



EDGEMERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7201 North Point Road, Sparrows Point MD 21219

Principal's Message

Happy February! We have a busy month ahead of us!

Our intermediate students have started working on our "Edgemere: Past and Future" project. We are excited to welcome Mindy Basara from Channel 11 News as a guest speaker. She will be working with our fifth grade students to develop effective interviewing techniques. As part of the comprehensive project, intermediate students in grades three through five will have the opportunity to work with drones, archive information, create oral and artifact histories, interview community members, and take field trips to local businesses, heritage centers, and properties. This is an ongoing project that will culminate in a community expo on May 11, 2017. Mark your calendars!

During the month of February we celebrate black history month. Our theme for this year will be "Innovators throughout history." This theme ties closely with current ELA units for many grades and also correlates with our focus on building innovative and perseverant mindsets in our students. Every day we will highlight an inventor on the morning announcements. Check out our Facebook page to follow along at home and find out more about famous black inventors. Each day we will ask a quiz question about the inventor from the previous day. A randomly selected correct answer will be chosen and the student who submitted the randomly selected correct answer will win a prize generously donated by the Ravens organization.

We will also host a "Read-In: Reading to Remember." On February 17th we will host 23 guest readers. Our entire school will stop everything and read at 9:30am as we celebrate history, culture, and literature.

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EVENTS

February 6th - 10th: Kindness Grams being sold at arrival time (see attached flyer)

February 10th: PTA Sweetheart Dance (6:00pm - 8:00pm)

February 13th: PTA Meeting (6:00pm - 7:00pm)

February 14th: Kindness Grams are delivered

February 17th: Half Day for Students (professional development)

February 20th: Schools closed (President's Day)

KEEP UP WITH EES:



@Edgemere_BCPS



www.facebook.com/EdgemereElementary

Our guest readers include high ranking BCPS employees, local politicians, local church representatives, BCPS Board Members, Education Foundation Board Members, the Dundalk Precinct Police Captain, and representatives from local community organizations.

During the month of February your students will also take the MAP test. This test is a nationally normed test and students in grades 1-5 took this test in the fall. Please remind your students of the importance of good test taking skills. This test offers us valuable information on how your student is learning and how we can strengthen our instructional programs.

At Edgemere, we are dedicated lifelong learners. Our teachers and staff are working hard every day to collaborate, learn, and implement new teaching strategies and techniques. We are dedicated to providing the most rigorous, comprehensive, innovative, and fun learning program for your child. This year we opened our innovation lab and we are excited to announce that our television studio will be fully upgraded shortly. We are excited to offer our students the opportunity to engage in more meaningful, technologically advanced, project based learning opportunities. Thank you for your continued support of our teachers, staff, and administration. We are proud to support your children.

-Jennifer Lynch, Principal



First graders are getting ideas for their kindness snowflakes by reading snowflakes teachers have written.

Counselor's Corner

During the month of February, we will continue to enhance our school's climate through deliberate and random acts of KINDNESS. We will brightening each other's days in a variety of ways. Our smiles will be contagious!

In addition, I look forward to spending time with each and every class. Our IGE- 3s and pre-kindergarten students will become more independent as we explore and rehearse problem-solving strategies. They will "knock your socks" off with their effective use of their words! Our kindergarten- 5th grade classes will reach the expert- level about the following, critical topics:

Kindergarten: Fairness

1st Grade: Pride of Personal Accomplishments

2nd Grade: Appreciation of Differences

3rd Grade: Uniqueness

4th Grade: Strength of Friendship

5th Grade: Equality

A heartfelt, thank you, for making our school a happy place!

-Michelle Coale, School Counselor

Nurse Clara's Notes

We celebrate our love for those closest to us on Valentine's Day. Did you know that the month of February is also "American Heart Month?" With the heart being the symbol for love, what better time to make sure we are taking the best care of our and our children's hearts!

Did you know that coronary heart disease (CHD) is the #1 killer of American males and females? Heredity, although not a controllable risk factor, does play a role in heart disease. Children whose parents have heart disease are more likely to develop heart disease later in life. Therefore, it is important to concentrate on controllable factors such as not smoking, keeping cholesterol levels and blood pressure within normal ranges, becoming physically active, and maintaining a healthy weight.

Studies show that signs of heart disease begin developing in childhood. Children with high cholesterol levels are more likely to become adults with high levels also. In recent years there has also been an increase in pediatric obesity as well as pediatric hypertension (high blood pressure). These factors are known to be linked to heart disease. Experts at the World Health Organization (WHO) say that obesity, in children and adults, is rapidly increasing and becoming a threat to the health of populations all over the world.

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), it is important to establish healthy lifestyle habits early to keep the risk of heart disease low. Following a low-saturated fat and low cholesterol diet, avoiding obesity, and being physically active are all great habits to start. So this February as you celebrate love with your families, think about keeping your heart healthy and in peak working order!

Happy Valentine's Day!

-Clara Urtes, RN

Awards Assembly

We were excited to share student successes at our second quarter Awards Assembly. Thank you to all our parents who shared in our special day. Our third quarter awards assembly will be held on April 19th. The primary assembly will be held from 9:15am to 10:00am. The intermediate awards assembly will be held from 10:15am to 11:00am. For quarter three we will be awarding the following accomplishments:

- Perfect Attendance: Students who were absent zero days with no more than two total lateness or early dismissals.
- Honor Roll: Students who received all A's and B's and 3s on their report card. These students will have their names read during the assembly and the awards will be given in class.
- Up to 5 individual teacher awards: Each teacher will select up to five individualized awards to highlight the achievements and learning behaviors of students in their class.

Social Committee

February means snow! Thank you to all of our families, whom contributed to our winter wonderland, with “kindness snowflakes!” Just like the magic of a “snow day,” smiles and fun were accumulated to record amounts. We cherished the beauty and canceled the snow plows.

Assessments

We will be completing our Winter MAP testing during the month of February. The information collected from this assessment will be used to monitor the progress of our students and will help our teachers guide instruction for the remainder of the year. Each student in grades kindergarten through fifth will complete an assessment in math and reading. Each assessment will take students less than one hour. Families will be provided with a score report printed by Baltimore County’s Office of Assessment once the testing window closes in March. Please check with your student’s teacher for specific testing dates and times.

Your Voice Matters

BCPS wants to hear from you! BCPS is encouraging all parents, students and staff to take the annual stakeholders’ survey. You can take the survey and view old surveys by visiting the following link:

<http://www.bcps.org/teamBCPS/stakeholder/>

MEDIA CENTER MINUTE

Intermediate classes are immersing themselves in our grant project while learning 21st century skills in an authentic manner. We are experiencing hands on application of our skills.

In 5th grade, students are working on developing their questioning techniques and will be applying the advice they received from their assembly with WBAL anchor Mindy Basara and her accompanying cameraperson. They are also working on developing their historical knowledge of the area so they are prepared for interviewing next month. 5th graders have written letters to local businesses asking if collection boxes can be placed at their sites. They are beginning to bring in artifacts and contact local citizens they know about writing their memories down for us. (We’d love to have you help us out. Memories can be submitted to edgemere2017@gmail.com or sent to school via your child.)

4th Grade students have chosen their geographic area of focus and are using technology, Edmodo, to communicate and collaborate with their peers in other 4th grade classrooms. They will begin to learn marketing and advertising techniques that they can apply to their final projects.

3rd grade students have begun to explore the visual history of our community. We will be researching the characteristics of different past decades to form a historical perspective for photos. If you have photos of the community that you can share with us, please email them to edgemere2017@gmail.com or send them to school in an envelope with your name clearly marked on it. We will return them as soon as they are scanned.

2nd grade students will be exploring award winning books and learning more about the various national book awards and the criteria for a book to win that award.

1st grade students will be working on visualizing fiction and nonfiction texts. They will also be exploring figurative language in poetry.

Kindergarten students will be beginning a study of the works of author/illustrator Eric Carle.

Good News...

Our school has been awarded an Education Foundation of BCPS grant! Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be exploring the past, present and future of our school and the North Point Peninsula area. But we can't do it without you! Did you attend the old Edgemere Elementary? Did you or a family member work at the former Bethlehem Steel Plant? Do your family members have fond memories of BayShore Park or the former Ft. Howard VA hospital? Was your family one of the original farming families? Do you fondly recall places no longer here? If so, we want to hear from you.

Our students are looking for older community members willing to share their stories, photos and artifacts with us. Stories and photos can be emailed to edgemere2017@gmail.com (please include your first and last name) or dropped off in Mrs. Bixby's mailbox in the school office. We are asking that your memories be shared by the end of February. If you have an interesting artifact of days gone by on the North Point Peninsula/Bethlehem Steel Plant, please contact [Mrs. Bixby](#), [Mrs. Borucki](#) or [Mrs. Davis](#) directly.

Funds from our grant will be used to purchase some new equipment for the TV studio that will benefit the entire school community. Mark your calendars for May 11th when we will host a community expo showcasing this special project.

A Word about Attendance...

Parents can now access their child's attendance through BCPS One. All you have to do is log on to BCPS One and then click on Student Information. Directions for parent and student access are also posted in the BCPS One Parent Communication Center. The more a child attends school, the more he/she learns. This access is designed to show you (the parent) how frequently your child attends school. Baltimore County Attendance Policy states that students should have a 94% attendance rate or higher (only two days absent per quarter).

For more information please go to: <https://bcpsone.bcps.org/>

Building Blue Jays

Congratulations to the Building Bluejays' core team:

Conrad B.
Riley D.
Matthew J.
Sarah M.
Mark M.
Davison N.
Paisley K.
Lulu P.
Emma P.
Raven W.

They attended the First Lego League Regional Tournament on Saturday, January 28th at Catonsville High School. They worked hard all building season and represented Edgemere Elementary splendidly. Great job Building Bluejays!



Innovation Lab

The Innovators Lab has been open for business for about 5 months now and the students are having so much fun and learning ways to problem solve and innovate! Second Grade students were in the Lab working on designing and building storm shelters to go along with the curriculum in their Language Arts unit. Third Grade students will be going into the Innovators Lab by the end of February to build inventions based on a research project that goes along with their Language Arts unit.

Arrival and Dismissal

As a reminder, please follow all traffic patterns during arrival and dismissal. The cars in the car rider line should loop through the parking lot to minimize disruption to the main road. Cars should maintain a single file line throughout the line. Please follow all pedestrian rules. Children should cross at the crosswalks and should not be dropped off in the parking lot or from the main road. Safety is our utmost priority.

Blue Jay Cafe

The Blue Jay Café will be having some fun contests and give-aways for the month of February.

Friday, February 3rd, we will be have samples of mozzarella dippers for the students to try. They will be on Monday's lunch menu available for students to enjoy.

On Tuesday, February 14th we will have our first annual St. Valentine's Day Contest. Guess how many candy hearts are in the container and win Valentines chocolates! Buy a lunch and enter your chance to win.

The café offers an assortment of hot and cold breakfast items daily. Stop in and eat breakfast! During the month of February, we will have coloring/activity sheets available for kids at breakfast. We also have rulers, book marks and pencils available during breakfast.

Lucky tray day will be held on Friday, Feb. 17. Buy a lunch - if you find a sticker under your tray, you win a stuffed animal!

Technology Tip

You can check your child's progress in Math by reviewing their work on Pearson. Have your child log into BCPS One. Open the Digital Content link. Click on the green P. Click on Classes. From here, open the "Completed" tab. This will show you any work your child completed in class. If you choose, you can have your child complete similar problems at home or redo any missed problems with pencil and paper for extra practice. This is a great way to keep up-to-date with what is being done in Math class!