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**Winfield Elementary School**

 **MAMMOTH NEWS**

**November 2016**

**Principal’s Message**

**Happy November Winfield Family!!**

**We are now beginning the second marking period. Please make sure you have signed up for a parent teacher conference with your child’s teacher(s). We are very excited about the events we have planned for American Education Week. I know it is hard to take off work or after working all day to come out to evening school events, but we have some evening events that we believe you will enjoy and that will help you support your child’s academic progress. The strategies that you will learn in our reading and writing workshop for parents are the same strategies I use with my own children when I am helping them with their homework or helping them choose books from the library. If you have not returned your RSVPs, please make sure you do as soon as possible.**

**Next week, we will have posted the next Principal’s Message uploaded on the Winfield Website. This month I share information regarding the new Grading and Reporting Policy and how to help your child distinguish between bullying behaviors and childhood disagreements.**

**Assistant Principal’s Message**

**Hello Winfield families! We are a school that takes safety seriously. As we continue to practice our safety drills, students and staff members are being successful in exiting our building in a safe and timely manner. We had our annual visit from our area Fire Chief, who was glad to see that Winfield was following safety protocols for emergencies.**

**As the cold weather sets in, we will continue to drill outside and inside. Our inside drills will be for Lockdowns and Severe Weather. During the times of drills, students and staff will be guided through safety exercises with the support of the administration. As parents and guardians, please talk with your students about the importance of following the directions of their teachers and all adults who are involved in keeping them safe. Students should be reminded to:**

**1)      Be quiet at all times**

**2)      Follow the directions of teachers and staff members**

**3)      Walk for safety**

**As we continue to monitor building safety for all at Winfield, please remember that when visiting the building for any reason or length of time, you must do the following:**

**1)      Check-in at the front office**

**2)      Present a valid and current picture ID**

**3)      Wear the printed ID badge or Visitor badge given by office staff**

**Thank you to all for your continued support of the safety plan and program for the students and staff at Winfield!**

**Lori M. Grant**

**Assistant Principal**

**Winfield Elementary School**

**Parent Service Coordinator’s Message**

**A PTA publication stated, “In today’s world, parent engagement is becoming increasingly more important. With all of the distractions of life, it is easy to be sucked into other matters that seem to leave parental engagement on the back burner. This could negatively affect the educational development of your child as well as the schools he or she attends. Studies show that children whose parents/caregivers are active in their formal education tend to perform better than those who are not. This includes higher grades and test scores, positive attitudes and behavior in and about school and more effective schools as a whole. Every parent wants their child to become a responsible, successful adult. Likewise, many parents also want to be included in their education, but just don’t know** **where to start, how to make the time or how to connect positively with the school. “**

**Where to Start (or continue): You can take the time next week to attend a parent conference with your child’s teacher. Ask your child’s teacher questions about your child’s academic progress and what you can do at home to help your child succeed in class. Read classroom and school flyers and newsletters. Visit our school and attend parent workshops that will be held during American Education Week and throughout the school year.**

**Clifford J. Collins**

**Parent Service Coordinator**

**Winfield Elementary School**

**Snapshot of November Activities at Winfield**

**Nov 8, Election Day, School Closed**

**Nov 10, Distribution of Report Cards**

**Nov 10, Pre-K& K Parent Conference Day**

**Nov 11, Grades 1-5 Parent Conference Day, School Closed for Students**

**Nov 14-18, American Education Week**

**Nov 24, 25 Thanksgiving Holiday, School Closed**

**Grade Level General Information**

**Pre-K**

**Pre-K News**

**In November our theme will be, “My Community”. We will discuss the roles of the people and places we see in our community. We will continue to talk about numbers and shapes by naming and creating patterns. We have learned the letter and letter sounds of Ff, Oo, Ll, and Pp. Make flash cards by writing the upper case and lower letters. Play ‘Match the Letter’ with your child for practice. Also try matching numbers 1-10 with a picture that shows the quantity.**

**Kindergarten**

**Kindergarten will focus on making patterns and identifying patterns.  In ELA, we will be learning about going places and focusing on rules, sounds, and places we go too.  On November 7th, Buster the Bus will be coming to Winfield to teach the kindergarteners about bus safety.  On November 17th, is our kindergarten curriculum night!  Please come out and bring your kindergartener and learn about what they are learning in school!**

**Kristine Kuehn
Kindergarten Teacher
Winfield Elementary School**

**1st Grade**

**Hello first grade families! October has been a busy and exciting month! In math, we continued to practice basic addition facts and have started working on addition story problems. We will begin Unit 2 in November which covers geometry. Please continue practicing basic addition and subtraction facts at home. In ELA, we started our first unit! Unit 1 covers story elements and sequencing fiction stories. In November, we will begin Unit 2 which focuses on nonfiction texts. Please continue to read nightly with your students. We have also begun our homework program. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding homework. We are looking forward to a great November!**

**2nd Grade**

**The Second Grade team is looking forward to all that is coming in November. This month, we will hold individual parent conferences regarding student successes and concerns. Teachers will be sending home sign up letters for conferences and will be in touch to confirm appointment times. In reading, we will be working on reading non-fiction text and explaining how text features contribute to meaning. In math, students will be learning about the attributes of three dimensional shapes. Students in Ms. Hayes’ class will be working on identifying place value and identifying coin amounts up to a dollar. Second grade looks forward to beginning our science unit Whack-a-Wall. We can’t wait for the excitement to come!**

**3rd Grade**

**Our 3rd grade students worked hard in the first marking period! Great effort 3rd graders! In November, 3rd grade math students will begin to focus on subtraction and addition as they enter unit 2.  (This may look different then what you saw as a student). Students will use place values and the value of a digit to perform the break apart method of subtraction and addition.  Please continue to review math facts with your child.  In ELA, students will begin to examine folktales and fables from around the world.  They are working towards creating their own folktale that teaches the reader a moral.  Since your student is bringing home a nightly reading log, a good strategy is to ask them what moral or lesson the story taught them. Students have finished their examination of the impact of humans on the bay.  This month we will be switching to Social Studies where students will be learning about the continent of Asia and its numerous physical and manmade features.  Keep up the good work**

**4th Grade**

**Welcome to 4th grade! The 4th grade teachers have been working hard with your students to work on the first units of ELA and Math!**

**In English/ Language Arts, we have finished the first unit of the curriculum. Every student worked on their culminating event which included either the creation of a PowerPoint about the memorable person or a narrative about their memorable person. The power points are wonderful and the students really showed what they know!!In Math, they have finished Unit 1 and continue to work on their dreambox and pearson accounts! We have had a phenomenal first marking period we can’t wait to see what else is in store!!  -Ms. Kuehn, Ms. Wharton, Ms. Paul**

**5th Grade**

**5th graders are so excited with the arrival of our devices!!! This will help students and teachers to create a more personalized instruction. Please be sure to log in to BCPS One to monitor your child’s progress.**

**Academic Resources Team Information**

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**For September we had 64 students turn in reading logs for time spent reading at home. Those students received medals and Taco Bell gift cards. We have been fortunate this year to have Taco Bell, Ruby Tuesdays, Applebee’s, and Pizza Hut send us gift certificates for free meals for the students. We will be giving them to students who are reading daily at home and turning in readings logs to their teachers each month. Parents please support us in this effort to show our children just how important it is to practice their reading at home as well as school. Thank you for your continued support!**

**Social/Emotional Information**

**Social Skills Curriculum:**

**During October, all classrooms have been implementing an evidence-based curriculum called Second Step.**

**Social-emotional skills are like math or reading skills which build on each other. Second-Step lessons are designed to teach children how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others’ feelings, and have the skills to problem-solve and make responsible decisions. Lessons have included songs, games, and take-home materials to reinforce learning.**

**During Classrooms Pre-K to 5 discuss social skills related to being a strong learner**

**Learning to Listen**

**Focusing Attention**

**Following Directions**

**Self-Talk for Staying on Task**

**Being Assertive**

**During the Month of November, Students will learn about Empathy. Teachers and student will be discussing the following topics:**

* **Identifying Feelings**
* **Similarities and Differences of others feeling and thinking**
* **Feelings - how they change**
* **Showing Care and Concern for others**
* **There will be several parent workshops to discuss this curriculum and offer activities that will help to use these skills at home.**

**General Information**

**Winfield’s Attendance Committee is monitoring attendance for all students. According to COMAR, Maryland State Compulsory Attendance says that every child between the ages of 5 and 17 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless otherwise enrolled in private school or home instruction approved by Baltimore County Public Schools. School hours are from 9:05 a.m. through 3:40 p.m. Students are considered tardy after 9:20 a.m. We as a school are mandated by Maryland State Law to insure that our students are in school and on time. Timely attendance is an important factor in your child’s success at school. Anytime your child is absent from school you will receive an automated Connect-Ed message regarding their absence. If your child is absent from school you should send a note in regarding their absence. According to BCPS Rule 5120, In accordance with COMAR, a student enrolled in BCPS will be considered lawfully absent (excused) from school for any portion of the school day under the following conditions: Death in the immediate Family, Illness of the Child (may require a physician’s certificate from the parent/guardian of a student reported continuously absent for illness); Court Summons; Hazardous Weather Conditions (conditions which would endanger the health or safety of the student when in transit to and from school); Work Approved; Religious Holiday; State Emergency; Other Emergency; Health Exclusion; Suspension; Lack of Authorized Transportation (does not include students denied authorized transportation for disciplinary reasons). An absence, including absence for any portion of the day, for any reason other than those cited as lawful are presumed to be unlawful (unexcused) and may constitute truancy. Below is the attendance process that will be followed at Winfield Elementary School. If you have any questions regarding your child’s attendance please contact your child’s teacher.**

**Winfield’s Attendance Process**

* **After 3 unexcused absences, teacher makes contact with parent. Teacher will send home teacher attendance letter. Teacher will refer to nurse if necessary.**
* **After 4 unexcused absences, teacher makes contact with parent and completes the Attendance Checklist and submits to Counselor.**
* **After 5 unexcused absences the 1st formal attendance letter will be sent home by Attendance Committee.**
* **After 7 unexcused absences the 2nd formal attendance letter will be sent home by Attendance Committee. Counselor Interaction (parent contact; touch base w/teacher, nurse, admin; A Student Support Team referral will be completed if necessary)**
* **After 9 unexcused absences a Required Parent Phone Conference will take place with Administration.**
* **After 10 unexcused absences a Pupil Personnel Worker referral will be made.**
* **After 12+ unexcused absences a referral to Project Attend will be made. May receive State’s Attorney or certified letter, warning of possible court action; charges may be filed with the District Court of Maryland.**



Attention Winfield Families!

We are hosting a canned/nonperishable food drive. It will be held beginning Monday, November 7, 2016 and end Friday, November 18, 2016. Please help support our efforts as we give back to those in need. Some ideas of things that are acceptable donations are:

* **Cheese or peanut butter crackers**
* **Beef jerky**
* **Applesauce**
* **Pudding**
* **Fruit cups**
* **Granola bars**
* **Power bars**
* **Cereal bars**
* **Single serving Chef-Boy-R-Dee items**
* **Ravioli/spaghetti-os**
* **Single serving soups (with pull tab openings)**
* **Ramen noodles**
* **Tomato juice**
* **Packaged nuts**
* **Trail mix**
* **Fruit snacks**
* **Dried fruits**
* **Canned vegetables and fruit (with pull top openings)**
* **Macaroni and cheese**
* **Individually packaged chips/pretzels/Goldfish**
* **Boxed drinks and juices**
* **Vienna sausages (with pull top lids)**
* **Pop tarts**
* **Oatmeal (box of individual packets**
* **Plastic spoons**
* **Gallon-size zip lock bags**
* **Canned Tuna**
* **Bags of rice or beans**

**Thank you in advance for any help you can offer. Please see Mrs. Salapata with any questions. Thanks again ☺**

**From the Winfield Library: Overdue and Lost Books! The Winfield Library does not charge overdue fines for books that are returned within 30 days of their due dates. However, if a book is more than 30 days overdue, it is considered "lost" and the student is expected to pay for the book. Additionally, if a book is returned damaged and irreparable, the student is expected to pay for the book.**

**Overdue notices are sent home at least twice per month; please check your student's folder.**

**Payment for lost or damaged books must be made in cash with exact change. Winfield Library cannot make change. Payments are accepted from 9:05 to 9:25 in the Library.**

**Please note: the Winfield Library cannot accept payment for books that belong to other BCPS school libraries. Please go to that school to make the payment.**

**If a lost book is not paid for, the fine carries over into middle and then high school. If you would like to arrange a payment plan, please see Ms. Precht, School Library Media Specialist, or email** **lprecht@bcps.org****. Thanks so much**

**Information from the Winfield Cafeteria**

**Parents are invited to have a Thanksgiving Holiday lunch with their children on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Lunch for adults will be $6.00.**