



PANTHER TIMES

Easton Middle School Monthly Newsletter

Mrs. Norby Lee, Principal

201 Peachblossom Rd.
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-2910

FEBRUARY, 2012

Principal's Message

Dear Easton Middle School Families;

Winter is here! Or is it? We've been able to enjoy the outdoors during lunchtime thanks to the unseasonably warm weather so far. While winter usually brings colder temperatures and some snow, it always brings MSA testing in early March. As we close out the first half of our school year, we take time to assess students' progress through our curriculum by examining class grades and benchmark scores, and begin preparation for MSA testing.

Our motto for this school year has been "SUCCESS is the only option", and our students and staff have worked hard to make these words a reality. Teachers hold students to high expectations, and our students consistently respond with success in many areas. This spring's MSA testing is another opportunity for our students to show off what they've learned throughout the year. In-school preparations have already begun, and information will be coming home at the end of the month to help parents prepare their students for test days.

In addition to academics, our students continue to shine in many other areas. Our band members made a great showing at two exciting events in January. STEM, MESA, PageTurners, and Math Club are meeting weekly, our drama department has begun preparations for their production in April, and our PTO-sponsored cheerleaders and basketball league's players

and coaches work and play hard most afternoons in our gym.

With so much going on at EMS this "winter", it will be spring before we know it. Please take every opportunity to check up on your child's grades and attendance on PowerSchool, and contact your child's teacher, school counselor, or administrator with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support of Easton Middle School and our students and staff!
Eric Pittsinger, Assistant Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 3- Report Cards are issued
February 7- Spring Portraits
February 10- Awards Assembly
Grade 8---8:15 Grades 7---8:50
Grade 6---9:30
February 16- Character Counts Assembly
February 17- ½ day for students
February 20- President's Day- School closed
March 6----- Interims issued

THE HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Health and PE Department would like to remind you about the Fitnessgram activities performed during regularly scheduled PE classes. They are designed to measure your child's fitness levels, strengths, flexibility and body composition. A letter will be sent home for you to see what activities are included. For further information please contact the Health and PE Department and EMS. Also see: <http://www.fitnessgram.net/home/> a partner with the National Football League (NFL) Play 60. Stay Safe and Active!

Fall Preventions for Pre-teens & Teens at Home

Preteens are active, but children ages 8 to 12 have less ability than adults to avoid obstacles and prevent falls. Parents and caregivers need to teach their children how to stay safe and prevent fall-related head injuries.

TOP TIPS: Prevent Head Injuries

- *Make sure your child wears a helmet and productive gear every time he or she bikes, rides a scooter, skates or skateboards.
- *Avoid Playgrounds with asphalt, concrete, grass and soil surfaces.

Practice safe behaviors

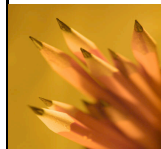
- *Teach children appropriate play behaviors: no pushing or shoving.
- *Don't allow children to play on balconies, decks or around open windows where they can reach the edge.

For more information see:
<http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/pre-teens-and-teens/at-home/falls-prevention.html>

YEARBOOK PICTURE REQUEST

Yearbooks are on sale for \$30 in the front office and in your child's 2nd block class. They can be paid for with cash, a check made out to Easton Middle School or online with a credit card at www.jostens.com. I am accepting photo submissions until February 15th. If you have pictures of your child and his/her friends, your child's team or other extra-curricular events please email the pictures to: lsorrell@tcps.k12.md.us Subject: Yearbook Pictures. You can also post them directly to the yearbook site using the following information:
www.replayit.com or
<https://images.jostens.com/login?user=400112837&pw=ems2012>
Please include names of those pictured and details about the event.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT



The language arts department has been a flurry of activities during the second quarter of school—poetry, novels, short stories, and writing accompanied by a variety of computer enrichments. All of this is leading up to MSA, which will be in March. Here are a few helpful tips and a web address that you can use with your children to prepare them for MSA.
<http://odyssey.tcps.k12.md.us> Compass Learning contains math and language arts activities focusing on many objectives. The Twelve Larry Bell Power Words found on line will help your child have a better grasp of questions found on MSA. We are looking forward to quarter three. Thank you for sending us your best every day!

School Based Health Center Program

A new craze called **Tattoo Parties** (Tat Party) has come to the attention of the Talbot County Health Department. These parties are held in someone's home, usually in the basement without parental knowledge. The clients are not aware if the Tattoo Artist is licensed or professionally trained. These parties are held for several reasons:

- *Clients are looking for a cheap Tattoo
- *Clients are minors (18 years old)
- *The "Artist" isn't licensed and wants to make a quick buck.
- *Frequently alcohol, drugs and cigarettes are also involved

Also of concern, is the cleanliness of the workspace and the equipment being used. During the procedure, microscopic blood could spray on the surrounding surfaces. This then becomes a potential means of transferring bacteria and blood borne pathogens such as HIV, Hepatitis C and MRSA to the clients.

Currently, there are no state provisions regarding regulations, education standards or health safety standards for body piercing and tattooing. However, the law clearly states patrons must be 18 or older.

Lastly...Regrets. Often the clients are greatly disappointed in the quality of the tattoo they received. What you think is "cool" at age 16, you may regret in college or at the work place at age 25.

Dermatologists and plastic surgeons have a growing business of tattoo removal, but at a costly price of between 5,000 and 7,000 dollars.

Submitted by: Mary Bishop, CRNP
Mary Bishop is a Nurse Practitioner with Choptank Community Health System. Ms. Bishop is available to see students at the Easton Middle and Easton High School Based Health Centers each day that school is open. To enroll in the Health Center, visit your school nurse to pick up an enrollment form or go to www.choptankhealth.org. You may also follow Choptank Community Health System on Facebook and Twitter.



THE CLAY BAKERS

Thanks to a generous donation from a corporate sponsor, TCPS students in grades 4-12 can paint a bowl at The Clay Bakers, at no cost, to donate to the Empty Bowls Community Dinner on February 26th from 5pm - 7pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Special TCPS student dates & times for painting a bowl are:

Fri., February 10th, 4:30p.m - 8:30p.m

Sat., February 11th, 1p.m - 5pm

A student voucher is required and availability is limited to a first come, first serve basis. For more info or to request a voucher, please contact Leslie Hamburger 410-320-6560 or nativecalif@gmail.com



*Students in grades 6-12 will receive Service Learning Hours for painting a bowl.

**Don't let other
parents help
your child
break the law.**

**Underage
drinking is
illegal.
Period.**



Contact Talbot Partnership
at 410-819-8067 or visit
www.talbotpartnership.org.



**MEDICAL and DENTAL CARE for
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT CHOPTANK
COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM
OFFERS A SCHOOL BASED HEALTH
PROGRAM?**

**OUR PROGRAM IS OPEN TO
ALL TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Health Services May Include:

- Sick Visits
- Dental Screening
- Health Risk Assessment
- Dental Cleaning
- Medication Prescriptions
- Application of Sealants
- Sports Physicals
- Fluoride Treatment
- Health Education
- Oral Health Education

*Please note, School Services do not take the
place of your Primary Care Provider and/or
Dentist*

***Don't forget to enroll your child in these
programs!***

***Enrollment forms may be obtained from
your school nurse***

Or at www.choptankhealth.org

For more information on these programs,
call 410-479-4306 ext. 5012,

Services provided to children will be billed
to Medicaid or their health insurance carrier.
Students without insurance can apply for a
sliding fee scale.

The Transition Series – 2012

A series of workshops for students 14-
21 years of age with special needs and their
families to prepare for the transition from
high school to adult life.

Talbot County Community Center
Wye Oak Room
6:30 p.m. -8:00p.m.

- March 6 - Guardianship and Estate
Planning
Find out how the “guardianship”
law works and how to set up a
“disability trust” to care for your
child with special needs in the event
you are no longer able.
- March 27 - Social Security
Learn about Social Security
benefits, how to apply for them, and
the eligibility requirements.
- April 17 - DORS and DDA
From job training to financial
assistance, these are 2 of the most
important agencies to learn about.
- May 8 – Transition Resource Fair
This is an opportunity to meet
community providers, learn of their
programs, and ask questions. Over
35 agencies from the mid-shore will
be represented!

(Curling Rink area of the
Community Center)

All workshops are FREE but registration is
required! Please RSVP to Carol Zinser at
410-820-6940 or email to
czinser@tcps.k12.md.us.

Sponsored by the Family Support Services
and SECACs

(Special Education Citizen Advisory
Committees) of

Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne, Kent, and
Dorchester Counties.

