

Calverton Elementary

School



Home of the Eagles

The Calverton Chronicle

Issue No. 2

October 2010

Principal:

Mrs. Monique Sloan

Vice Principal:

Mr. William Daniels

3400 Beltsville Road

Beltsville, MD 20705

301-572-0640

Message from the Principal

Did you know that October is the month to celebrate Hispanic Heritage? The students have been learning about the wonderful contributions Hispanic men and women have added throughout history. The students will also learn a new phrase or word in Spanish every day. *Estoy aprendiendo espanol tambien.*

We also will be reading and writing about our October book of the month, *Where the Wild Things Are*. This book was a Caldecott Award winner for the best picture book. Please take some time to read this story with your chil-

dren and discuss their favorite parts of the book. This book was recently made into a movie. One family activity could be to watch the movie together. Literature truly unlocks a world of fun!



Our month of October ends with two wonderful events for the students.

The first event is our Storybook on Parade.

The students are invited to dress up as their favorite storybook character. I wonder will the Cat in the Hat make and appearance!

The second event is our MSA celebration. The students at Calverton did a fantastic job on their MSA, and I want us to celebrate their achievements! Parents, I also want to thank you! You send us wonderful children to work with. Everyone contributed to our students' success, so let's celebrate! Have a very happy October.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Sloan

Inside this issue:

- Upcoming events
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- Sample student work
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Hispanic Heritage Month

The ESOL students and the ESOL department will celebrate a Hispanic Heritage Program on Thursday, October 28, 2010 in the multipurpose room. The schedule is as follows:

- Grades 3, 4, and 5 8:00-9:00am
- Pre-K, K, 1, & 2 9:05 to 10:00am

All students of Latin/Hispanic culture are to wear their cultural clothes to represent their country. We are also asking all parents of Hispanic culture to bring their cultural food to share with their child's classroom.

-Ms. Donnella, ESOL Teacher



News from Pre-Kindergarten

We have had a wonderful first month of school! We have finished our first theme "Welcome to School". We have learned how to be a good friend, how to follow rules, and where things are in our school. We read the story "The Little Red Hen", and helped make bread. We have written about our friends and identified shapes. We made a graph of our favorite shapes, and made

pictures using shapes. We have use magnifying glasses to watch living things outside and watched a live cricket in our science center.

Our new theme is "My Family, My Community". We will be learning about communities, and each other's families. We can't wait!

-Ms. Fraser and Ms. Hernandez



News from Kindergarten

The children continue to be busy at work these last few weeks. They have finished reviewing the letters of the alphabet and have been working this past week with the letter Ss. Have them find things around the house that start with the letter S! Next the students will be working on letters; Mm, Rr, and Tt and the words I, see, and my.

In Math, they have been working on patterns and graphs. The children are beginning Chapter 3 in Math: Reading and Writing Numbers through 5.

The children have completed their second chapter in the Science curriculum: Animals and Plants all Around. They learned about different habitats for plants and animals and adaptations needed for the plants and animals to survive. Take time to discuss with your child what they have learned about habitats.

In addition, they have also been continuing to develop their small motor skills by using journals. Please work with your child at writing his/her name as needed. This includes using a capital letter only for the first letter of his/

her name.

Thank you to all parents/guardians who returned the Free/Reduced Lunch forms. Our school's Title 1 status depends on these forms. Thank you also for working with your children at home in order for them to learn their pins numbers.

Kindergarten Field Trip: Please return the permission form along with the payment in an envelope marked with your child's name and "Sharp's Farm." We will only accept cash or money order (no checks please). All permission forms and payments were due by Monday, October 11, 2010.



Each child will need a bag lunch. Everything must be disposable.

Please only pack what your child is able to eat. If you would like a school lunch ordered for your child please check the box below. Please have your child dress comfortably for a day outdoors.



Homework journals will continue to be due every Friday. Homework is part of the graded curriculum.

The Calverton Reading Log is due October 29. Once completed and signed your child will receive a Book It coupon for a free personal pan pizza with every complete reading log from October to May.

Thanks!

-Ms. Bossler

-Ms. Freeman

-Ms. Hankey

-Ms. Hart

-Ms. McClain

News from First Grade

Field Trip: Our Sharp's Farm Field Trip is coming up on **October 21st**. Money was due on Monday, October 11th. Please make sure you have sent in the permission slip and money to your child's teacher! Don't forget your bag lunch!



Reading: *Theme 2 - Surprise!*

We recently began Theme 2 in Reading, called "Surprise!" We will practice the letters d, w, l, x, y, k, v, q, j, z, and qu, and their sounds. We will also learn Short vowels o (as in pot), e (as in jet), and u (as in bug). Vocabulary and grammar for this theme will include number words, opposites, naming words, action words, and using capital letters properly. Also, we will work with these reading strategies and skills: questioning, noting details, monitor/clarify, summarizing, and the difference between fantasy and realism.

Math: We are finishing Chapter 2, Understanding Addition and Subtraction. We learned horizontal and vertical addition and subtraction. We also learned how to solve stories about joining and separating, using zero in addition and subtraction, and

using subtraction to compare. Soon we will begin Chapter 3, Strategies for Addition Facts to 12. In this chapter, we will learn strategies like doubles (such as $5+5=10$), doubles plus 1, counting on, using a number line, and sums of 10.

Social Studies: We are currently learning about our community, including our community's laws, leaders, celebrations. We will also be learning how to read a map.

Science: We have learned about the four habitats (forest, wetland, desert, and ocean) and the animals and plants that live there. We are starting Chapter 3 about how animals survive in their habitats.



All About Me Banners: Good job on your All About Me Banners! We are excited to learn more about our classmates.

50 Book Challenge: Don't forget to fill out your book log for the 50 Book Challenge! Students must read 13 books by **October 27th**. Book logs must be turned in by October 27th in order to count for the quarter. This will

count as a homework grade for the 1st quarter! Students who complete the challenge will receive a prize!



Homework: Please be sure to assist your child with his/her homework every night. Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday and includes **Spelling, Reading, and Math**. Homework counts as a grade in each of these subjects, and is important practice to reinforce what we are learning in class.

Conferences: Conferences are being scheduled and will be held soon! Check your child's red folder for more information to come.

Thank you for your continued support!

-Ms. Albert

-Ms. Allen

-Ms. Joyner

-Ms. McCollum

-Ms. Papsan

<http://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/calverton-es-1st-grade>

News from Second Grade

We are excited about the social studies projects that have been turned in. They show creativity and are filled with information that the children are sharing with their class. The oral presentations show the good thinking and hard work involved.

Remember the math facts timed tests are given every Wednesday. The children have 7 minutes to complete the test. They must practice their facts in order to master the test. There are 4 tests that need to be passed by the end of the year. In math we have started place value to 100. This chapter covers comparing and writing numbers to 100, ordinal numbers, number words, skip counting, odd and even numbers and greater than and less than. The chapter also covers money. The children will discuss the value of the penny, nickel, dime, quarter,

half dollar and dollar bill and coins. They will compare sets of coins, show the same amount and make change.

We are finishing theme one in reading by reading and writing poetry. When visiting the library remember to choose books that are interesting to your child and on grade level. Poetry books are also available. The next theme is entitled Nature Walk. The children will read many non fiction texts.

In science we have begun reading about animals with and without backbones. In the next chapter we will discuss how plants and animals live together.

Please remember to check the homework calendar carefully. Some of the children are missing parts or all of the assignments. Look at the calendar closely, completing the assign-

ments daily to get full credit. If your child is absent they are still responsible for the day's homework and any assignments completed in class that day that they missed. You need to send in a note for the absence or it is unexcused.

Mr. Mann is our ESOL support person. He has been helping with the reading testing and integrating into all subject areas. He speaks Spanish and other languages and can help with communicating with the teachers.

The children can bring a sweater to school as the weather changes. They can also bring water bottles.

Thanks!

-Ms. Bellows

-Mr. Hayes

-Ms. Prelovsky

-Ms. Russell

News from Third Grade

Our third graders are rolling right along. We have a lot of exciting lessons and activities coming up in the next couple of weeks.

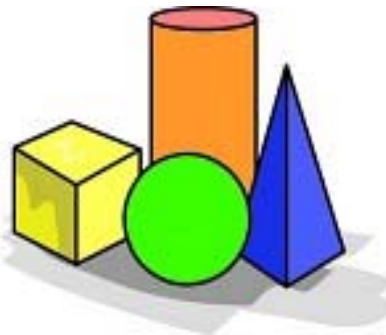
Here's a summary of the skills we've been covering during the month of October:

Reading - We're continuing to focus on nonfiction texts. We learned how to paraphrase, generate questions, and merge our old thinking with our new learning. We're also learning about multiple meaning words, as well as base words and inflected endings, such as -ed and -ing.

Writing - Students are continuing to work on the trait of ideas. Students are working on conveying one main idea with rele-

vant supporting details. Students are also working on identifying fragments versus complete sentences.

Math - We have just finished our unit on geometry. Students now will focus on computation skills, including addition and subtraction. Also, First in Math has just arrived. Students will be working on this computer program throughout the year.



Science - We are continuing our unit on animals and will shortly be moving on to our unit on ecosystems.

Social Studies - We learned about various communities throughout the world. Now we will focus on specific types of communities, such as urban or rural. We also will learn about immigration and how immigrants shaped America.

-Ms. Bravo

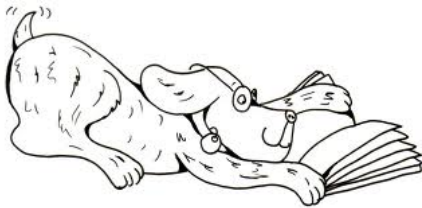
-Ms. Lentz

-Ms. Njoku

-Ms. Swanson

News from Fourth Grade

Wow! We are starting the count-down to the end of First Quarter already! Math students worked on Line Graphs, Line Plots, Elapsed Time - a very difficult concept - and the Four Properties of Multiplication! Whew! The Wednesday Math Facts Tests really stretch their mental math muscles, so keep up the good work of encouraging your child to practice them every night. Big News: FIRST IN MATH is up and running, so your child can now do the nightly math facts study [online!](#)



Reading has taken on new meaning with the study of how we merge "old" information with new in our thinking. We use our background information to help us intermingle new facts and concepts in non-fiction studies. Currently, we are learning how good readers use questioning to

advance their understanding of new text. We have successfully integrated text reading from Social Studies curriculum into this new method. This event proves to our students that "Reading Strategies" are NOT just for reading class, but help develop understanding in any subject.

Fourth grade budding scientists are absorbing the vocabulary and concepts for classifying plants and animals. Our first expedition into the wilds of the Calverton playground ecosystem was fruitful in the extreme. Students searched for that "just right" plant, and took this selection process very seriously. Their careful observations resulted in excellent illustrations, which will help ensure positive plant identification. Next up: Animal classifications! Stay tuned for our upcoming technology-rich animal project! Special Note: *Your student's STEM Fair question is due NOW!*

Social Studies has reached the milestone of listing and learning

the Five Themes of Geography. This will lay the groundwork for the rest of our studies this year: finding how Man has affected



the Environment, discovering the Five Regions of the United States, and ending finally with the study of our very own state - Maryland! This will include our annual trip to Annapolis in May. (Parent Chaperones Wanted!) In the meantime, everyone is still working to accumulate their stacks of Calverton Cash as we continue to learn how to be "Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn".

-Ms. Fulcher

-Ms. Gibson

-Ms. Levin

-Ms. Upchurch

News from Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade Featured Article:

RELA - Students are exposed to a variety of non-fiction texts, in order to engage the students in utilizing and incorporating various strategies in order to obtain a better understanding of what they are reading.

Parent Tips of The Month: Parents, students are learning about how the text is organized. One way to help keep your student organized, is to help them to organize their bookbags the night before. Many students are coming to class unprepared on a daily basis. Here are a few

things you can make sure they pack in their bookbags the night before:

- Homework
- 2 pencils
- 2 pens
- Binder, with paper
- Journals
- Highlighters
- Post-it Notes

Just a few minutes of organization really saves instructional time!

-Mr. Cohen

-Ms. Mitchell

-Mr. Reif

-Ms. Wright



Parent Power!

We are at the beginning of a new school year and the children have settled into their routines. There are ways you can assist your child and support their learning. Here are a few ideas:

- Contact your child's teacher or the counselor immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.
- Spend a few minutes every

evening looking over handouts your child brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.

- Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or an email.

Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.

-Ms. Pollock, Guidance Counselor



What's Going on with TAG?

The Prince George's County Public Schools performs global screening for gifted learning ability in grades one and three. In October all first graders take the OLSAT, a test of verbal and non-verbal ability, and then later in the fall the third graders follow suit. The results of this test are reported to teachers, parents, and the school principal. OLSAT results, in conjunction with other forms of data, such as report card grades, and

teacher observations are used in identifying giftedness.



Once students have been identified through this screening process, parents are notified. Calverton follows a "TRC" model (TAG in the Regular Classroom) whereby gifted students are grouped together in clusters for grades 2-5. Please contact Calverton's TAG coordinator, Mr. Reif at 301-572-0640 if you have additional questions.

Technology Corner

A keyboarding craze has gripped Calverton's Computer Lab and this is not your Grandfather's Typing class. Computer keyboarding instruction, in accordance with the Maryland State Technology Literacy Standards and our students are having fun while they learn this essential skill. One third grade student marveled at the tremendous improvement she made in the course of two weeks: "At first, it was hard to type like that.....I mean, keep my fingers

on the home row keys, but then I got faster and I could get a lot of the letters right without looking." One boy summed up his strategy by saying, "I just feel for the little line on the f key and the j key and then I know my fingers are in the right place. Before, I never knew that there were lines on those keys." Students in Mr. Hartman's Technology class use the Mavis Beacon Typing software system for most keyboarding instruction. However, there are free sites on

the internet that students can use at home, including: http://www.growing.course.com/level_K/type/index.html and <http://www.powertyping.com/qwerty/lessonsq.html>



Media Center News

Media Center Book Policies

Pre-K will use books in the media center.

K – each student may check out one book. The books will stay in the classroom for use. The books do not go home.

1 – each student may check out one book. The books should not go home. Students may keep the book in desk. Student must return book to get another.

2 – each student may check out one book. Books may go home, but students are responsible for lost books. They may not check out another book if they have one out. Lost books must be paid for.

3 – each student may check out one book. Books may go home, but students are responsible for lost books. They may not check out another book if they have one out. Lost books must be paid for.

4 and 5 – each student may check out two books. Books may go home, but students are responsible for lost books. They may not check out other books if they have two out. Lost books must be paid for.

Parents may check out books in their students' names. If your child has a book out from a previous school, I cannot remove it from your child's record. You

may return books to me and I will send them back to the other school. Otherwise, you need to contact the previous school to take care of lost books or to let them know you believe the book was returned.

Library books are stamped with the due date on a white sticker on the back of the book. This date should serve as a reminder of the next time your student has library media time. Late books need to be returned as soon as possible.

Thank you.

-Ms. Cavallo, Media Specialist

Writing Corner

Calverton students are writing from pre-K through fifth grade for all purposes which are *writing to inform*, *writing to persuade* and *writing to express personal ideas*. Young writers are learning that when they select topics of personal interest, they are able to express their personal writer's voice. Many students are currently maintaining a writer's notebook at school to list ideas and topics of interest.

Write Traits which is one of the county's writing programs is currently focusing on the trait of "Ideas" and "Organization". The "*Trait of Ideas*" guides students to do the following:

- Narrow the topic
- Stay focused on the main topic
- Choose interesting, descriptive details
- Include all the information the reader needs.

The "*Trait of Organization*" guides students to do the following:

- Write a strong, interesting topic sentence
- Place information in the best order
- Stick to the main idea
- Write a strong, interesting conclusion

I recommend that students maintain a writer's notebook at home to keep ideas, thoughts, reactions and feelings recorded. The writer's notebook will be a place where they can live like a writer even when they are not in school during writing lessons. Our students are aware that a writer looks at the world through the eyes of a writer and writing down their ideas helps to remember them. During lessons focusing on main idea, students listed things some of the beautiful things in their lives. After selecting one idea, they

wrote about it.

- Ms. Wood, Writing Specialist

My Something Beautiful

By Rheana Putney
in Ms. Upchurch's Fourth
Grade Class

My something beautiful is my hamster. He is just adorable and very important to me. His fur is a silky, brown coat with black highlights. I got him at Petsmart in North Carolina when I was seven. When I took him out of his cage, he just crawled to me like he knew we were meant to be. When I was in the car, he bit me so I put him down. He looked at me as if to say that he wanted me to hold him again. His eyes melted my heart and I just had to pick him up. He is surely my something beautiful.

Physical Education

Students are having fun in P.E. class. Grades PK-1-2 are playing games and activities involving locomotor skills, levels, directions and pathways. The upper grades are participating in cooperative games and activities.

Grades 3-4-5 will participate in our 3rd Annual turkey Trot at Calverton in November. More

information to follow.

Students are reminded to wear tennis shoes on P.E. days. They may change from boots etc., into tennis shoes during P.E. class.

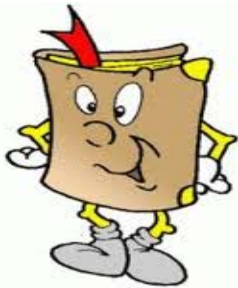
Some students still need to return their P.E. Parent Information Form. Please check your child's folder for this form.

Thank you for your continued support.

-Ms. Albert and Mr. Lendo



Reading Corner



We are all very excited about the wonderful books our students are reading at Calverton. We will celebrate these excellent books with a character parade at the end of October. Students and teachers are asked to dress like a favorite book character. More informa-

tion will be sent home from your child's teacher.

Thank you for your support of our reading program and please encourage your children to read every day.

-Ms. Price & Ms. Bergartt,
Reading Specialists

Math Corner

The Math Facts bulletin board for grades 2-5 is up outside the computer room. Students in grade 2 need to master their addition and subtraction facts. Beginning in grade 3 students have addition and subtraction to 18 and also multiplication and division. Students are recognized with a sticker next to their name when they pass each test with 100%. Stop by and see how your child is doing.

First In Math is back! All students in grades 4 and 5 are playing and the Log-ons for grade 3 just arrived so those students should be able to begin playing the week of October 11. If you have a computer with internet your child should make it a habit to play at home for at least 15 minutes every night. This first week we would like all players to concentrate on Skill Sets 1-3 (9 games total) and

GYMS for addition and subtraction as well as GYMS for multiplication and division for students in grades 4 and 5. Students in grades 3-5 are playing in competition with all schools in Maryland as well as in the United States. We will be working hard to defend our Top 10 finish again this year.

Students in grades 1 and 2 have been given FREE Log-ons and passwords from the inventor of First In Math, Mr. Sun. He came to Calverton last year to celebrate our students' achievement of finishing 9th in the United States. Your child will receive his/her log-on and password for the primary version of First in Math the week of October 11. Students in grades 1 and 2 are not participating in the national competition but getting a lot of opportunities to learn more math.

Stay and Play First In Math will be offered again on Fridays by Mrs. Waibel and Mrs. Gibson (beginning date to be determined). Students who do not have a computer at home will be given priority. A letter giving permission to Stay and Play First In Math will be sent home to those students. After we get those permission forms back other interested students can be invited depending on sign-up numbers. Last year we had a consistent group of 30-35 students who stayed every Friday!

Fourth Graders in America Counts are getting help in math from University of Maryland mentors every Monday and Wednesday. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to not only work with university students but also think more about college.

-Ms. Waibel, Math Specialist

Nurse's Corner

The Health Department is scheduled to administer the Influenza Nasal Spray (Flu Mist) November 29 to our students who returned the consent forms and are eligible based on the answers to the questions on the form. The teachers and I have reviewed and returned forms to you if they were incomplete or

your child is not eligible. I hope you checked your child's folder for returned forms. It is important for you to consult your doctor if your child has asthma, diabetes, or other medical conditions. If you sent a consent form but get your child vaccinated before the Flu Clinic, please be sure you retrieve the

form so your child does not receive a vaccine at school.

For added clarification, the Health Department will not be administering shots, but rather a nasal spray.

Thank you for the opportunity to care for your children.

-Ms. Diggs, Registered Nurse

Music Corner

Music classes are well underway! We began with songs that reinforced class rules and continued with building our song repertoire with patriotic and popular favorites. We completed September by learning about Johnny Appleseed. We saw a short video of his life and completed a vocabulary search.

Primary students made paper pot hats to wear to observe his birthday on September 26th.

In preparation for the Hispanic Heritage celebration on Thursday, October 28th, each class is preparing songs in Spanish. In observance of the Fall Harvest we will begin learning about the importance of the Scarecrow by singing songs to reinforce what we have learned.

Each student in grades 2 to 5 have individual music folders that contain a page listing song repertoire. We have also learned

how to draw a treble clef sign and some music notation. The folder will be available at the end of each quarter for viewing.

Forty students of the Calverton Chorus are preparing a song version of the *Nutcracker* for presentation on Thursday, December 9, 2010. A day and evening performance is scheduled.

-Mr. Eaton and Ms. Reid

The Role of Parents in Our Schools

Research shows that if parents are involved, students achieve more success and are more likely to graduate.

At Calverton, we are proud of our parental involvement! On the first day of school, 296 parents brought their children to school. 330 parents attended Back to School night. 50 families attended Science Night and 90 families attended Family Portal/PTA Night! We are motivating parents to attend and participate to our future events and workshops such as:

- Health Night
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Weekly Workshops (Tuesdays and Thursdays

from 9:00 am – 10:00 am

- ESOL Night (Nov.)
- STEM Nights
- Math Nights
- Turkey Trot (Nov)
- Parent-Teacher Conference
- PTA Night/Art and Crafts
- Winter Concerts (Dec.)
- Black History Month (Feb)
- Field Day (May)
- International Night (May)
- Book Fairs
- Fundraisers
- Write a Book Activity
- Making copies for the school
- Assisting the teachers

- Assisting lunch and recess

If you would like to be a Volunteer Parent, please get in touch with me at (301)572-0640 or

luz.santizo@pgcps.org

-Ms. Santizo, Bilingual Parent and Community Outreach



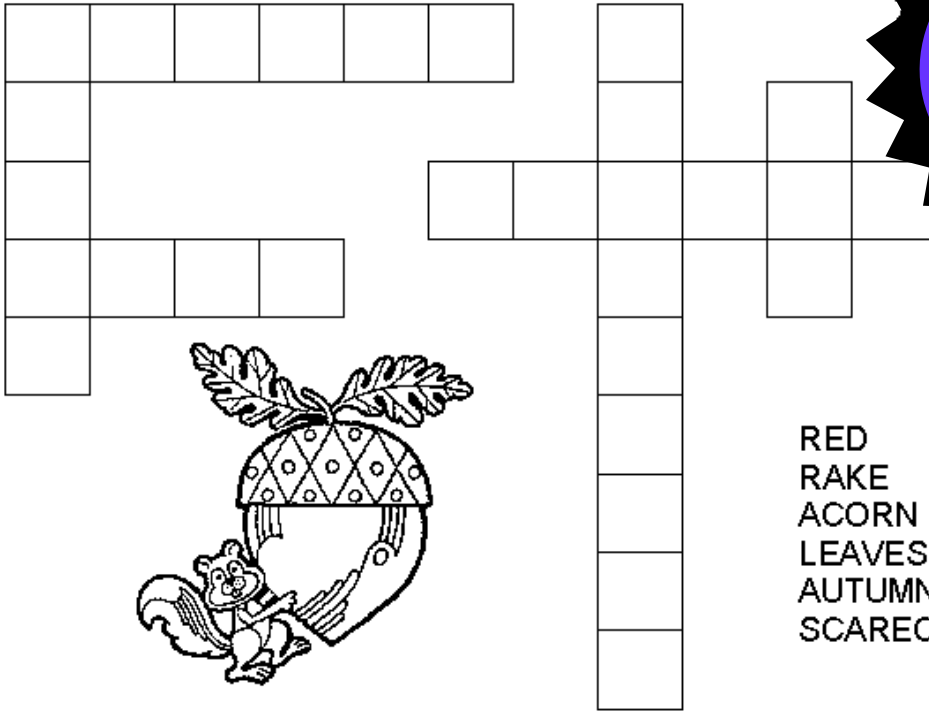


Just for Kids



Fall Crossword

Fit all the words into this puzzle below



RED
RAKE
ACORN
LEAVES
AUTUMN
SCARECROW



Q: Why did the egg get thrown out of class?

A: It kept telling yokes!

Q: Why did the boy bring a ladder to school?

A: He wanted to go to high school!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 21st, 6:30pm - Calverton Health Night

Friday, October 22nd - Homeless Walk

Thursday, October 28th, 8:00am - Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly

Friday, October 29th - End of 1st Quarter, Storybooks on Parade

Monday, November 1st - Teacher Grading Day, No School

Tuesday, November 2nd - Election Day, No School

Wednesday, November 3rd - Make-up Pictures

Friday, November 5th - Fundraiser Orders Due

Monday, November 8th - Book Fair Begins

Friday, November 12th - Parent/Teacher Conferences, No School

Monday, November 15th - First Quarter Report Cards Released