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Carole Quental

Principal

cquental@bcps.org

Newsletter

October 1, 2009

Randy Quinn

Assistant Principal

rquinn@bcps.org

- October**
- 5 - Room Parent Meeting, 9:15 in the Library
 - Volunteer Training, 6:15 in the Library
 - Parent Meeting, Topic: New Report Cards, 7PM in the Library
 - 6 - Grade 5 Fieldtrip, "Eco-Trekkers", 9AM-3PM
 - 7 - Computer Club, 3:30-4:30
 - 8 - Multi-School Mile Run at Prettyboy Elementary, 4-5 PM
 - 12 - AC/Heat Conversion Begins in BCPS Buildings
 - 13 - Multi-School Mile Run at Fifth District Elementary, 4-5PM
 - PTA, 7PM in the Library
 - 14 - Computer Club, 3:30-4:30
 - 15 - PTA Innisbrook Prize Booth Assembly
 - 16 - MSTA Convention/Staff Development-**SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS**
 - 19 - Friendly Farm Night, 4-8PM
 - 21 - Computer Club, 3:30-4:30
 - Multi-School Mile Run at 7th District Elementary, 4-5 PM
 - 27 - Volunteer Training, 6:15 in the Library
 - Report Card Parent Meeting, 7:00 in the Library
 - 28 - Assembly, Young Audiences, 10:00
 - Computer Club, 3:30-4:30
 - 30 - Kindergarten Fall Festival
 - Halloween Parade, 2:15
 - 31 - 5K Cross Country Challenge, 9AM, "Kids Helping Hopkins"



Dear Parents,

Time is just flying by; it's hard to believe that it is already October. We are closed on October 16th for the MSTA convention. Please remember that on Monday, October 19 we will be having our annual Fifth District Family Night at Friendly Farm. This is one of our favorite community events as we bring our families together for an evening of fine food and friendship. It will run from 4:00 to 8:00 as usual. The flyer later in our newsletter has all the delicious details. This year, we are dedicating most of our profits toward our primary tutorial. We hope to see many of you there.

Now that we are approaching cooler weather, please remind the children to have appropriate warm clothing on them, not in their backpacks, when they leave for school. Remember, they go outside every day and although they swear that they are never cold, we know that flu season is around the corner. Also, it would be very helpful if you could label those outer garments so they can be promptly returned when they are left on the playground, in the cafeteria, etc. Sometime in the next two weeks, BCPS will convert over to our heating system. It is comfortable in our building right now but if it turns cooler before this conversion is completed, we want the children to be dressed for it.

Our emergency plan is just about complete due to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Harris. You should receive your parent phone tree by Monday through your youngest student at Fifth District. Hopefully, we will never have to use it, but we are prepared just in case.

Please remember that in order to participate in any fieldtrip, you must attend a volunteer training and have a completed application and affidavit on file. Next Monday, October 5, we will have our fifth, and almost final, training at 6:15 in the library. Right after the training, we are having our first of two parent meetings on the new BCPS report card. On Tuesday, October 27, we will have our final volunteer training at 6:15 in the library and our second parent report card meeting. The new report card will give you a much better picture of your children's school progress. We are hoping that you can join Mr. Quinn and me at one of these meetings.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or compliments, please contact your children's teachers, Mr. Quinn, or me via note, email, or phone. Your communications help to keep us aware of the climate in and out of our building, which is extremely important to all of us. Also, remember your School Improvement Team representatives are committed to bringing your compliments or concerns into the team for discussion. Our collaboration is what keeps Fifth District the wonderful school it is.

Sincerely,
Carole D. Zuentel

Volunteer Training

Our next scheduled training session is on Monday, October 5, at 6:15 PM in the Library. Please remember that beginning this year, all parents who are **volunteering in our building or even just going on a field trip MUST attend a volunteer training.** We will hold our last volunteer training session on **October 27 at 6:15.** Following the volunteer trainings, we would like to invite all interested parents to join us in the library at 7PM for a meeting to address the new report card that BCPS is implementing this year.

Hereford Zone Schools Helping Hopkins

As part of the "Kids Helping Hopkins" initiative, students and representatives from the Hereford Zone Schools are soliciting pledges for their individual participation in the 2nd Annual Baltimore Crossroads event - a 5k and one mile family fun walk/run held on **Saturday, October 31.** Kids Helping Hopkins is a special values-education program endorsed by the Baltimore County School System to support vital programs at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. The program nurtures compassion, sharing and respect for children in need. This event is open to people of all ages and skill levels and will include activities, exhibits, presentations and more. **All funds raised by Hereford Zone students and representatives will benefit The Johns Hopkins Children's Cancer program.** If you are interested in participating in this event, pledge sheets and event information are available in the school office. It is our hope that Fifth District will be well represented at this worth while event.

Emergency Dismissal

We have just about completed our parent phone tree to be used when Fifth District (ONLY) must close early due to an emergency, such as a power outage or water loss. Each family is listed on the homeroom phone tree of their "carrier" or youngest child at Fifth District. If you do not receive your phone tree by Monday, please check with your child or contact Mrs. Harris in the school office at jharris@bcps.org. It is important also that you keep the phone tree information current. Please alert Mrs. Harris when information needs to be updated so that a revised copy can be distributed to parents as needed.



School Improvement Team (SIT)

The School Improvement Team (SIT) consists of teachers, staff, and parents of the Fifth District community. The SIT meets regularly to share thoughts and concerns which impact Fifth District Elementary School and the School Improvement Plan. **SIT held its first meeting on September 21. Notes from this meeting are posted on the school website at fifthdistrictes.bcps.org as well as on the community bulletin board in the office hallway.** If you have any ideas about how to enhance the performance or communication of this team with our community, please share them with one of our parent members. A revised list of SIT members is listed below for easy reference.

School Improvement Team Members 2009-2010

Name	Title	Email
Carole Quental	Principal	cquental@bcps.org
Randy Quinn	Assistant Principal	rquinn@bcps.org
Amy Martin	PTA President	Amylmartin77@yahoo.com
Joyce Kimble	Parent	jkimble@wbcm.com
Sally Fleischmann	Parent	sally.mistyvalley@yahoo.com
Martha Craig	Parent	martha.craig@mindspring.com
Dawn Elliott	Parent	5elliotts@comcast.net
Elizabeth Gamble	Parent	elizabeth_gamble@verizon.net
Mark DiPaula	Grade 5 Teacher	mdipaola2@bcps.org
Brenda Benson	Grade 4 Teacher	bbenson@bcps.org
Molly Mann	Grade 1 Teacher	mmann@bcps.org
Roxanne Dean	Technology Resource Teacher	rdean@bcps.org
Kitty Flanagan	School Nurse	cflanagan@bcps.org
Judy Harris	Secretary	jharris@bcps.org

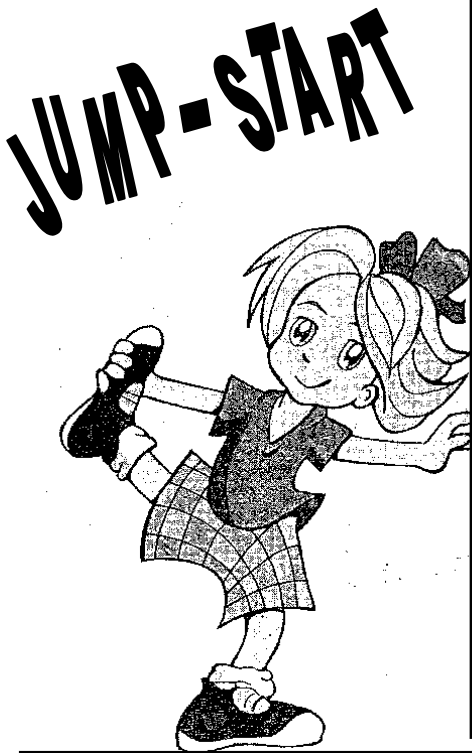
Halloween

Once again, we will have our Halloween parade to celebrate this occasion. It will be held on the field behind the gym at 2:15 on October 30. Parents are welcome to join us, but please remember that if you are coming into the building for the class celebrations, we need you to sign in at the office. Please remember that as a safety precaution, no masks or items that represent weapons are permitted.



Character Education

This year's program is called "**Jump-Start Your Day**," and includes weekly topics which promote peace, empathy, individuality, strength, and friendship among students. A variety of school-wide and classroom activities will engage students every day, with individual students being recognized and rewarded for demonstrating the targeted behaviors each week. Information for families will appear in each school newsletter, so that the positive values may be reinforced at home as well. Each month, a student name from each homeroom will be drawn to receive a Heavenly Ham gift certificate, donated by the Hunt Valley Rotarian Club. Most importantly, our school community will benefit from students' positive behaviors. So, please read below to learn about our first two topics, and be sure to check out the bulletin board display that will be growing in the upper hallway. Thanks, as always, for your support of our project!



JUMP-START! Week One: INCLUDE EVERYONE

During week one, our school will focus on the importance of *including everyone*. Most of us have been left out of an activity at one time or another and we know how lonely that can feel. We are trying to teach our students that it is their responsibility to include everyone. If our students see someone sitting alone at lunch, we want them to invite that person to sit with them. If our student sees someone standing alone at recess, we want them to invite that student to play. Including everyone is not always easy. It takes courage and compassion. Our students must be willing to stop and think about the feelings of others.

Family Fun Tips:

- Encourage your children to include each other in their games and fun. Sibling rivalry and disputes are normal, but siblings should try to support one another.
- Talk to your child about a time when you were not included in an activity. Talk about the way you felt. Ask your child if he/she has ever felt this way and talk about ways to ensure that we include others.
- Praise your child for efforts he/she makes to include brothers, sisters, or classmates in activities.

JUMP-START! Week Two: RESPECTFUL WORDS

During week two, our school will focus on *respectful words*. Respectful words encourage people and help others feel good about themselves. Disrespectful words hurt and damage people. We want our students to make sure that they use words that help other. Please encourage your child to think about the impact his/her words can have on others. Talk about how great it feels to receive compliments or praise.

Family Fun Tips:

- Have everyone in your family give each other family member one compliment before starting to eat dinner.
- Have a *Great Manners* contest. Reward your children for wonderful manners with small stickers or tokens. Have a family celebration when the children earn a certain number of stickers or tokens.

Technology News

Fifth graders are working on a project to be posted in Voicethread this month. They will be researching a colonial trade using an established graphic organizer, then adding their face to the body of that occupation with and appropriate setting and then uploading the finished product to Voicethread. Both fifth grades will be working on this common project with a partner from each class. Finished projects will be posted on the school pbwiki page and website. Students will be working with both Mrs. Dean and Ms. Connelly. **Grades 2 and 3** have been researching the different kinds of apples and linking facts into Kidspiration while learning how to use the features of Kidspiration.

The first Computer Club group will begin meeting on Wednesday, October 7 from 3:30-4:30. Anyone interested in joining the next Computer Club session beginning in November is asked to please email Mrs. Dean at rdean@bcps.org.

From the Nurse

This fall, Mrs. Flanagan will be mentoring a nursing student from Towson University. Her name is Melissa Torres and she finishes her program in nursing this year. Please feel free to stop by the health suite on Wednesdays and say hello.



Graul's & Giant Fundraiser

Fifth District is once again participating in both the **Graul's receipts** and the **A+ Bonus Bucks** program. Last year, we earned over \$750 through these programs. The school will earn money as families **save and turn in green Graul's receipts to Fifth District from September 21 until March 21**. The deadline for turning in these receipts to the school is April 5. To **register for the A+ Bonus Bucks** program, select Fifth District (id #01194) as your school of choice online at www.giantfood.com/aplus and then use your Giant Card when you shop. Thanks for helping us earn money to help your children!

Wade Coley, coordinator
gcoley@bcps.org

Fifth District Recreation News



Check out the Hereford Zone Rec. Council website at <http://herefordrec.org/> for cancellations or information about recreation programs. If you have additional questions, please contact Richard Butt, Vice President of HZRPC at Richard.Butt@kci.com or the Hereford Community Supervisor, Kara Burman at kburman@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Do you have a question or concern
you would like addressed?



Let's talk!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

My question/concern:
