

Calverton Chronicle

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DECEMBER 2011

DECEMBER, *Already!*

Wow! I can't believe it is already December! I am so glad to be back at Calverton. I have been in the classrooms and I just want you to know that I have a dynamic staff. Your children are in good hands! Your children are truly a joy to work with, and I will continue to try my best to inspire leadership, greatness, and a sense of community in all students. We have some wonderful things going on here! Did you know that our Save the World club, sponsored by Ms. Swanson, will be representing Calverton Elementary and all of Prince George's County Schools at the Keep America Beautiful conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. They won a first place award for their recycling efforts. I am so very proud of them! Are you visiting the Parent Portal? Make sure you are keeping up with the students weekly progress. If you are unsure about how to access the Parent Portal, please stop by the office and we will assist you. Lastly, did you know that Prince George's County Public School is now moving to a text and e-mail alert system. Please visit the county's webpage at the following web address: www.pgcps.org. Have a happy December!

Regards,

Mrs. Sloan



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Welcome winter! Please make sure to watch the news or listen to the local radio stations for late delays, early dismissals or school cancellations due to inclement weather.

In Language Arts, we have practiced reading and writing the letters Hh, Vv, and Cc. The new sight words **and** and **am** we introduced. We continued practicing reading and writing the words in the **-at** and **-an word families** such as hat, cat, bat, man, ran, van and fan. This quarter we have been reviewing beginning sounds in words.

In Math, we are working in Chapter 5: Numbers to 31.

In Science, we began a new chapter, Chapter 9: Day and Night. We created a daytime and night-time sky. We will continue our unit in science after the winter break.

In Social Studies, we learned about the **holiday's of Hanukkah Kwanza and Christmas**.

Please have your child bring in his/her Secret Santa gift no later than Tuesday, December 20th. We will wrap them that day in class. Holiday celebrations will be held on Wednesday, December 21st. School will be closed Thursday,

The children are currently being assessed for the 2nd quarter report

LIVING CLASSROOMS!



Our fourth grade students had the opportunity to visit the Anacostia River! This field trip was sponsored by Living Classrooms, a grant funded program. What a wonderful year for the students to experience the things they have been studying.

cards. They will be tested in multiple areas including social development, oral and written language, literacy, social studies, mathematics, science, art and physical development.

Please have your child during the Winter break to complete both the Winter reading and mathematics packets. These packets are available on pgcps.org website so please print them and work with your child. It is important to keep the children stimulated and learning during the time off school.

Grade One

Thank you to all parents who participated in Parent/Teacher Conferences! We enjoyed meeting with you and working together to make your child successful in First Grade.

Aquarium Field Trip! November 29th students went to the Aquarium! We learned about many different animals that live in the oceans and saw an amazing dolphin show! A big thank you to all chaperones who helped make the trip a success!

Reading: Theme 4 – Family and Friends

Next week we will begin Theme 4, Family and Friends. We are asking all students to bring in a photo with their family and friends for our class bulletin board!

Math – Geometry and Fractions

We have started Chapter 5 in Math, learning about Geometry, Shapes, and Fractions. Help your child find solid figures around them (cube, sphere, cylinder, cone, rectangular prism).

Winter Weather!

As the weather gets colder, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for OUTDOOR RECESS! Winter coat, hats, gloves! Book Log!

Make sure your child is completing their BOOK LOG for the 50 Book Challenge! By the end of 2nd Quarter they should be up to 26 books (or more)!

Dates to remember:

December 20th – Gingerbread decorating party!

Homework/Agenda Books

Please make sure your child is completing ALL homework EVERY NIGHT! Also, Please be sure to check Agenda Books daily for behavior and notes. Don't forget to initial!

December 20th – Gingerbread decorating party!

Grade Two

Second grade has just finished the theme Nature Walk in reading. We will be studying Neighborhoods and Communities in our next theme. This would be a great time to introduce your child to the special places in your community. Taking this opportunity helps your child realize how the different businesses and organizations work together to benefit your community.

In math we are adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers. Your child will learn to use the following strategies to help them: mental math, using models and the hundred charts. Please continue to check your child's homework very carefully and help those correct mistakes. Homework is an extension of daily learning. It is practice, but if they need help please provide it. Spending time with your child while doing homework is an excellent way to see what he or she is doing and what areas they need help in. The home and school working together equals success for your child.

Thank you for helping your child complete the projects sent home. Remember to read the directions carefully to make sure all parts are included. The rubric indicates exactly what your child needs to do to achieve the highest grade. Please remember also, that projects are final copies and they should reflect the best effort possible. Look for more to come. We feel that the projects offer the children a chance to show their creativity in many ways. Make sure your child understands and can read what they wrote on the project since they share this aloud in class.

We enjoyed meeting many of you at the conferences. If you were not able to attend, the next marking period ends in late January. Hopefully you can make an appointment with your child's teacher then.

Grade Three

The third graders have been working hard at Calverton! In reading, students continue to use reading strategies daily. Please encourage students to complete all parts of the reading log each week. The students did a great job on the first social studies project. Look for the second S.S project to be assigned within the next two weeks. In math, students should practice basic math facts daily. Allow your child to count the change in your pocket in order to strengthen money skills. Students should look forward to working with multiplication/division before Winter Break. Keep up the great work!

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DECEMBER 5TH, 2011



Important Dates for the Month of December:

Partners in Print

12.1.11

STEM Fair Night

12.6.11

Parent Uniform Committee

12.8.11

Winter Concert

12.13.11

Parent Night for the Book Fair

12.14.11

Awards Breakfast

12.15.11

Q2 Progress Reports/SPMT

12.20.11

Holidays and Winter Vacation

12.22.11-1.2.12

CALVERTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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*We are a Soaring
Community!*

*You will have the
opportunity to
purchase Spirit Wear.
Make sure you come to
the book fair parent
night!*

Hats, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts,



Reminder:

Don't forget your BoxTops!!!

A Healthy Generation!



According to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, over the past 20 years, childhood obesity rates have doubled and are now at epidemic rates. Overweight children and teens are more likely to develop serious health problems such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. If current trends continue, today's kids could be the first generation to live shorter lives than their parents. Calverton's Wellness Council is working to help prevent this from happening. Parents/Guardians and Staff, you are invited to join the Wellness Council for a 30 minute wellness walk every Monday. If you are interested, be in the lobby at 2:15 after the last bus leaves. We encourage you to bring your children. Students are invited ONLY when accompanied by his/her parent or guardian. What is the best exercise for your health? The one that you will do. So, join the Wellness Walks, play soccer, jump rope, or do what you enjoy doing. Your body needs to MOVE to be healthy. Our children learn by example.

GRADE 4

This week Ms. Upchurch's long-term substitute teacher, Mrs. Leonard and her students are reading *Marven of the Great North Woods* and working through Chapter 1 of the Maryland Social Studies textbook. They tied all of these elements together introducing a project on Black Bears. The Bears were mentioned briefly in the Social Studies text and one makes an appearance in *Marven of the Great North Woods*. Students have received guidelines for this project. They also are completing spelling tic tac toe nightly, as well as corresponding worksheets from the practice book for homework. Students should be completing their 30 minutes of home reading daily.

Our Series of Science Field Trips was a great success thanks to all the parents who volunteered as chaperones. Students learned first hand about our local aquatic eco-systems, from the voyage on the Anacostia River to the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and finally, Lake Artemisia. Because they have this rich knowledge of our environment, certainly they will be able to appreciate and protect our natural treasures!

4th Graders have embarked upon a trans-disciplinary voyage into the realms of Space Science and Geometry. As they learn about rays in Geometry, they are also learning about the rays of our sun. Real world connections are made as students find streets on a local Calverton Neighborhood map that are parallel and others that are perpendicular. They have identified obtuse, acute and right angles in an automotive blueprint as well as constructed three dimensional straw models of right, acute, straight and obtuse angles. Students have been encouraged to study their Math facts and play First in Math at home daily. All students who pass all four Math facts test by 12/21st will be invited to a Math Facts Party with the fourth grade teachers.

An online resource newly acquired by Calverton is Study Island. Students have been given their passwords, and can log-in to this excellent and fun Math and reading program from home.

On December 6th, at 6:30 p.m. all parents and students are invited to attend the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Fair Family Night out at Calverton. We can't wait to see you there!!

GRADE 5

Reading/Language Arts: We're well into our unit on fiction. This includes short stories, plays, and poems. Students have been working on making inferences, identifying character traits, and determining the mood of a selection. Students have also worked on identifying the structure of various types of fiction, including the elements of a plot, as well as the structure of poetry. In addition, students are working on constructing larger pieces of writing, such as 5 paragraph essays with introductions and conclusions.

Social Studies: We are focusing on the lives of the Native Americans before the Europeans discovered the Americas. Students will soon begin learning about the Spanish explorers and their interactions with the native populations. In January, we will begin learning about the English settlements in America that would eventually become the 13 colonies.

Science: We had our first STEM fair Family Night on Tuesday, December 6th. Students must have their STEM Fair question developed by Winter Break. Our science fair will be held at Calverton in April of 2012. Students are currently learning about space and are doing research regarding our solar system.

Math: First in Math is in full gear and we currently have two classes with an average of over 2,000 stickers per student. Congratulations to Mrs. Rossman's and Mrs. Waibel's classes! Students have just completed a unit on measurement, which includes elapsed time, length, area, perimeter, and capacity.