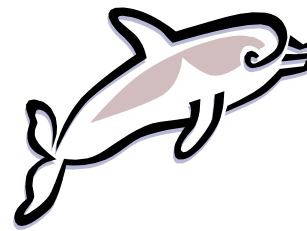


# The Dolphin's Tale



The bi-weekly principal's newsletter of Travilah Elementary School  
Susan J. Shenk, Principal

August 31, 2012

Issue #1

## August

31 Flyer Distribution Day

## September

**National Hispanic Heritage Month**  
**School Safety Month**  
**Holiday No School – Labor Day**  
3  
4 7:00 – 9:00pm Back to School Night  
10 4:00pm Instrumental Music Parent Meeting – Media Center  
11 7:00pm PTA Meeting – Media Center  
7 Summer Reading forms due  
Summer Math Packets are due  
14 9:30 – 10:30am Volunteer Breakfast and Orientation – Staff Lounge  
17 **No School – Rosh Hashanah**  
21 5:00 – 8:00pm Back to School PTA Family Picnic  
26 **No School – Yom Kippur**  
28 **Early Release Day – Students Dismissed at 12:55pm**

## October

1 Interims sent  
2 7:00pm PTA Meeting – Media Center  
Presentation on the new Report Cards for Kdg. – Grade 3  
8 9:30 – 11:00 Columbus Day – Parent Visitation Day  
18 7:00 – 9:00pm PTA Movie Night  
19 **No School – Maryland State Teachers Convention**  
23 Grade 5 to Mt. Vernon  
26 Individual Student Pictures  
31 Halloween Parade and Parties

## November

2 First Marking Period ends  
5 **No School for students – Professional Day for staff**  
6 **Holiday – No School Election Day**

Visit our website! <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/travilahes/>

School Phone: 301-840-7153

School Attendance Line: 301-670-8223

School Fax: 301-670-8230

Visit the PTA website! <http://www.travilahpta.org>

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**WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!** – We had a terrific beginning to our school year. The students came in eager and prepared for the new school year. It was exciting to see all of our returning students and also to meet so many new children and families. We currently have 428 students attending Travilah this year – some of them attending school for the first time! The building looks amazing. The staff has been working together to make sure that everything was ready for your children. **We are always grateful to all our families for their support to our school. A special thank you goes to our PTA and to Lana Labban, our new PTA president. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 4th.** Back to School Night is always very well attended. As you know, parking can be an issue. Please try to car pool, if possible. To welcome our new families, we will begin the evening at 6:30pm with a new parent informational meeting in the

Media Center. The general meeting will begin at 7:00pm in the All Purpose Room, followed by classroom presentations. In addition, we have scheduled a special presentation for Grade 3 parents on the new third grade Curriculum 2.0 at 7:30pm following the general meeting in the All Purpose Room. Attached to this issue of the *Dolphin's Tale* is the schedule for the evening. We hope you find the information helpful and informative. As you know, Back to School Night is not a time for individual parent conferences. If you have specific questions and/or concerns, please contact the teacher directly. You may discuss the issue by phone, schedule a conference, or contact them through email. Thank you for your support with this matter. Coming up, on Friday evening, September 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be having our annual Back to School Picnic. It will be from 5:00 – 8:00pm. There will be music, food, games, and lots of fun! We hope to see everyone there! We are looking forward to a productive partnership this year. Please read the newsletters, visit our website, listen to the Connect-Ed phone messages, check your child's daily folder, attend PTA meetings, volunteer, and stay informed. It is sure to be another wonderful year working together with you and your children.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES** – In our efforts to be more “green” in our communications this year, we will be sending some of our information to families electronically. Please email your child's homeroom teacher so she receives your correct email address by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Once the teacher has all her families' email addresses, we will combine the lists and have a school-wide distribution list. Thank you for helping us with this process.

**ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES FOR ABSENCES** - State regulations require that parents send written excuses for absences when their child returns to school. The absence will be coded “unexcused” without a written note. This absent note is still required even though you notify the school by telephone the day your child is absent. Please call the attendance line (301-670-8223) by 9:30am if your child will be absent or tardy on a particular day. We do appreciate your support in promoting good attendance at school.

**WHITE INFORMATION SHEETS AND YELLOW EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION SHEETS** – If you have not already completed the white student information sheet and both sides of the yellow Emergency Dismissal sheet, please do so immediately. Please discuss early dismissal and emergency plans with your child. Some families have returned the yellow Emergency Dismissal sheet partially blank. In the event of an emergency school evacuation, we will take the binder with the Emergency Dismissal forms with us. The listing of phone numbers, although seemingly redundant with the information already returned to the school, is needed as we might need to contact parents about their children once we are out of the building. The “Authorized Drivers” section on the bottom of the form gives us your permission to allow your child to go home with a friend or neighbor in the event of your inability to pick up your child. In the past, we have seen events cause traffic to stop and keep parents from being able to get their children. Rather than having children stuck at school for hours, your authorization to release your child with another family could enable your child to be in a more comfortable setting while waiting for you. Please return these forms as soon as possible.

**FIRST DAY PACKETS** – Hopefully everyone received their first day packets. These important packets were filled with many forms to complete. Please make sure you look at each item carefully and sign and return those items requested to the main office or your child's teacher. Three forms, the Homework Policy, Cafeteria and Playground Rules and Discipline Policy require both the child and the parent to read and sign. Please retain the policy at home and return the signed pages. Thank you for helping us keep our students informed of the school's expectations and procedures.

**CAR POOL NOTES AND PHONE CALLS** – Please try to plan ahead when sending notes or calling the office about changes to your child's afternoon transportation. When sending notes, make sure you put the date on the note. If possible, try to contact the school office prior lunchtime. It is a very busy time at the end of the day and we want to make sure that all students are clear about where they are to go in the afternoon. **If you must pick up your child early, please come to the office prior to 3:15pm.**

**SCHOOL SAFETY** – In our ongoing effort to provide a safe and orderly environment for students, staff, and parents, please make sure to sign-in and out of the office. We have a computer system that actually prints name badges for everyone. In the event of a “Lockdown,” “Shelter,” or fire drill, the sign in list will enable us to make sure we account for everyone in the building. Also, when picking up your children, please make sure to have a photo ID available. Please make sure to also follow this sign in procedure before and after school. If your child forgets his/her homework, please contact the school office. It is important that the students remember to bring home the books and materials that they need. If your child has forgotten something, call the office before coming back to school. Teachers are in meetings most afternoons. We cannot have parents and children walking throughout the building after hours. It is also very disruptive to the Building Services staff to go and unlock a classroom because a child forgot his/her homework. Have your child call a friend and get the assignment rather than coming back to school. You are an important link in helping your child develop a sense of responsibility for his/her own work.

**MEDICINE** - If children must take medicine at school, you must bring a written order from the physician for prescription and/or over-the counter medicines. Medication forms are available at school for parents and physicians to complete. We will accept a written order from the physician on his/her letterhead or prescription pad. Prescription medicines should be in the original labeled bottle (keep home supply in your own container). **Medications must be delivered and picked up from school by an adult. No child is permitted to bring medication to school. Medication brought to school by a student will not be administered, and the parent will have to come to the Health Room and pick up the medicine.**

**NOTES/FLYERS SENT HOME** – Unless a notice is “time sensitive” we are continuing to designate Friday to be the day we are sending home notices. *The Dolphin’s Tale* is sent home every other Friday, so parents are already accustomed to looking for information at the end of the week. Non-custodial parents who wish to receive copies of *The Dolphin’s Tale*, report cards, test scores, and other information that pertains to their child’s education, please send a written request to the principal. Please include your name, address, and type of information desired. Include twenty self-addressed, stamped envelopes if you wish to receive *The Dolphin’s Tale*.

**PARENT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** – Mark your calendar! Please join us for a volunteer orientation on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. We will share information about the many volunteer opportunities that make our school so special. If you are planning to volunteer with the school this year or would like to learn more about volunteering at Trivilah, please plan to attend. We hope you will join us!

**PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES** – Just a reminder, MCPS does not allow elementary school students to possess portable communication devices (pagers, cell phones, etc.) on school grounds without prior, written approval from the principal. If your family has a special circumstance requiring your child to carry a portable communication device, please contact the principal.

**NEW STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARDS FOR KDG. – GRADE 3** – This year students in Grades Kdg. – 3 will have new standards based report cards. The grades and format will be very different. Students will no longer be receiving O, S, and N. Nor will they be receiving A’s, B’s, etc. Teachers will be briefly discussing the new report cards at Back to School Night. **However, at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> PTA meeting, we will be giving a presentation to parents explaining the report cards and grading system in more detail.** We hope you will be able to join us!

**BIRTHDAYS** – Each child’s birthday is highlighted on our morning announcements. Children are invited to come to the office to receive a special happy birthday pencil. Please make sure invitations to private birthday parties are not sent to school to be distributed. This is against MCPS policy. In addition, please do not send in food to your child’s class for a celebration. We have two classroom parties per year, one at Halloween, and the other at Valentine’s Day. Thank you for your cooperation.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM** – Please make sure to have your child return his/her Summer Reading Packet to his/her teacher by September 7<sup>th</sup>. All children who have successfully met their goals will be invited to participate in our Summer Reading Ice Cream party!

**SPECIAL DOLPHIN TALES THANK YOU TO:**

- **All the office volunteers** for their patience and support!
- **Rebecca Sanchack, Daniella and Madelyn** for the wonderful job with the landscaping!
- **Reza Firoozfar** for Xeroxing the PTA packet!
- **Kris Sellman and Kerry Bowman** for updating the school sign!

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I have read the newsletter and would like to make the following comments or ask the question stated below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Physical Education 2012-2013

Welcome to another exciting year of Physical Education at Trivilah! For those of you that do not know me I am Mr. Jarczynski the PE teacher. This year, PE will be exciting with many interesting new skills and activities. Physical education at Trivilah focuses on teaching your children the correct way to do many different skill themes and movement concepts in a developmentally appropriate environment. Physical Education at Trivilah is not based on competition; it is based on teaching your child to be healthy for a lifetime. Kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade will all be using the new scoring system. For Kindergarten the grades are; P, I, N, M, NEP. For 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade the grades are; ES, P, I, N, M, NEP. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be scored; O, S, N. If you would like to find more information on Curriculum 2.0 and grading and reporting you can find it here:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/reportcardfaq.aspx>.

If your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grade, you might be wondering what “F.I.T.T. goals” (Frequency, Intensity, Time, Type) are. Your child will choose a healthy activity that he or she likes doing and he or she will have to do this activity for at least a half hour three times a week. If your child plays on a sports team, practice time can count. Students will write these F.I.T.T goals down and I will monitor them monthly. I will send a note home to you that you must sign and send back in to school so that your child can get credit for their F.I.T.T goal. Please make sure that you sign these forms and return them on time so that your child will receive full credit.

I hope everyone is ready for a great year. I look forward to teaching your children. In order for your child to be ready to do his or her best, please make sure that your child also wears appropriate clothing on PE days. **They must wear sneakers and dress appropriately!!!!!!** Thanks a lot for your help.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jarczynski  
Physical Education