**Office:** (443) 809 – 5267

Nurse: (443) 809 – 5449

**Fax:** (443) 809 – 5268



# **Panda Press**

Principal: Valerie Lewis, vlewis@bcps.org

Assistant Principal: Geralynn Edwards, gedwards@bcps.org

Administrative Secretary: Shanel Diggs Harris, <a href="mailto:sdiggsharris@bcps.org">sdiggsharris@bcps.org</a>

Front Office Secretary: Connie Nittinger, <a href="mailto:cnittinger@bcps.org">cnittinger@bcps.org</a>

School Counselors: Tina Kubala, kkubala@bcps.org and Carly Okeson, cokeson@bcps.org

School Nurse: Kelly Franker: kfranker@bcps.org Caliday Extended Care: (410) 329 – 8378

School Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Morning Drop-off Times: 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Afternoon Pick-up Time: 4:00 p.m.

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy November, Pine Grove Pandas!

Yesterday, we celebrated our October Panda PRIDE behavior incentive with a book character parade. Students and staff had a blast! Each month, the goal is to reward students for good behavior with a special incentive.

The following classes are our October attendance winners. They won the opportunity to display the Excellent Attendance Banner in their classrooms for the month of November.

- KG- Ms. Mahoney's class
- 1st grade- Ms. Auffarth's class
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade- Ms. Andrzejewski's class (2<sup>nd</sup> time winner)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Ms. Lauter's class (2<sup>nd</sup> time winner)
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade- Ms. Giuffrida's class
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade- Ms. Richardson's class

Please encourage good nightly routines, so students are able to get to school each day and on time.

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first quarter of school. This month, we will celebrate **American Education Week (AEW)**. American Education Week is November 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to have parents visit their children in school and observe our rigorous instructional program. Grandparents are welcome as well, but please keep in mind that non-school aged children are discouraged from attending. We are asking parents to stop in prior to AEW to scan your state-issued ID. This will allow us to have a pre-printed badge ready for you on your visitation day. While visiting, please check the *PGES Lost and Found* to reclaim your Panda's missing items.

The classroom visitation schedule is as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten	Friday, November 17, 2023	9:30-10:45 a.m. (Morning Session)	
	Friday, November 17, 2023	2:30-3:45 p.m. (Afternoon Session)	
Kindergarten	Wednesday, November 15	9:30-10:45 a.m.	
First Grade	Tuesday, November 14	9:15-10:15 a.m.	
Second Grade	Tuesday, November 14	9:30-10:30 a.m.	
Third Grade	Thursday, November 16	9:30-10:45 a.m.	
Fourth Grade	TBD	TBD	
Fifth Grade	Wednesday, November 15	2:30-3:30 p.m.	
Ms. Koumides' Class	Thursday, November 16	11:30-12:15 p.m.	
Ms. Ryan's Class	Wednesday, November 15	9:30-10:30 a.m.	
Ms. Magruder's Class	Tuesday, November 14	ovember 14 10:30-11:30 a.m.	

I look forward to seeing you all!

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

If you have changed your phone number, email, and other contact information, please notify the main office so we can update in Focus. We need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency.

## DATES TO REMEMBER – A LOOK AHEAD...

**Thursday 11/2** – Wear College Gear, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip

Friday 11/3 – End of 1st Marking Period, School Closes for Students at 1:00 p.m.

Monday 11/13 – School Closed for Students

Tuesday 11/14 – Friday 11/17 – American Education Week

Wednesday 11/15 – Report Card Distribution

**Monday 11/20** – Pre-K Conference Day (No School for Pre-K Students)

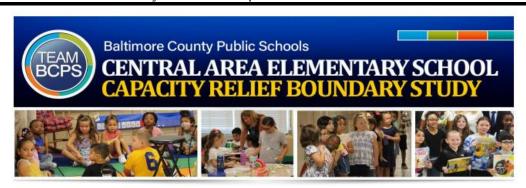
**Tuesday 11/21** – Pre-K and Elementary Conference Day (No School for Students)

## Tuesday 11/28 – PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the PGE Library

Virtual Option - Google Meet joining link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/gge-yzbb-gvo">https://meet.google.com/gge-yzbb-gvo</a>

## CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY STUDY

This is a reminder of the public information sessions that will be occurring on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Cockeysville MS and November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Loch Raven HS and the related online survey that will be open from November 15 to December 3.



#### **Participating Schools:**

Carroll Manor, Cromwell Valley Regional Magnet, Halstead Academy, Hampton, Jacksonville, Lutherville, Mays Chapel, Oakleigh, Padonia International, Pine Grove, Pinewood, Pleasant Plains, Pot Spring, Rodgers Forge, Riderwood, Stoneleigh, Timonium, Warren, and West Towson elementary schools

#### **Public Information Session:**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 7 – 8 p.m. Cockeysville Middle School, Cafeteria Thursday, November 16, 2023, 7 – 8 p.m. Loch Raven High School, Cafeteria

#### **Board of Education Dates:**

Recommendation: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Greenwood Building E
Board Public Hearing: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Loch Raven High School, Auditorium

#### **Board Decision:**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Greenwood Building E

#### **Committee Meeting Dates:**

- . Thursday, September 21, 2023, 6-8:30 p.m., G.W. Carver Center, Cafeteria
- Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6–8:30 p.m., G.W. Carver Center, Cafeteria
- · Thursday, November 2, 2023, 6-8:30 p.m., G.W. Carver Center, Cafeteria
- Thursday, January 4, 2024, 6–8:30 p.m., G.W. Carver Center, Cafeteria Snow Date: Friday, January 5, 2024, 6–8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6–8:30 p.m., G.W. Carver Center, Cafeteria Snow Date: Friday, January 26, 2024, 6–8:30 p.m.



## **CARPOOL**

Parents, please take note of the **Right Turn Only** sign at the carpool exit. There are no left turns out of the carpool lane from 8:00-9:30 a.m. and 3:00-4:30 p.m. When cars attempt to make left turns during these times, it backs up the carpool line. We also ask that you do not cut in line in front of those who have been patiently waiting their turn. We appreciate your assistance with helping our carpool to run smoothly.

## **AVID NEWS**



## What should you expect to see in an AVID elementary classroom?

- · Student Empowerment
- · Organizational tools, planners and agendas used frequently, consistently and productively
- · All students using note taking strategies for all subjects
- · Both students and teachers engaged in all levels of questioning
- · WICOR strategies being used daily among all subjects

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR ADJUSTMENTS

Schools and offices are scheduled to close three hours early on December 22, 2023, and May 17, 2024. During these two early-release days, students will engage in asynchronous learning (virtual, self-paced) while teachers and staff engage in planning and professional development.

On asynchronous learning days, students complete activities/lessons on their own at home as part of independent work. Examples may include, but are not limited to pre-recorded video lessons, resource videos, assigned readings, and posted assignments. These lessons and activities will be created centrally by the Division of Curriculum Instruction and posted online for students and families.

Devices will be sent home to accommodate students who do not have any outstanding debts.

## MIND OVER MATTER

Choose any 3 activities to complete each week. 😊				
Circle Prompt: What	Go outside and find one	Make a list of things you can	Do one act of kindness to make life easier	Circle Prompt:
are you looking	thing that reminds you of	do to be kind. Try to complete	for someone. Free resource to help make	Talk about a time when
forward to the most	someone. Share what	at least 1 activity each day for	kindness the norm!	you felt proud of yourself.
today?	you find and your why.	one week.	Acts of Kindness	
Play a game of	Circle Prompt:	Virtual Calming Room	How does your body feel when you have	The power of "yet"
gratitude by going	How do you deal with		strong emotions? How does your body feel	Write about or draw
back and forth with	stress?	-000-	when you are really scared, excited, or mad?	something that you cannot
someone naming the		BOOK OF THE	Pick an emotion and draw a picture and label	do yet, but you want to get
things you are grateful		calming	of your body where you notice that feeling in	better at. What are some
for.			your body.	steps that will help you
				achieve your goal?
Leaf Breathing	Movement: Stretch-it	Turkey Breathing	Movement: Picking Apples	Apple Pie Breathing
	Sitting or standing,	-00	Ask students to imagine reaching up to pick	Breath in to smell the pie,
1	stretch your arms up and		an apple from the tallest branch of the tree.	blow out to cool the pie.
	bend side to side.		Then bend down and pick up an apple and	
· > × - × -	Stretch your legs. Move		place it in your pretend basket. Repeat 3	(1)
The state of the s	your head looking left		times.	
	and right. Roll your			
	shoulders.			

Office of School Climate and Culture: MTSS

November 2023

## **COUNSELORS' CORNER**

As part of our School Counseling Program, your child's class will have the opportunity to engage in a counseling core curriculum lesson during the month of November. The theme for this month is Relationship Skills. Students in both primary and intermediate grades will identify and reflect upon concrete social and communication skills that will enrich their close relationships with family and friends. Fifth grade will incorporate a discussion around peer pressure and how to respond to being peer pressured.

## For Fifth Grade and PK Only: Magnet Programs

Magnet applications are currently available online. The purpose of Magnet programs is to enhance students' educational experiences and academic performance by providing unique learning environments, innovative instructional programs, and specialized programs of study and/or experiences that extend and enrich the existing BCPS curricula, promote student diversity\*, and align with evolving community and industry/business needs.

**2023-2024 Magnet information can be accessed with the following link:** Magnet Programs - Division of Curriculum and Instruction (bcps.org)

The application deadline is 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2023.

## Food Resource for Thanksgiving

The giving season has arrived! The Ravens Roost will provide 15 Pine Grove families with a Thanksgiving Dinner consisting of:

- 10-15 lb. turkey (Or Gift Card)
- 5 lbs. of potatoes
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Pies

The Ravens Roost package must be picked up the morning of November 18, 2023 (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) at:

VFW Post 6506 8777 Philadelphia Road Rosedale, MD 21237 (410) 391-6506

If you would like to receive this food, please complete the following google form. <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L98WaVspW-MkGI2-Uiin1p3T\_-S-zyRM\_ekygAdCEXY/edit">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L98WaVspW-MkGI2-Uiin1p3T\_-S-zyRM\_ekygAdCEXY/edit</a>

All information will be kept confidential! Please let me know as soon as possible. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at kkubala@bcps.org





Tina Kubala & Carly Okeson PGES School Counselors

#### **NURSE'S NEWS**

Hello, Parents/Guardians.

As we transition into the colder months, it is essential to be vigilant about our children's health and well-being. November is traditionally the start of the cold and flu season, and we want to ensure that our students stay healthy and comfortable.

Cold and flu viruses are more prevalent during the fall and winter, making it crucial for us to be prepared. To reduce the risk of illness, please remind your child about the importance of frequent handwashing and good respiratory hygiene. If your child does become ill, we kindly request that they stay home to recover. BCPS requires students with temperatures greater than 100\*F to remain home until fever free without medication for 24 hours. This not only helps in their recuperation but also prevents the spread of illness to others in the school community.

Additionally, as the weather becomes cooler and unpredictable, we encourage parents to send extra clothing to school with their children. Accidents can happen, and having a spare set of

clothing in your child's backpack can make all the difference. Whether it is a spill during lunch or an unexpected puddle on the playground, having a change of clothes ensures your child can stay comfortable and focused on their learning. Please label the extra clothing with your child's name and make sure it is appropriate for the season. Being proactive in this regard, we can ensure that accidents are quickly and discreetly managed, helping your child to continue their school day with minimal disruption.

We appreciate your support in keeping our students healthy and ready to learn. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse's office. Let's work together to make this November a safe and healthy month for our children.

Warm Regards, Nurse Franker

## READING SPECIALIST

## The Science of Reading: Information for Parents

The "Science of Reading" is not something new. It refers to research that has been conducted over the past 20 years by cognitive scientists and reading experts. The research performed shows us how we learn to read. Our past reading experiences have been based on tradition and observation, not evidence. Through the science of reading research, reading experts have learned which parts of the brain are responsible for reading development, the skills that are involved, and how it all works together.

## There are some terms you may hear this school year ...

- ➤ **Phonemic Awareness**: the ability to identify, hear, and manipulate the smallest sound heard in spoken language.
- **Phonological Awareness**: the awareness of the sound structure of words
- **Word Mapping**: the process of breaking a word down into its phonemes and writing the graphemes that represent the phonemes.
- **Phonemes:** the smallest unit of sound (44 phonemes in the English Language)
- ➤ **Graphemes:** the symbol that represents a phoneme

## How can I help my student at home with decoding?

o Instead of saying, the letter a says /a/, ask your child what letter represents the /a/ sound.

Segment words to build phonemic awareness:

#### Primary

- Choose a word and say it aloud (cat)
- Talk about the meaning of the word (I have a cat with brown fur.)
- Tap the phonemes of the word together (/k/-/a/-/t/)
- Ask How many sounds does the word have? (3)
- Say the word together again (cat)

## Intermediate

- Choose a word and say it aloud (reptile)
- Talk about the meaning of the word (A snake is a reptile.)
- Ask, How many syllables do you hear in the word? (rep tile)

- Tap out the phonemes in each syllable (/r/-/e/-/p/ -- /t/-/i/-/l/)
- Identify the types of syllables in the word (rep closed tile silent e)
- Say the word together (reptile)

## How can I help my student with language comprehension?

- Read books together that would be too difficult for your child to read alone.
   Discuss vocabulary words and their meaning.
- o Be selective of the vocabulary words you use in your daily interactions.
  - Instead of saying "It's time to **clean** up." say "It's time to **tidy** up."
- o Use thinking strategies and share your thinking ...
  - Visualize or picture what you are reading.
  - Make predictions about what will come next.
  - Connect what you are reading to another text or something you have seen or experienced.

## **GRADE-LEVEL NEWS**

## PRE-K

Prekindergarten friends are falling in love with learning! We are working on beginning reading skills such as rhyming and identifying beginning sounds in words. We are also learning many print/book awareness concepts like parts of a book, title, author, illustrator, identifying spaces between words. We even have a fun song to help us with directionality-left to right/top to bottom! In Math, counting strategies have been our focus! We are using one-to-one correspondence to tell how many and to build sets, using lots of different fall manipulatives. Pre-K would like to give a huge shout-out to our wonderful PTA for including us in the Fun Run! The students persevered and ran up to five laps! It was an awesome time! The Kindness Craze has been a great way for us to practice showing kindness towards others (in the classroom, at home, and in the community) and adding to our kindness tree display!

#### KINDERGARTEN

Fall is here! Our Kindergarten skills are changing as rapidly as the weather. Please help your child be a Prepared Panda by sending the folder, dressing for the weather, and having snack including a drink every day. This is a great time to refresh school supplies. Does your child have plenty of glue sticks, pencils, and crayons? In Language Arts, we are learning about nouns, verbs, and adjectives. We are mastering sight words and using our letter sounds to read and write words. Our next Reading unit will focus on the people and places that make our community special. In Math, we continue to develop counting skills and recognizing quantities and the counting sequence. Unit 2 emphasizes combinations of numbers that make five and also introduces the process of comparing quantities within 10. Thank you for helping to make Kindergarten great!

## 1st

**Phonics**: We are working on short vowel sounds, multiple spellings of consonants, and blends.

**<u>Reading/Writing</u>**: We are reading fiction and non-fiction texts about animals and writing a research report.

<u>Math</u>: We are working on addition, subtraction, and comparing the amounts.

**Science:** We are learning about the behaviors of living things.

## 2nd

Second grade students have been hard at work in October! In phonics, students have been blending and spelling words with schwa, r-controlled vowels, long a, and long i. Up next, students will be continuing to learn about long vowels and will be introduced to silent letters as well as comparative and superlative endings. In Reading, students have read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts as they explored the essential question: How does exploring help us understand the world around us? Students have also been writing a descriptive essay about a place they would like to visit. In Math, students have been learning about new strategies for addition and subtraction while exploring place value concepts. Students have learned that a three-digit number is made up of groups of hundreds, tens, and ones and are starting to use this information to help them add and subtract more efficiently. They have also learned how to measure length and perimeter using connecting cubes.

In the coming weeks, students will learn to add on a number line and explore counting by twos. Students have been learning about the United States during social studies time. They have studied maps, identified physical and human-made features, explored regions of the U.S. and discussed responsibilities of government leaders. We are looking forward to our field trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry in November.

## 3rd

3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been working so hard to become fluent with the skill of multiplication! We will be wrapping up this Module by the end of quarter one. In phonics, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are currently reviewing everything they have learned since August and will transition to Unit 2 by the end of first quarter. In Reading, the students have been exploring multiple examples of correspondences in order to identify how people communicate and express themselves using words. As writers, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have drafted a letter to their future selves and will navigate the writing process to publish these letters soon. In content, the third graders have taken their final assessment in financial literacy and have moved on to exploring our new Unit Civics in Action. The third-grade teachers are currently in need of tissues and hand sanitizer. We welcome donations.

#### 4th

In ELA this past month, we worked on multiple comprehension skills with nonfiction text and focused on expanding our vocabulary, while our grammar lessons focused on capitalization and verbs. In Science, we wrapped up our Turtle Trouble Unit focused on plant and turtle internal and external features that help it survive.

Please continue to work with your student on multiplication facts!

Be sure to check Schoology regularly with your student to identify assignments that are missing or can be redone for a higher score. The first marking period ends on November 3rd! We are looking forward to conferencing with you in November. If you have not signed up for a conference, please reach out to your child's teacher!

If you are able and willing, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade still needs tissues and dry erase markers. We appreciate your help!

## 5<sup>th</sup>

We'd love to welcome back Mr. Manzo for his first full month back from paternity leave! We're all excited to have our full fifth grade team all together! Looking ahead to November, fifth graders are finishing up their science exploration with their first unit "Blast Off!" and moving into their first Social Studies Unit: Colonial Regions. During this unit, students will learn about how colonial regions affected the economy and the lives of colonists. In Reading, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about natural disasters. The essential question of this unit is 'how can learning about natural disasters make us safer.' By the end of this unit, the students will have a greater understanding of volcanoes, and the science of saving lives, glaciers, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Two of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math classes will begin Math Unit 3, Place Value and Decimals, whereas our third 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will be working with ratios. Our students are excelling in all areas of Math and we are excited to continue challenging them!

#### Ms. KOUMIDES's KG-ISDM

During the month of November, our ELA centers will be reviewing the question, "What makes a community?" We will introduce and explore our everyday heroes in our communities! In Phonics. we will continue focusing on letters and letter sounds! Our Math centers will continue working on counting and begin to practice skills of addition and subtraction. In SEL, we will hone in on gratitude and giving back to our community!

## Ms. Ryan's ISDM Primary Class

P-ISDM will be focusing on community heroes and asking the question, "What makes a community hero?" for November. We will continue working on letter recognition and letter sounds, and in Math we are beginning our work on addition and subtraction. In SEL, we will be focusing on gratitude and giving back to the community.

## Ms. Magruder's ISDM Intermediate Class

My class will be working on being responsible. We have assigned classroom jobs to help teach our students to be responsible. Last week was the first week implementing classroom jobs and the students are excited to be participating.

## **SPECIAL AREA NEWS**

## **ART**

Hello from the Art Studio!

As we finish many assignments and work starts to come home...please consider hanging the art for others to see. Also, think about discussing the skills or techniques they are exploring in the art studio. The vocabulary they are learning helps them appreciate the art of others, as well as building language skills.

PGE Artists are exploring the colors of fall. Fourth and fifth grade students practiced contrast from the different temperatures of colors. Their leaves are beautifully painted with watercolor. Third grade students just completed their fire safety posters, and we are waiting patiently to see if anyone from PGE placed in the contest. First and Second grade are exploring the art elements. And Kindergarten is exploring all things fall.

Please think about sending your student in with an art smock or old shirt to keep in their lockers for art class. Nothing fancy, but something to cover their school clothes when we work with paint or other supplies.

There is an art club this year on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. Currently, the art club is for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade artists. There will be four sessions to give more students the opportunity to participate and keep artists interested in fun art making. Students need a permission slip to attend.

The first session of art club members has been working on puppets. This is a small group of serious art makers. The second session starts Wednesday, November 29. Permission slips should be turned in ASAP since the club is small.

BCPS currently has an exhibit in the Superintendent's Gallery which is also virtual. The link is attached. <u>Teacher as Artist 2023 (adobe.com)</u> In several weeks, there is another virtual art show for central-area students. A new link will go out in November.

Please also consider donating any of the following items:

- -Boxes of Tissues
- -Containers of Clorox Wipes

Have a great season and spend time outside to see the colors.

#### LIBRARY

It has been a busy October, and we are wrapping up the last of our Digital Citizenship units with all grades. November promises to be an exciting month of learning! Kindergarten students will focus on different skills related to reading and understanding fiction. Skills covered are retelling, sequencing, making predictions, making inferences and making text connections. First graders will focus on tangrams (an ancient Chinese puzzle). This unit marries literacy, geometry, and writing through the study and manipulation of tangrams in order to create a tangram picture with a story. Second graders will learn how to use our library catalog, Destiny Discover, in order

to locate eBooks and print books to check out for independent reading. Third Grade and Fourth graders will focus on reading online; this unit explores Destiny Discover and TumbleBooks for eBooks and Interactive eBooks. Fifth graders will focus on award winning books, such as the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Award, and the Schneider Award. It will help students understand what makes us enjoy good literature. Our ISDM students will identify what it means to be Thankful during this season of gratefulness. - Mrs. Benz

#### **MAKERSPACE**

In November, Makerspace students will be completing projects based on all thing's autumn and Thanksgiving. We will read stories, design and plan our ideas, then build them using Makerspace materials.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During the month of October students worked on Foot Skills including dribbling & kicking/ Soccer lead up drills (Manipulative Skills) Soccer Skills and lead up games and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be practicing Fitness-gram incorporated into warm-ups.

Looking forward to the month of November, students will be working on striking skills by participating in Pillo Polo/Floor Hockey drills and skills. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will continue to practice Fitness-gram curl-ups, push-ups and increasing endurance for the Pacer assessment.

## **VOCAL MUSIC**

In Mr. Pugh's music class students have been using movement and music to sing songs about events in October and November. As they learn songs, they also learn sign language to go with the words we are singing! Ask your child to show some signs they have learned such as "apple", "tree", "leaves", and the colors of the falling leaves. Get ready for them to learn signs for their favorite Thanksgiving dinner foods as we sing our November songs! Students are also learning how to organize notes on a music staff by using the time signature to figure out where barlines are placed!

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Fourth grade students are continuing to learn about the string family. They will soon be ready to play the violin with the bow.

Fifth grade instrumental music students continue learning about their instrument. They are learning to play songs that we will use for the Winter Concert on December 7th.

## **SPANISH**

4th Grade Spanish

In November, we will finish Unit 1: "All About Me" by completing our end of unit project and assessment. Students will complete. We will begin Unit 2, in which we will begin learning how to talk about family members.

5th Grade Spanish

In November, we will complete Unit 1, by working on our end of unit project and assessment. Students will be writing descriptions of themselves and family members to "try out" for a Family Feud style game show.

## **SHARE THE TREATS**

Every year we are asked to donate extra wrapped Halloween candy to the International Key Club. The club will donate the candy to shelters, food banks, hospitals, and nursing homes. Students and staff may bring in their donations beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. Take a look at the flyer below.



## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

This is an important reminder about student cell phone use and expectations. While students may bring personal phones to school, the phones should not be used during class time or used inappropriately at any time during the school day. Failure to follow these rules will result in disciplinary actions against your child. We understand there are a number of reasons why parents/guardians have their children bring phones to school, however, **they are a distraction and cause significant disruption to the learning environment.** Please let your child know that cell phones and school time don't mix and students who violate the cell phone policy **will receive consequences.** 

As a reminder, students may have their cell phones on school property and during school-sponsored activities; however, students may not use their cell phones until the end of the instructional day with the following exceptions:

- 1. When instructional staff, in Grade 3 and above, has permitted such use for instructional purposes during instructional time.
- 2. High school students may use their cell phones during student lunch periods.
- 3. Middle school students may use their cell phones during student lunch periods, as determined by the school administrator of each individual middle school.

Team BCPS families, we need your help to ensure our schools are safe, welcoming, and distraction-free. Effective teaching and learning can't happen when students are breaking the rules and distracted by their devices. Thank you for your support in reinforcing our cell phone policy at home.

**Baltimore County Public Schools** 



# **Learning is Our Top Priority**



# Yes, you can use your cell phone:

- 1. Before and after school
- 2. When permitted by instructor for instructional purposes during instructional time (Grade 3 and above)
- 3. During lunch as determined by school administration (Middle School)
- 4. During lunch (High School)



# Please do not use your cell phone:

- 1. During instructional time. Cell phones should be turned off or set on silent mode and out of sight. The use of ear buds/headphones is prohibited during all such times.
- 2. In a manner that is inappropriate or out of alignment with Board Policy and Superintendent's Rule 6202, Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students.

Failure to comply with these expectations and/or violations of the board policies may result in a variety of interventions including; reminder(s) to put device away, verbal warning, parent contact, referral to administration, parent conference, temporarily suspending the use of a cell phone on school property, and disciplinary action in accordance with Board Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5550, Student Behavior Code.