



WHITE MARSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Recorder

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER, 2011



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From The Principal's Desk



Welcome Back White Marsh Families!

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you and your child to the 2011-2012 school year at White Marsh Elementary! The faculty, staff, and I look forward to providing our students the best education possible.

This year, students may enter the building at 8:50 and morning announcements will begin at 9:10. After 9:15 students are considered tardy, and must be signed in at the office by a parent or guardian. Students arriving after 11:15 are considered absent for the morning and a note is required stating the reason for the absence. Students leaving school after 1:45 are considered present for the day; however, instruction is not over until 3:40 and it's important that your child be here until the end of the day. We will begin our dismissal at 3:45. In our attempt to minimize distractions during the instructional day, I'm asking that you only come to the office to request that your child be dismissed early when it is absolutely necessary to do so.

All parents are invited to join us on September 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. for our annual "Back-to-School-Night". During the general meeting in the cafeteria, data from the 2011 Maryland School Assessments will be shared and our Parent/Teacher Organization will hold a brief meeting. Following the general meeting, you will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom for a presentation given by your child's teacher. Please plan to join us.

Sincerely,
Marcia A. Sprankle, Ed.D.



Calendar	1
<i>Fitnessgram</i>	2
Student Recognition	2
Vacations	3
Picture Day	3
Band Night	3
Reading Tutors	4
AHERA	4
New Staff	4
IPM	5
Title 1	6
Feedback	7

Mark Your Calendar

September 16-Welcome Back Fall Picnic 5:00 pm

September 21- Early dismissal for students 12:45 pm

October 11- Fall Picture Day

October 20 & 21 – Schools closed for students

Student Recognition

We want to be sure that we communicate well in advance how students will be recognized for their achievements throughout the school year.

Monthly Recognition

Every month each homeroom teacher and related arts teacher will select two students to be recognized for Student of the Month. These students will be selected based on their outstanding character for the month. Students will be recognized during morning announcements and will be issued a certificate.

Quarterly Recognition

At the end of each quarter, those students in grades Prek – 5 having perfect attendance (zero absences) will be recognized during morning announcements and issued a certificate.

Students in grades 3 – 5 will be recognized for Honor Roll and Principal's Honor Roll during morning announcements. These students will be issued a certificate, the appropriate honor roll ribbon and light breakfast treats at a student gathering in the cafeteria. Our PTO will provide the breakfast treats. ☺ The dates of the gatherings will be included in the school newsletters.

End of the Year Recognition

At the end of the 2011 – 2012 school year students will be recognized formally for their perfect attendance (zero absences) and outstanding academic achievement in grades K-5. The recognition will take place during the closing assemblies. Students in Prek will be recognized for their perfect attendance (zero absences) in their classroom during the final culminating activity. The dates and times will be announced in the school newsletter at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Fitnessgram

Throughout the school year, all students will receive instruction on the health related components of fitness as a part of the Physical Education curriculum. Students will also participate in activities that help develop coordination, aerobic capacity, flexibility, and muscular strength and endurance.

Again this year, Talbot County Physical Education teachers will be using the ***Fitnessgram*** program to collect and evaluate information from students about their total physical fitness. The purpose of ***Fitnessgram*** testing is to point out areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.

Fitnessgram tests include:

1. PACER – measuring cardio-respiratory endurance.
2. Sit & Reach – assessing flexibility.
3. Curl-ups – measuring abdominal strength and endurance.
4. Push-ups – measuring upper body strength and endurance.
5. Height & Weight – assessing body composition.

Fitnessgram testing will take place about twice a year during regular Physical Education class time. Results will be available from the teacher as part of regular progress reporting. Scores will be used to help students develop personal fitness plans and goals, and will not be shared with others or used as a grade.

Student motivation and enthusiasm are important to accurate measurement of performance. Please help your child take a positive approach toward ***Fitnessgram*** testing as a part of identifying their physical fitness level, successfully achieving goals, and developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

If you have further questions about the ***Fitnessgram*** assessment of health related fitness, please feel free to contact your child's Physical Education teacher.

Vacations & Make Up Work

The following items should be kept in mind when planning school year vacations:

- Family vacations are **un**excused absences. The schools strongly discourage families scheduling vacations during the school year. If a student will be absent due to a vacation, the principal must be notified of the dates in advance. While those absences will still be coded unlawful, prior notification will eliminate them from being counted towards grades being automatically affected or towards potential court action.
- Remember that ALL students are allowed to make up their academic work, regardless of the reason for absence. Students shall be allotted two (2) school days for each lawful or unlawful day absent to make up work. These make-up absence days will begin the second day after the student returns to school.
- There is the opportunity to *make up* work; however, teachers are not expected to provide work to students in advance. Moreover, the request to have work faxed or e-mailed while a child is on vacation is not a reasonable request, and will not be accommodated.



Picture Day

Our Fall Picture Day is scheduled for October 11. Watch for more information to come!

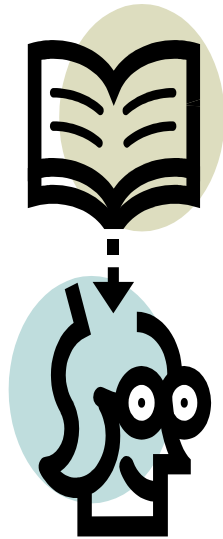
Band Night

Band Night will be held September 22nd at 6 p.m. This is the night that the parents of fifth graders get to meet with the salesperson from Salisbury Music to rent an instrument for their student. Keep an eye out for flyers to be sent home.



Reading Tutors wanted!

The Reading Intervention for Student Excellence (RISE) program will be starting in late September. If you are interested in being a reading tutor with 1st and 2nd grade students this year, please see Mrs. Redmond at school, e-mail her at sredmond@tcps.k12.md.us, or call her at 410-476-3144 for more details. This is a fun and rewarding program for anyone who loves to read and would like to pass that love for reading along to a child.



Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

In October 1986, the U.S. Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under this law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require most schools to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings and implement response actions in a timely manner.

These regulations assign schools many new responsibilities. Our program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in our asbestos management plan. This plan contains information on our inspections, reinspections, response actions and post-response action activities, including periodic surveillance activities that are planned or are in progress.

You can review this plan during normal business hours without cost or restriction.

If you have any questions about reviewing our management plan please contact:

Mr. Bruce Horvath - 410-822-3360

Welcome Ms. Spurry, Mr. Leffler and Ms. Fox, Ms. Julia

We would like to take the time to welcome our new staff, Ms. Caitlyn Spurry, Mr. Shawn Leffler, Ms. Nichole Fox and Mrs. Julia Harvey. Ms. Spurry is our third First Grade teacher, Mr. Leffler is our new Art teacher, Ms. Fox is working with Ms. Lord and Ms. Julia will be working with Ms. Lori. Be sure to say hello to these folks when you see them in the halls.



Talbot County Public Schools Integrated Pest Management Program

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program employed by the Talbot County Public Schools is a proactive rather than a reactive approach to insect and rodent control in school facilities. The IPM program includes routine inspections or surveys of all school facilities to identify conditions conducive to pest invasion, to ensure early detection of pest presence, and to monitor infestation levels. As a first step in pest control, the IPM approach employs a number of preventative strategies and alternatives to pesticide application, such as: employee education, source reduction, inspection and identification of potential problem areas, and improved sanitation. Each approach is monitored and evaluated, and modifications are made if necessary. Pesticides are used only as a last resort.

Maryland Law requires that parents of all elementary school children be notified prior to a pesticide application made in a school building or to school ground's. Staff Members & Parents of middle school or high school students who wish to be notified prior to a pesticide application in a school building or to school grounds must request that they be placed on the school system's pesticide notification list. To be added to the notification list, send a written request which includes your name, address, and telephone number as well as your child's name and school to:

Ralph Potter
Talbot County Public Schools
12 Magnolia Street
P.O. Box 1029
Easton, MD 21601

The following is a list of the pesticides and bait stations, by common name that may be used in school buildings during school year:

1. Deltamethrin----Suspend-General insect
2. Hydroprene-----Gentrol-growth inhibitor
3. Piperonyl Butoxide and Pyrethrins—Bp 50-ulv fogging
4. Fipronil---maxforce roach station
5. Glyphosate-Round-up
6. Trifluralin--Treflan
7. Triisopropanolamine---momentum
8. Diquat dibromide—Reward
9. Tralomethrin---Spartan Wasp& Hornet Killer
10. Hydramethylnon—Maxforce ant killer bait stations
11. DITHIOPYR-Dimension plus fertilizer
12. Cyhalothrin-221L

Please be advised that this list may not include all pesticides that may be applied due to the fact that unanticipated pest problems might arise during the school year that could warrant the use of a pesticide not typically applied by the school system.

Copies of material safety data sheets (MSDS) and product labels for each pesticide and bait station used on school property are maintained by the contact person. Persons wishing to review this information should contact Ralph Potter to arrange an appointment. For additional information about the Integrated Pest Management Program, please contact Ralph Potter at (410) 822-3360.

Healthy Children are Better Learners!

School-Based Health Program

School Based Health Centers are a partnership between the Talbot County Public Schools, Choptank Community Health System and the Talbot County Health Department. The Health Centers are located in Easton Elementary, Easton Middle, Easton High and the St. Michaels campus. We are a Health Center within the school that works in collaboration with the school nurses and your primary medical provider.

Health services available to students include:

- ◆ Treatment for minor health issues/injuries ◆
- Assisting the Primary Doctor with managing chronic illnesses ◆ Prescriptions ◆ Health assessments
- ◆ Routine/diagnostic tests ◆ Health education ◆ Referrals to specialists
- ◆ Age appropriate health care ◆ Sports physicals

School Based Dental Program

Choptank Community Health System will again offer preventive dental services to all students in Talbot County Public Schools.

Dental services available to students may include:

- ◆ Dental cleaning ◆ Fluoride treatments ◆ Sealants
- ◆ Oral Health Care Instruction
- ◆ Tooth Care kit

PTO CORNER

WMES PTO welcomes everyone back to a great new school year! Our meetings are held monthly at the school at 6pm. These meetings are open to all parents and guardians of WMES students.

Our Executive Board members for 2011-2012 are Holly Anderson and Jenn Latham, Co-Presidents, Laura Kilmon, Secretary, Gamble Foster, Treasurer, Tammy Park and Kim Mull, Fundraising Coordinators, Amy Miller and Lindsey Weedon, Volunteer/Membership Coordinators, Ms. Debbie Harper, Teacher Representative, Dr. Marcia Sprankle, Principal, Jody Murdoch, School Manager.

Please consider joining the PTO. Our organization helps fund projects and events for every child in our school. Your commitment will help our organization remain strong.

Title I

White Marsh is again designated as a Title I Targeted Assistance School. We have been given this identification because we have more than 35% of our students receiving free and reduced meals (FARMS). This percentage is steadily increasing, and some of our students are able to receive both breakfast and lunch at a reduced price or free. Keep in mind that this is based on the household income. If you think your child may qualify for FARMS, do not hesitate to request for an application. At any time during the school year, if your monthly income changes (decreases), ask for a meal application. This could be one less 'stressor' during a time of hardship. Your child could qualify for FARMS. It is important to note that you and your child's identification will be kept confidential.

As a Title I Targeted Assistance School, Mrs. Carla Hill, will continue as our Title I Intervention Specialist. We were able to use Title I funding to continue this needed position. Mrs. Hill will be pulling some of our students out of class to give them additional support in Math and Reading. These students are not necessarily students who qualify for FARMS. The majority of her time will be spent on working with students in Math. This is based on the end of year data. We are so happy to have Mrs. Hill continue as our Title I Intervention Specialist.

