



Elementary

Cheetah Talk

February 2012

"Students, staff and families will strive for excellence at Chapel."

From the Principal

Happy February! It is hard to believe that the month of January is gone and we are into February. Remember that this is a leap year so February has 29 days. The big question is if we are going to see any snow this winter.

We are pleased to welcome Suzanne Walls to the CDES staff. She comes to us from SMES and will be working with Mr. Stebbins and Mrs. Tillman to provide services to our special education students. She will be at CDES on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She will be at WMES on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are so glad Ms. Walls is here!

Quarter 2 report cards will be issued on Friday, February 3rd. Students in grades 3-5 are busy preparing for MSA, which begins on March 12th. It is important that students are in school every day. We have much to do before the assessment.

Friday night basketball games continue through the month of February beginning at 5:30 pm. This is a great way for the family to spend time together and support the CDES basketball players and cheerleaders.

Don't forget to support the CDES PTO. The next general meeting is Tuesday, February 7th. New officers will be elected at the meeting. Think about becoming a PTO officer. It is a great way to serve the staff and students of CDES.

Congratulations to the Straight A Card winners for the month of January:

AM PK – Alex Bent, Lane Hutchison, Jackie Shagen, Zachary Wagner

PM PK – Brooklyn DuBritton, Gavin Groce, Logan McKenzie, Lavinia Tindall

K – Ashlyn Christopher, Colin Dudding, Jarin Gross, Skyler Larrimore

1st – Sarah Ireland, Allie Knotts, Ben Leitzer, Lucas Ponce Mendez

2nd – Tyler Brinsfield, Ashley Malczewski, Julia Martin, Walter Phillips, Lacey Teat

3rd – Avery Buritsch, Garrid Hutchison, Jack Malinowski, Ashleigh Wojcik

4th – Mariah Bentz, Eric Braithwaite, Keairra Collins, Benton Rector

5th – Gracie Beck, Noah Engels, Keely Hanes, Cassidy Mueller

Cheetahs That Run The Extra Mile

Our January nominees are:

Logan Hite, Stephen Kerchner, Tyler Voshell, Martha Harrison, Tony Brierly, Taylor Groce, Levi Sparks, Megan Falcone, Haleigh Delph, Bella Plugge, Ivy Hopkins, Daniel Reyes, Rafael Tobar, Maddi Spies, Jake Booz, Andrew Eason, Austin Hite, Courtney Stevens, Marcus Delano, Caroline Compton, Addison Rice, Lily Wieland, Veronica Phillips. Congratulations to all!

Please stop by and see all our January smiling faces in the bus entrance showcase.

School Improvement

Students in grades 3-5 took their 2nd Reading benchmark on January 12th. 73% of third graders scored proficient, 88% of fourth graders scored proficient and 77% of fifth graders scored proficient. Our students are making good progress as we work toward 100% being proficient on MSA.

Part of our School Improvement Plan is to provide appropriate interventions for students who are in need. We will be adding new intervention groups at Kindergarten and Grade 2. Mrs. Wagner will be working with some Kindergartners in the Foundations program and Ms. Walls will be working with 2nd graders in the Wilson program. We are pleased to be able to add these additional services to help meet the needs of every child.

Yearbook Sponsors

Just a reminder that if you would like to be a sponsor and have your name printed in the yearbook, please have your form returned to the office by February 11, 2012. Also, all advertisements are due the same day.

Character Counts

The pillar of character for the month of February is **Respect**. Take a moment and discuss with your child (ren) the following meaning of Respect:

- ∞ Use good manners, not bad language
- ∞ Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements
- ∞ Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone
- ∞ Be considerate of the feelings of others
- ∞ Don't be selfish

Message from Chapel District PTO

The PTO would like to notify parents of a calendar change for February. We will not be holding a service auction on February 24th as previously stated. The PTO has decided to step up our fundraising efforts by starting a new event called Race for Education. We have decided to start a fund that will go directly for the purchasing of a badly needed sun shade for the playground. **Race for Education** is an annual jog-a-thon, which involves students of all grades" walking or jogging around a designated area for one hour. The success of Race for Education is based on students bringing in the names of people who are potential sponsors for the jog-a-thon. We are hoping that in addition to funds, we create a fun environment to promote health and exercise. Look for more information to be sent home in the bookbags in the next few weeks with the event to be held in the spring!

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks

We are up and running to participate in this valuable program. It is necessary to register using Chapel's ID 02583. **Even if you registered last year, the process must be completed again.** Enrollment is not restricted to just Chapel families. Relatives, neighbors, and friends can be registered. If you need assistance with the registration process, please send a note to the School office,

accompanied by your Giant number (found on your card) and we will register for you.



Parent Support Meeting

“How Can I Help My Child with a Learning Disability?”

- ∞ **Overview of the Characteristics of a Learning Disability**
- ∞ **Strategies for Parents to Help with Skills to Include Homework**
- ∞ **Positive Advocacy Strategies for Parents of Children with a Learning Disability**

Jean Carrion, Special Education Teacher Mentor
Christine Redman, Special Education Facilitator
Dr. Kelly Lane, School Psychologist

Thursday, March 8, 2012
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Talbot County Education Center
12 Magnolia Street, Easton
Light refreshments & FREE childcare

*Preregister and request childcare by March 5th to Carol Zinser at: czinser@tcps.k12.md.us or 410-820-6940

Free Port Discovery Passes!
Expires March 31st

The Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education and Early

Intervention Services is providing free passes for up to 6 people to experience all the fun activities at **Port Discovery Children's Museum** in Baltimore through March, 2012. These are laminated passes that can be checked out for a specific date and returned. Please contact Carol at 410-820-6940 or czinser@tcps.k12.md.us to reserve the passes. 410-820-6940 or czinser@tcps.k12.md.us by February 25th.

Proper table manners are important

Good manners help kids get along with parents, teachers, peers and others. And meals are a daily opportunity to practice. What's reasonable to expect at the dinner table?

Everyone should:

- Help with preparation. This invests the whole family in the meal's success.
- Use polite language. "Please pass the rolls." "This is delicious!" "No thank you."
- Ban technology. No cell phones, video games, TV or other distractions.
- Enjoy themselves. Review basic manners, but talk about fun subjects, too.
- Ask to be excused. Kids may be allowed to leave the table before parents.

Source: M. Galehouse, "Lesson for Thanksgiving: table manners for kids," chron.com, www.chron.com/life/article/Lesson-for-Thanksgiving-table-manners-for-kids-1741443.php.

Facts about Attendance

Make Regular School Attendance a Priority

You may not think you're doing anything special when you help your child get off to school each morning. But think again! Experts say that nothing is more important to school success than the routine and discipline of regular attendance. Here's why:

- Students can't learn when they're not in class.

Learning depends on teachers working with

students. It depends on hearing answers to questions other students ask. And it depends on group work and using school resources.

- Learning builds day by day. Today's learning builds on what happened in class yesterday. If your child was absent, there's no foundation to build on.
- Regular attendance teaches responsibility. A child who attends school regularly takes responsibility for following rules—and stays out of trouble at school.

Show your child that you believe school and attendance are important. Plan vacations, shopping trips and medical appointments for non-school hours. Help your child form routines that make it easier to be on time, such as setting out clothes the night before.

Dates to Remember

February 4- Report Cards Issued

February 7- Executive PTO Meeting 5:30

General PTO Meeting 6:30

February 17- Half Day for Students

February 20- Schools closed

When does worry become worrisome?

A little anxiety is normal—and probably nothing to worry about.

According to research, school-age kids tend to fret most over:

- Their grades.
- Their looks.
- Fitting in.

But when does simple worry become a more serious problem? When it's especially frequent or intense. If that sounds like your child, ask her guidance counselor or pediatrician about getting help.

Source: P. Foxman, Ph.D., *The Worried Child: Recognizing Anxiety in Children and*