forks, spoons, and napkins when they bring lunch from home. The cafeteria will provide utensils for children who purchase school lunches. Please label lunch boxes – there are many that look alike and we've had lots of mixed up lunch boxes this year.

Bus Changes- We have had an unusual amount of changes to our bus routes this year, due to crowded buses, arrival times and the impact on other schools if our buses are delayed. Please see the attached updated bus route list for Ashburton.

Help keep our playgrounds clean and safe. Please encourage dog walkers to pick up after their dogs if they use the lawn and fields at the school (it's a posted requirement and a mess when they don't). After school and weekend users are responsible for picking up trash and treating fields and equipment appropriately. Unfortunately, school bathrooms are not open to the public.

Join Ashburton students, staff and community at the Davis Library at 8:15 a.m. October 5th.

Let's walk to school
on October 5 for  iwalk
International Walk to School Day!



Halloween at Ashburton

- Halloween is celebrated at Ashburton with a parade and class parties. All parents and siblings are invited to watch the parade which starts at 1:45 p.m.
- Classroom parties start immediately after the parade ends and end about 2:50 p.m. Room parents will request either monetary donations or food for class parties- please keep in mind healthy snacks, all food must be store-purchased, and ask the teacher about any food allergies.
- Please choose a costume that is appropriate for your child. It should fit and not impede movement. Please do not send masks to school and do not choose a costume which is gory. We do not allow any weapons as part of costumes even if the weapons are plastic. Leave those at home. If you have any extra costumes that can be donated for children who may not have a costume, please send them in to the school office.
- Forms will go out for an alternative activity for students who do not celebrate Halloween.

Can You Help?

Several teachers still need volunteers to be the room parent or co-room parent. The room parents assist the teacher in planning class parties, collecting materials, helping with field trips or assisting with special projects or PTA activities. The duties can be shared with other parents. Please check with your child's teacher to find out whether help is needed in her/his class.



PEP
(Pre-School Education
Program)

October, 2011

Dear Families,

Greetings from the PEP team! The new school year is well underway as we begin our second month of school. Our theme for the month of October is *Autumn Harvest*. We will be learning about the fall season and all of the wonderful changes that take place at this time of year. This is always a favorite theme as there are so many fun and exciting activities, stories and art projects for the various fall topics including leaves, squirrels, acorns, apples, pumpkins, night animals and, of course, Halloween.

Vocabulary: red – orange – yellow – brown - leaf – fall – squirrel– acorn - night – owl – raccoon – bat – flying squirrel – opossum – skunk - pumpkin – pumpkin patch - stem – pulp - seeds – jack-o-lantern – monster – costume – trick-or-treating – hay ride – fruit - red apple – green apple – seeds – core – stem – tree– apple slice.

Suggested Reading:

Apples by Gail Gibbons

Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell

One Little Two Little Three Little Apples by Matt Ringer

Pumpkin Pumkin by Jeanne Titherington

Ten Apples Up on Top by Theo LeSieg (Dr. Seuss)

Clifford's First Autumn by Norman Bridwell

When Autumn Comes by Robert Maas

Nuts to You! by Gail Gibbons

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert

Mouse's First Fall by Lauren Thompson

Mouse's First Halloween by Lauren Thompson

Go Away Big Green Monster by Ed Emberly

Spookley the Square Pumpkin by Joe Troiano and Susan Banta

Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman and S.D. Schindler

My Monster Mama Loves Me So by Erica Silverman and S.D. Schindler

Night Creatures by Wade Cooper

Baby Bat's Lullaby by Jacquelyn Mitchard

Songs:

5 Red Apples

5 Little Pumpkins

Whoooo's Afraid of Halloween

A-P-P-L-E

Once a Little Apple Seed Was Planted in the Ground

One Little, Two Little, Three Little Apples

Possible Crafts and Curriculum

Extensions:

- Stamp paint with apple halves
- Paint trees-add apple stickers
- Finger Paint Large Apples, Pumpkins & Leaves-Red, Green, Yellow
- Paint Squirrel and add a bushy tail
- Count sets of apples/place "up on top" of self portraits
- Sort/Graph: apples/leaves by color
- Autumn Collages
- Halloween Crafts-pumpkin tambourine, bat hat, Jack-o Lanterns, gluing seeds on pumpkins
- Carve a class pumpkin-sensory experience
- Go on a Nature Walk around the school grounds-look for fall leaves and acorns and other signs of fall!



Cooking/Snack Ideas:

- Homemade Applesauce-kids mash pre-cooked apples, add sugar and cinnamon.
- Mini Apple Pies- vanilla wafer in bottom of cup, scoop of apple pie filling, sprinkle granola on top!
- Autumn Leaves in Tree-Kids spread Nutella on rice cake, add pretzel log

for tree trunk, pretzel sticks for branches, and yellow, orange & red m&m's for autumn leaves.

- **Oreo Cookie Spider:** Open an Oreo cookie- lie four long pieces of black licorice across it as the legs. Put the top of the cookie back on and squeeze on two frosting eyes.

Suggestions for Home:

- When eating apples at home, talk about apple parts (skin, seeds, stem, etc.)
- At the grocery store let your child pick out the apples. Work on counting as he/ she puts them in the bag ("We need 5 apples....can you put 5 apples in the bag?"), or color recognition ("We are buying red apples/green apples...can you find the red apples?").
- Go on a trip to the library and check out some of our suggested reading.
- Take a walk outside and talk about the changes in the weather and the changes in leaves. Play in a pile of leaves-a great sensory experience.
- Take a family trip to a pumpkin patch...another wonderful sensory experience with hay rides and pumpkin picking.
- Begin talking about what the kids will see on Halloween.

Reminders:

- There is **No School for PEP** on **October 21st** and **24th**.
- Open House is **October 10th**:
Morning: 9am to 10am
Afternoon: 1pm to 2pm
- October 26, 9:15 a.m.- Barbara Barr, PT and Rachel Makar, OT will conduct a parent group to focus on posture, handwriting, and motor break activities.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

The PEP Team

October Happenings In Kindergarten

Language Arts

Our early emergent readers will develop and refine many skills to gain literacy, such as rhyming, beginning sounds, using print concepts, and reading sight words. We will begin breaking up into our guided reading groups to work on reading concepts based on our level. We will read a variety of theme related stories during our read-aloud and shared reading experiences and will recall events from a story and discuss characters, setting, problem, and solution.

Writing

We will continue to work on handwriting and learning the correct way to form letters. Please reinforce this at home, it makes a big difference! We will also be working on writing concepts such as leaving spaces between words, sounding out unknown words, and using details in our pictures to tell a story.



Math

We will explore and identify patterns in the environment and will be making a variety of patterns with cubes, blocks, etc. You can make patterns at home with any materials you have and look for patterns around your house! Please make sure your child continues to practice counting and the correct formation of all of the numbers 0-9.

Science

We will use our five senses to observe weather patterns and changes.
October Focuses:

- The seasonal change to fall, and its effect on the living world around us.
- The Water Cycle
- Weather tools and data collection

Social Studies

In October we will focus on important symbols and practices associated with the United States. We will also discuss important people in America's past and present.

Halloween Festivities

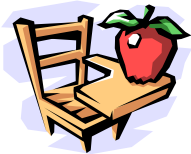
There will be a school-wide parade in costume, and will be followed by a Halloween party in each classroom. Room parents will be in contact for ways you can help out! Watch for more information from your child's teacher and/or room parent.

Field Trip

We will be going to Imagination Stage to see Aladdin's Luck on Friday, October 7th. Please send in permission slips as soon as possible, and remember to pack a lunch for your child on this day!

Sincerely,

Mr. Dowell, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Hirsch, Ms. Killian, Ms. Robbins, Ms. Van Voohis



First Grade News

The first month of school has been fun and fabulous for the first grade students. With the new Curriculum 2.0, first graders are hard at work!

In Math, students learned to count up to 120, compare numbers using the greater than and less

than symbols, as well determine ten more and ten less than a number.

Our young scientists have been exploring nature, comparing the features of plants and animals. Students used what they learned in Science to help craft a nonfiction book about animals in Writer's Workshop.

In Social Studies, students created rules and discussed the importance of leadership. See if your child can name either a school leader or a government leader.

In Reading, students explored poetry, nonfiction books that include text features, and character, setting, problem, and solution in fiction books. Many of the fiction books we read were written by Kevin Henkes since he is part of the first grade "Author Study."



Students are looking forward to our first field trip to Homestead Farms on Monday, October 3, 2011.

We are excited to bring back pumpkins from the patch!

Also in October, homework will be sent home. Look for the homework folder on Monday. Have your child complete his/her work and then return the homework on Friday.

Please remember to send your child with a "dry" snack each day. Be sure to follow any other rules your child's teacher has specified about snacks and allergies.

With such a great start to this school year, the first grade teachers are looking forward to the upcoming year! Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns via handwritten notes, emails, or phone calls at 301-571-6959.

With your support and collaboration, as well as the dedication of the first grade teachers, your first grade student will have a successful year!

--Ms. Campbell, Ms. Dodge, Ms. Gandel, Ms. Monteforte, Ms. Sears, Ms. Shelberg, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Martinez

Second Grade Town News

The second graders have had a busy first month of school. We have learned how to work together to solve problems, create class rules and learn new routines.

In reading, we've been working on literary text. Students have been learning about point of view, character traits, problem and solution, story elements and comparing and contrasting different versions of a story. Next we move into nonfiction text where we will be discussing main idea, text features, vocabulary and author's purpose. The second graders have just finished up personal narratives in writing and are now learning about writing to inform.

In math, we've been spending time discussing place value including writing numbers in different forms (expanded form, standard form and written form), number comparisons using $<$, $>$ and $=$ and mental strategies for computing ten and 100 more and less than a given number. Next up we will be moving into word problems and graphing.

Social Studies has been focused on problem solving through evaluating differing points of view and creating rules. We have also been evaluating responsibilities that students have in the classroom and at home. Next week we move into civics, where we will be discussing leaders, democratic symbols and rights and responsibilities of citizens.

In science, we've learned about different types of rocks and soil. We will soon be discussing the water cycle.



We are off to a great start in second grade with the new curriculum! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to be in touch with your child's teacher through email handwritten notes or phone. We're all looking forward to a great school year with your support and collaboration.

--Ms. Ashin, Ms. Bouquet, Ms. Canard, Ms. Fox, Ms. Melendez, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Barry

Third Grade October News

It's hard to believe that it is already October! Students are working hard in all academic areas and have become familiar with the routines and expectations of third grade. We would encourage you to continue to talk about the weekly evaluations with your third grader each Friday in order to keep up with their progress.

Math:

3rd Grade: Students who are instructed in the third grade curriculum will be covering the following material in the month of October: data organization and data analysis. Students will be gathering and organizing data using tables, pictographs, and bar graphs. Third graders will also be comparing data using each format. *At home*, you can support your third grader by showing how data changes over time using line graphs (ie graphing the temperature outside) and making a table and a tally chart of certain household items (ie silverware).

4th Grade: Students instructed using the fourth grade curriculum will be covering geometry and identifying and drawing basic geometric attributes (i.e., lines, line segments, rays, angles). *At home*, you can support your third grader by identifying real world examples of geometric attributes by playing the game "I Spy".

Reading:

In reading during the month of October, we will continue to use non-fiction texts in our study. Students will learn cause and effect relationships as well as comparing and contrasting topics. Third graders will also begin the AGOPPE Research Model in their Reading classes. We will be selecting our research topics by the end of the month. *At home*, you can support your third grader by reviewing everyday cause and effect relationships (i.e. it rained very hard so there was a flood). You can also compare and contrast everyday objects or experiences (i.e. compare and contrast breakfast and dinner).

Social Studies:

In social studies, students will continue their study of economics. They will be learning about public goods and services, markets, producers and consumers, and opportunity cost.

Science:

In science, students will investigate plant growth and development. Students will engage in bean observations and will plant their own plants in the classroom. *At home*, you can support your third grader by discussing the stages of plant growth and/or planting a plant of your own and monitoring its growth.



Reminders:

If you have not signed up for a parent/teacher conference, please contact your child's teacher. 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. We also ask you to reinforce the school rules with your child.

Thank you for your support and dedication!

The Third Grade Team

Katie Burton, Becki Segal, Jessica Rush,
Andrea Segovia, Michele Ibrahimi,
Susan Zeccardi

News 4 You

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year and getting to know each and every one of the fourth grade students! We enjoyed meeting all of the parents that came to Back to School Night and are so grateful for all of the support we received! We are looking forward to an enjoyable year ahead! We are working hard to meet your student's academic needs. During the month of October fourth graders will be covering several concepts across all academic areas.

The first unit in the Reading / Language Arts curriculum focuses on **Reading for Literary Experience (Fantasies and Fables) and Reading to be Informed**. Your child is expected to read at least 20 minutes a day and 25 self-selected books by the end of the school year. By now he/she should have completed at least 3 of these. Students are also bringing home Literature Circle books to prepare for weekly meetings. In writing, students will write for personal expression and to inform. Attention will also be given to strong ideas and organization in their writing. Our first piece is written from personal experience.

The first unit for social studies focuses on **The Impact of Geography: Defining Three Worlds**. In this unit students review map skills and will discuss the major population centers in Maryland today and predict why people live in certain areas.

The fourth grade students are almost through the first unit in mathematics! Some students are currently working on **Data Analysis** while others are working on **Mathematical Relationships**. Data Analysis includes graphing and finding central tendencies. Mathematical relationships include number patterns and relationships, and numeric expressions. All fourth grade mathematicians have been working on their basic facts! In class, we are taking fact tests almost daily. Students are reminded that they should be reviewing their basic facts of all operations (multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction) nightly. Please be sure your child is recording the number of minutes they are studying their facts daily on their Fact Calendar in their binders. In addition, students are also tracking the fact tests they are taking daily on the same calendar. It is requested that parents sign off on both of these calendars weekly.

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 notebook to review notes and sample problems covered each week. Notes from the teacher may also be in their math section. All quizzes are sent home to be signed, and should be returned the following day.

Our first science unit is centered on ecosystems. The students have built aquariums and terrariums in class and make observations of the changes occurring regularly. Students will also be exploring the web of relationships that link organisms to each other and to their natural environment. We had our first field trip during the last week in September to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. Many thanks to the parent volunteers who went on our field trip to SERC! Without you, this field trip would not have been possible!



Students are taking home **Friday Folders** at the end of each week Empty folders are expected to be returned the following

Monday. If you have yet to schedule a Parent/Teacher conference for either Thursday, November 10th or Friday, November 11th, please contact your child's **homeroom** teacher.

The Fourth Grade Team,
Mrs. Brenner, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Imhof, Ms. Leiser, and Mrs. Weaver

Fifth Grade's Fabulous News

Here is what will be going on in the classrooms during the month of October...

Math

Mrs. Weston's fifth grade math class is just completing the first half of unit one: exploring divisibility, multiples, prime and composite numbers, and prime factorization. The second half of the unit expands the students understanding of the relationships between patterns and functions and the value of using patterns to solve problems. In their investigations of patterns and functions, students will see how graphs, tables, and symbols are used to represent those relationships.

Mrs. Weston's Math 6 students will be completing Unit 1: Data and Statistics. Towards the middle of the month, they will begin working on Unit 2, which because of its length, is split up into 4 sections. The first section (Unit 2A) has the students exploring decimal operations and applications. They will find how operations with decimals compare to operations with whole numbers, and will find how estimation skills and algorithms reinforce one another.

Reading

In Mrs. Carranza's classes, students will continue their work on reading comprehension strategies, in part, through the use of Junior Great Books stories and literature circles. In literature circles, students select books and assume specific roles, with associated responsibilities, for generating literary discussions. The roles

encourage the students to apply what they have learned about the value and purpose of exploring words, identifying text connections, developing and discussing text-inspired questions, and sharing significant passages in their literature circle readings.

This month, students will begin this year's study of reading for literary experience with the historical fiction genre. The students will explore the characteristics of historical fiction stories while focusing on plots, identifying themes, and developing their summarizing skills. In small groups for guided reading, students will be reading a novel from the historical fiction genre. After the historical fiction study, the reading focus will shift to comprehension strategies dealing with informational texts.

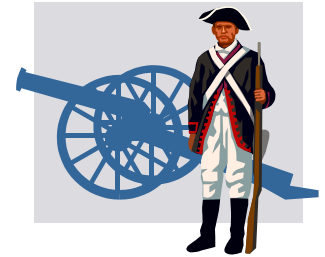
Writing

This month, we shall continue writing for personal expression. The students have been using gems collected in their writers' notebooks, as well as developing ideas from other personal experiences and observations. By using more active voice, sensory descriptions, and vivid verbs, they have been learning about creating stronger imagery to bring their writing "to life." They have been working at creating focused stories that include "exploded" important moments. Their next writing will call upon their imaginations, along with their personal experiences, to create stories behind a picture, sculpting details for credible and entertaining stories, using the writing tools we explore in class, as they daily add to their writing craft toolbox.

Science

Over the course of the month, the students will continue to apply their understandings of the components of motion, including distance, direction and speed; frame of reference; and the three types of motion. They will investigate the forces that cause and oppose motion, including gravity and friction, and be able to connect what they are observing in class to Newton's Laws of

Motion. Toward the end of the unit, they will examine energy and identify where objects have potential energy and where they have kinetic energy to be able to explain and, perhaps, design roller coasters!



Social Studies

We have been spending time talking about today's government, how it is organized, basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and how citizens can use their rights to work within the political system to create change. With this knowledge base, we are now ready to go back in time to the years leading up to the Revolutionary War. Students will be able to compare how the government was then to what it is now.

Thanks,
Kristi Carranza, Sarah Killory, Lisa Weston,
Francene Davis

GUIDANCE GREETINGS

By
Andrea Gillespie

Welcome Back! I am thrilled to be back as the counselor at Ashburton Elementary School for my seventh year. I can't believe the kids that started with me in kindergarten are now in middle school! I hope everyone had a great summer. For those of you who don't know me, I was born and raised in Bethesda and am a MCPS graduate of Bethesda Chevy Chase High School. I went to college at the University of Virginia and got my masters at the University of Maryland (though I have to say my allegiance is with UVA!).

So you may be wondering, what does an elementary school counselor do? Don't worry; I get that question all the time! For many people, the word counselor brings to mind someone they saw a few times in high school to help with their schedule or college applications. At Ashburton, I strive to be a person that the students remember for a variety of different reasons, but mostly as

someone that they could always count on for help and support.

I am extremely excited to be working with your children this school year and I have a lot of fun things planned along the way. As your school counselor, I extend help to all children through small groups, individual counseling, classroom guidance lessons, peacemakers, the TQ star program and raffle, the guidance advisory committee, mentoring, and lunch bunches. The counseling program supports and complements the efforts of the classroom teacher to facilitate your child's learning and success in school. I also hope that you will mark your calendars for November 1st, where I will be presenting a night for parents and children to come out together to learn about the topic of bullying.

I work with all the students through guidance lessons in the classroom on topics such as social skills, conflict resolution, stress management, bullying, internet safety, and organization. This month the lesson has been focused on "Who is your counselor and what do they do?" I let the students know that I am here for them to talk about problems with friends, family, school, or whatever may come their way. After all, it's hard to focus on math when your best friend told you that they wouldn't play with you at recess! We will be doing an interactive lesson on what happens when your feelings "overflow." Be sure to ask your student about the lesson! We discussed the role of the school counselor, how they can talk to me if they need to, and I shared with the students some things that I enjoy. After all I will be getting to know a lot of about your children through the year, so I wanted them to know some important things about me (mainly that I love the Redskins, my family, Disney World, vacations, and Ashburton!). You know, the important stuff!

I look forward to meeting the families that I don't know and learning more about the families that I do know. If I can do anything to contribute to your child's happiness and success at Ashburton, or to help in any way, please feel free to contact me at 301-571-6959 or at Andrea_S_Gillespie@mcpsmd.org. I will be

glad to speak with you over the phone or arrange a conference at your convenience.

Reading Corner

-Ms. Weigle

Welcome to a new school year at Ashburton ES! I hope you all had time to read during the summer and now feel rested up and ready to learn.

As usual, I would like to give you an overview of the Reading/Language Arts Program in this first newsletter. MCPS's Reading/Language Arts (R/LA) Program is comprised of 4 parts – reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Here is a quick review of these parts.

Reading is the ability to get information from print. Students learn to "figure out" words AND understand what they mean. Calling out words without understanding the meaning is not considered reading.

Writing is the ability to share thoughts with others through a written format instead of through talking. Since others need to be able to read what has been written, writing involves spelling, grammar, handwriting, and keyboarding, as well as the writing process.

Listening is an active process that goes well beyond just hearing. Listening involves hearing and paying attention to spoken words, as well as understanding syntax and vocabulary. All of this must be done in order to make meaning of what has been said.

Speaking involves the ability to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes. This includes the ability to use appropriate vocabulary and grammar for the situation.

How do teachers know just what your child needs to learn in these 4 parts of the Reading/Language Arts Program? We observe students and their work. We also give tests. Tests can show your child's strengths and weaknesses. Tests can also show the teacher

what your child already knows and what your child needs to learn. Here is an overview of the county's reading assessments. (Assessment is the new word for test.)

The county has 2 reading assessments: Montgomery County Public Schools Assessment Program – Primary Reading (MCPSAP-PR) and Measures of Academic Progress – Reading (MAP-R).

All kindergarten, first and second graders take the MCPSAP-PR. This is an individual test, given by your child's teacher. This test begins with beginning reading skills, such as identifying letters, identifying beginning sounds in words, showing basic knowledge about books, playing with sounds, and reading sight words. As the child's reading skills increase, the test includes reading books, orally retelling the story, answering oral comprehension questions, and finally, writing answers to questions. Books start out at a beginning level and increase in difficulty. The three testing windows for this test are September 6 – 30, January 9 to February 3, and May 7 to June 1. This test is one indicator that shows the student's reading level and also shows areas of strength and weakness. This helps teachers plan for appropriate instruction.

MAP-R is given to all third, fourth and fifth grade students to assess reading achievement. It is given on the computer. This means that the computer can personalize the test

for each student, depending on his or her answers. This is also a nationally normed test. The three testing windows for this test are August 29 to September 30, January 3 to February 7, and April 30 to June 1. The purpose of this test is to help teachers identify students' strengths, and weaknesses, thereby helping teachers focus instruction so all students can become better readers.

These two reading tests are in addition to the Maryland State Assessment (given to third, fourth, and fifth graders), the TerraNova II (given to second graders) and LAS Links (given to English Language Learners). As you can see, MCPS is trying to insure that all students have focused instruction, so they can become better readers.

As we help your children develop skills in Reading/Language Arts, we need your support. Please continue to read to your children and encourage them to read. Remember, the more they read, the better readers they will become.



October 2011

Elementary Physical Activity Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">A Safe and Happy Halloween!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From the National Association for Sport and Physical Education</p>			<p>Plan to celebrate the 35th birthday of HERSHEY'S Track & Field Games by hosting a local event during the 2011/12 school year. This free, turn-key program helps to build running, jumping and throwing skills for a lifetime of physical activity. Host an event as part of a field day, afterschool club, recess or physical education unit. Event registration for the 2012 season begins October 1. Visit www.hersheystrackandfield.com</p>		<p>1 Hit the Deck! Run in place as fast as you can for 1 min. Every 10 seconds drop down into a pushup position and pop back up and run!</p>	
<p>2 Go outside and play your favorite game for at least 30 minutes</p>	<p>3 Practice dribbling a soccer ball at different speeds.</p>	<p>4 Jog around your block 5 times without stopping</p>	<p>5 <u>Practice Gymnastics</u> Do some tip ups outside</p>	<p>6 Practice your balance by walking on curbs or along big, low to the ground tree branches.</p>	<p>7 Practice your basketball dribbling skills outside. Keep the ball low Keep your head up Use your fingertips</p>	<p>8 Gather up your neighborhood buddies and play a game of football</p>
<p>9 <u>Batting Practice</u> Grab a bat and ball and have someone pitch to you while you practice hitting! Eye on the ball!</p>	<p>10 You're a Frog! Practice your frog jumps by doing as many as you can in 30 sec. Repeat 5 times</p>	<p>11 Practice running while you jump rope! See how far you can go!</p>	<p>12 Read all of the nutrition labels on the foods in your fridge Lotsa fat is no good!</p>	<p>13 Put on some fast music and dance until you're too tired to dance anymore!</p>	<p>14 Set up 10 bottles or cans and practice your bowling skills</p>	<p>15 <u>Fine Motor Mania</u> Go w/ your family to the nearest pumpkin patch. Take it home and carve your best design into it!</p>
<p>16 <u>Creativity</u> Get with a group of friends and make up a new tag game.</p>	<p>17 Tug of War!</p>	<p>18 Get a partner and see how many consecutive times you guys can juggle a soccer ball using your head, knees and feet. No hands!</p>	<p>19 <u>Volleyball Time</u> See how many times you and a friend can hit a ball up into the air contacting the ball with your hands above your head.</p>	<p>20 <u>Practice the Crow</u> Place your hands on the ground and lean forward resting your knees on your elbows</p>	<p>21 <u>Scavenger Hunt</u> Divide into two teams; make a list of 20 things related to Halloween and race to see which team can gather them first!</p>	<p>22 Gather up your siblings and see how fast you can rake the leaves in the yard, and your neighbor's yard. Faster than last month?</p>
<p>23 <u>Obstacle Course!</u> Gather up the family and create an obstacle course around the outside of your house. Whose faster?</p>	<p>24 Grab a partner and a hula hoop. Take turns creating new ways to travel through the hoop!</p>	<p>25 Practice your backward summersaults. Remember to tuck your chin to your chest</p>	<p>26 Improve your hamstring flexibility by practicing yoga's downward dog.</p>	<p>27 Get a group of people and play Simon says. Take turns being the leader</p>	<p>28 <u>Target Practice</u> Set up some cans and try and knock them down them with a water gun.</p>	<p>29 Go to the pond, lake or river and practice skipping rocks as far as you can. Can you get 10 skips?</p>

Duplicated with permission from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE). For information on quality physical education visit:

<http://www.aaspeerd.org/naspe/publications/teachingTools/key-polits-qtQPE.cfm>

Ashburton Elementary School Bus Routes				9/11
Route 1302 PINK				
Arrival		Departure		
First stop 8:15 a.m.		Leave school 3:12 p.m.		
1	Greenlawn Dr. and Broad St.	1	Broad St. and Kingswood Rd.	
2	Lone Oak Dr. and Edward Ave.	2	Broad St. and Ipswich Rd.	
3	Edward Ave. and Fleming Ave.	3	Edward Ave. and Fleming Ave.	
4	Broad St. and Kingswood Rd.	4	Lone Oak Dr. and Edward Ave.	
5	Broad St. and Ipswich Rd.	5	Greenlawn Dr. and Broad St.	
8:30 a.m. Ashburton ES				
Route 1307 RED				
Arrival		Departure		
First stop 8:05 a.m.		Leave school 3:12 p.m.		
1	Grosvenor Ln. and Southport Dr.	1	Hurst St. and Greenlawn Dr.	
2	Hurst St. and Greenlawn Dr.	2	Hurst St. and Lone Oak Dr.	
3	Hurst St. and Lone Oak Dr.	3	Old Georgetown Rd. & Manor Oak Way	
4	Old Georgetown Rd. & Manor Oak Way	3	Yorkshire Ter. and Berkshire Dr.	
5	Yorkshire Ter. and Berkshire Dr.	4	Chatsworth Ln. and Yorkshire Ter.	
6	Chatsworth Ln. and Yorkshire Ter.	5	Farnham Dr. and Rossmore Dr.	
7	Farnham Dr. and Rossmore Dr.	6	Farnham Dr. and Avon Dr.	
8	Farnham Dr. and Avon Dr.	7	Farnham Dr. and Berkshire Dr.	
9	Farnham Dr. and Berkshire Dr.	8	Grosvenor Ln. and Southport Dr.	
8:35 a.m. Ashburton ES				
Route 1314 WHITE				
Arrival		Departure		
First stop 8:15 a.m.		Leave school 3:20 p.m.		
1	10010 Fernwood Rd. - Ashburton/Wyngate Child Care	1	10010 Fernwood Rd. - Ashburton/Wyngate Child Care	
2	Tusculum Rd. and Renita Ln.	2	Tusculum Rd. and Renita Ln.	
3	Brixton Ln. and Corkran Ln.	3	Brixton Ln. and Corkran Ln.	
4	Derbyshire Ln. and Buttermere Ln.	4	Derbyshire Ln. and Buttermere Ln.	
5	Greyswood Rd. and Harrogate Rd.	5	Greyswood Rd. and Harrogate Rd.	
6	Greyswood Rd. and Lone Oak Dr.	6	Greyswood Rd. and Lone Oak Dr.	
8:35 a.m. Ashburton ES				
Route 1315 ORANGE				
Arrival		Departure		
First stop 8:11 a.m.		Leave school 3:12 p.m.		
1	YMCA at Ayrilawn (Hempstead & Oakmont Ave.)	1	YMCA at Ayrilawn (Hempstead & Oakmont Ave.)	
2	Bethesda Country Day Sch- Beech Ave.	2	Bethesda Country Day Sch- Beech Ave.	
8:30 a.m. Ashburton ES				
Route 1319 BLUE				
Arrival		Departure		
First stop 8:10 a.m.		Leave school 3:12 p.m.		
1	10500 Westlake Dr. (Magruder's Lot)	1	10500 Westlake Dr. (Magruder's Lot)	

2	Westlake Ter. and Spring Lake Dr.	2	Westlake Ter. and Spring Lake Dr.
8:30 a.m. Ashburton ES			
<i>Ashburton ES Bus Routes continued</i>			
Route 1321 PURPLE			
Arrival		Departure	
First stop 8:17 a.m.		Leave school 3:12 p.m.	
1	Rockledge Dr. & Rock Forest Dr. @ circle	1	Rockledge Dr. & Rock Forest Dr. @ circle
2	10320 Westlake Dr. @ mailbox	2	10320 Westlake Dr. @ mailbox
3	Westlake Dr. and Arizona Cir.	3	Westlake Dr. and Arizona Cir.
8:30 a.m. Ashburton ES			
Route 1322 YELLOW			
Arrival		Departure	
First stop 8:12 a.m.		Leave school 3:22 p.m.	
1	Pooks Hill Rd. and Linden Ave.	1	Pooks Hill Rd. and Linden Ave.
2	Pooks Hill Rd. and Bristol Square Ln.	2	Pooks Hill Rd. and Bristol Square Ln.
3	Grosvenor Ln. and Thornbush Ln.	3	Grosvenor Ln. and Thornbush Ln.
4	Grosvenor Ln. and Fleming Ave.	4	Grosvenor Ln. and Fleming Ave.
5	Fleming Ave. and Snow Point Dr.	5	Fleming Ave. and Snow Point Dr.
6	Cheshire Ter. and Cheshire Dr.	6	Cheshire Ter. and Cheshire Dr.
8:30 a.m. Ashburton ES			
Route 1323 GREEN			
ARRIVAL		DEPARTURE	
First stop 8:05 a.m.		Leave school 3:25 p.m.	
1	Grosvenor Ln. and King Charles Way	1	Grosvenor Ln. and King Charles Way
2	10101 Grosvenor Pl.	2	10101 Grosvenor Pl.
3	10201 Grosvenor Pl.	3	10201 Grosvenor Pl.
4	10301 Grosvenor Pl.	4	10301 Grosvenor Pl.
5	10401 Grosvenor Pl.	5	10401 Grosvenor Pl.
6	10500 Rockville Pike	6	10500 Rockville Pike
7	10300 Rockville Pike	7	10300 Rockville Pike
8:30 a.m. Ashburton ES			
Bus 1328 Silver			
Pick Up 8:15 a.m.		Leave school 3:15 p.m. –arrival about 3:25	
1	5405 Tuckerman Ln. @ Inigo's Crossing	1	5405 Tuckerman Ln. @ Inigo's Crossing
8:25 a.m. Ashburton ES			
Afternoon Special Education and PEP buses *			
Route 1812 Teal		Bethesda/Chevy Chase area	
Route 1819 Lime		Bethesda/Potomac area	
Route 1832 Aqua		Bethesda area	
Route 5855 Violet		Bethesda	
Route 5928 Gold		Bethesda/North Bethesda/Rockville area	

PTA Insider

Rain, rain, go away...



October 2011

Upcoming Events

- October 4 PTA Meeting – 7pm Media Center
- October 5 Walk to School Day – meet at Davis Library at 8:15 am
- October 10 Open House – 9:30 to 12:30
- October 11 Dine-Out Nite – Five Guys, behind Montgomery Mall
- October 21 No School – Teacher Fall Conference
- October 28 Fall Festival
- October 31 No School – Teacher Professional Day
- November 1 PTA Meeting – 6:30 pm

From the PTA Board

It's a shame that our Back to School Picnic had to be cancelled due to the rain, however, what a wonderful and busy month it has been despite the weather! Our first dine-out and skate night were a huge success, and we are well underway with many exciting Ashburton PTA activities and have many more events planned for the entire Ashburton community. In addition, our calendar is full of fundraising opportunities that are necessary to help fund the many important projects the PTA sponsors throughout the year. To help you prepare and participate in each of these activities, we are providing this brief outline of the fundraising activities that you can expect from the PTA this year. We hope you will participate in many, if not all, of these events to make our year a success!

We started the year off with our annual Entertainment Book Sale. You would have seen these books in your child's backpack. If you would like to keep it, please just send in a check made out to the Ashburton PTA with your child's name on it and mark it Entertainment Book—and it will be forwarded to the office. If you are not interested, simply send the book back with your child. In addition, we will be hosting "Monthly Dine-Out Nights" where we will be inviting you to dine at various local restaurants that have agreed to donate a percentage of their revenue from that evening's sales to the PTA. These have been very successful over the past few years, and we hope to continue that success this year. Our first Dine Out night was Wed., August 31st at Ledo's Pizza. It was a huge success! Many families came out, and we thank you for your support. It is because of you that we raised over \$450.73!! Woohoo!!





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.

A special thank you to Mrs. Garran, Ms. Cino, Ms. Canard, Ms. Fox, Ms Weigle, Ms. Scarborough, Ms. Glick, Ms. Golden, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Robbins, and Ms. Hirsch for attending, the kids loved seeing you all “outside” of school!! Our next Dine-Out nite is on Oct. 11th at Five Guys behind Montgomery Mall. Look for the next monthly flyer and e-mails. We look forward to seeing you there! Another fun night was Skate Night at Cabin John Ice Rink. We had a record attendance number of 240 students and parents - way to go Ashburton! And what a fun night it was, a big “thank you” to Marci Norton for making this event happen – you’re the best! And a big thanks to our volunteers Wendy Calhoun, Veronica Walgamotte plus all the families that came out. Look forward to another skate night in February 2012!

We also will continue our wonderful “Building a Path to the Future” Brick fundraiser. Our beautiful courtyard has space for even more dedicated bricks. So if you missed out in ordering a brick last spring or wish to order another, it’s not too late. We will be placing new brick orders at the beginning of October. If you missed your flyer, you may pick one up in the office.

Finally, we will continue with a number of fundraisers that have been a BIG part of our fundraising in the past. These include Fall Festival (coming Oct. 28th), Box Tops for Education, Scholastic Book Fair (coming Nov. 7th), grocery store programs, and of course, Spring Fling.

Some of you have asked how the PTA spends the money that it raises each year. In addition to holding school events such as Tea & Sympathy, Back to School Picnic, Fall Festival (please note: this year it is on Friday, Oct. 28th from 6:30-8:30), Family Bingo Night (Jan. 27th, 2012), International Festival (Feb. 24th 2012), and Spring Fling (May 5th, 2012), the PTA also offers a number of grants to the school community to host cultural arts activities, the Young Authors Conference, Resident Artist program and other special events. We also pay for things such as teacher-run after school clubs, teacher grants, library and media center equipment, computer equipment, scholarships for children/families in need, and this year we will continue to fund projects, activities, and events around school, as requested by the administration on behalf of the students and staff.

If you have any ideas, comments or questions, please join us at our monthly PTA meetings. Our next meeting is Tues. Oct. 4th beginning at 7pm. This is an important meeting as we will be conducting Volunteer Training for Room Parents and Parent Volunteers. There will be a Room Parent Handbook and Volunteer information that will be distributed at the meeting. This handbook is filled with a lot of helpful information—so we look forward to seeing many of you there!

We are looking forward to another wonderful year at Ashburton!
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

Please mark your calendars for the **ASHBURTON SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!** It will be held the week of **November 7-11, 2011** (same week as parent-teacher conference).

Join us in the media center (library) 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.



New and Gently Used Board Games Needed!

Many of the classrooms at Ashburton are in great need of games for indoor recess due to our many "Rainy Days"! Drop off Games for all ages at the Main Office during October.

Thank you for your support!



Join us for Dine-Out Nite

Five Guys

