

# Calverton Chronicle

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JANUARY 2012

Happy New Year!

I am so excited for the new year, because that signals new beginnings. I am happy to say that new year is shaping up to be fantastic. Our students returned to school ready to learn! Many students also returned in their uniform, and they look fantastic. Please keep in mind that the uniform policy is voluntary, not mandatory. However, I am so appreciative that many of you have embraced the wearing of our uniforms. January also signals the beginning of our MSA countdown!!! Calverton has consistently made AYP, and I would like for this year to be no exception. The Annual Measurable Objective has increased for this year, but I know the students will continue to be successful.

What are your New Year goals? One of my goals is to increase parent participation and to solicit more parent feedback. Please feel free to attend any of your SPMT meetings, which are held once a month. Also, are you a card carrying member of the PTA? I would love to increase the involvement of Calverton's PTA in school-wide decisions. My theme is "We are a Community" truly encompasses parent support and feedback at Calverton. Lastly, are you receiving phone calls from the school. I send out 3-4 messages a month via the telephone. Please update your information so you are receiving these calls. I include important updates regarding the "happenings" at Calverton. Have a warm January!

Regards,

Mrs. Sloan



## VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

### In this issue:

Principal's Reflections	1
Kindergarten News	
Grades 1-3 News	2
Prince George's County Healthy Schools' Alliance	3
Grades 4-5 News	3

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The kindergarteners had a very busy and fun-filled December! We learned all about the "at" and "an" word families so ask me to tell you some rhyming words such as cat and rat or man and pan. I should even be able to spell them! We also learned about letter "c" so I can tell you what sound it makes as well as lots of things that begin with that letter. We were very busy learning about all the December holidays such as Hanukah, Kwanzaa and Christmas and our Secret Santa gift exchange was a lot of fun! We

learned about the night and day skies in Science and will now start learning about simple machines. Maybe we could walk around our home and find some simple machines. In Health we discussed the food pyramid and how we need to take care of our food as well as making the correct decisions about what foods to eat. In Math we are learning about numbers to 31 so I should be able to make a calendar for this month and write all the numbers on it correctly. Next month will be our 100<sup>th</sup> day

celebration so please help me go higher than 31 as I need to be able to write to 100! Our teachers will be checking to see if we recognize all the letters of the alphabet as well as our 30 sight words this month. We will be reading them some books and writing sentences too. We should keep practicing each day so I am ready to do a great job!

## SAVE THE WORLD GOES TO NEW ORLEANS



Save the World! An Environmental club, sponsored by our very own Ms. Swanson was given the opportunity to represent Calverton, Prince George's County and the State of Maryland at the Keep America Beautiful Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. STW was honored with a first place award for their recycling efforts, school-wide garden, and other environmental projects. We are so proud of them!

## Grade One

### Reading:

Theme 5 - Home Sweet Home Students will learn long vowels sounds long a and i.

Students will learn digraphs ch, sh, wh.

Students will learn students in order to make generalizations and to learn cause and effect.

Please review your students HOMEWORK each night!

Please practice spelling words with your child weekly and LEARN to read the high frequency words at the bottom of homework sheet! Make flash-cards with your child to practice learning the words.

Students will be completing a home project for Theme 5 a diorama of their bedroom projects are due on Jan. 30, 2011. Rubric will be sent home the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>!

Math: Students be learning to tell time in Chapter 6. Students will learn to tell time to the hour and half-hour.

Thank you for all your donations and help with our Gingerbread party! Students enjoyed our celebration.

Please dress for Winter weather at recess! Coats, hats and mittens.

## Grade Two

Happy New Year. Thank you to the parents who helped their child complete the winter break homework packets. They showed lots of effort and creativity. Remember as the weather gets colder the children need to come to school dressed in layers as well as wearing hats and gloves and warm coats. We will be going out for recess and PE. On PE days don't forget to wear sneakers. Also, the children are encouraged to bring water bottles to school since the water fountains are not always accessible. Remind your child school supplies are needed for the new year, especially glue sticks and boxes of tissues. All of the children need to bring more pencils. School starts at 7:45 AM, but children arrive in the classroom at 7:30 AM. They complete a warm up at that time which is a reinforcement of skills taught. It starts your child's day off in a positive, organized manner if they are in the classroom at 7:30 AM. The quarter ends on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have concerns about your child's progress please make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher. Please continue to check your child's homework assignments daily. We will continue to practice addition with regrouping and have started subtraction with and without regrouping. It is also important that your child practice addition and math facts everyday. They are often given a seven minute timed test for mastery. We encourage the children to participate in First in Math online. There is a healthy school wide competition going on.

Our reading theme of Neighborhoods and Communities is ongoing. We continue to enjoy the stories and practice reading strategies and skills. The children should be reading at least 15 minutes everyday. The book logs are due on January 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be assessing the children's reading levels and comprehension skills soon.

## Grade Two

### Continued

The projects the children have completed are very amazing. We are pleased with the parental support. Look for more project assignments in the third quarter. Thanks for all you do to support the second grade team.

Mrs. Wood, Mr. Hayes Ms. Bellows, Mrs. Prelovsky, Mrs. Russell

## Grade Three

Third Grade News for December 2011

Reading/ Social Studies:

In reading, students have just finished studying about different genres. In this unit, we read trickster tales, poems, and plays from cultures around the globe. Each student should be able to identify what makes each type of writing unique. We continue to look for text features each time a book is opened. This should be continued while at home. It is important for students to be able to explain how a text feature helps them to understand what they read. Students should continue to look for special vocabulary words and include them on their reading log each night. Each third grader has received a personal dictionary. These dictionaries can really help with the weekly homework assignments in both reading and spelling. Each family should read together as much as possible and discuss their thoughts as they read. This should be done both aloud and silently to improve reading skills. Happy reading!

In Social Studies, students continue to study communities and cultures found in all parts of the world. We continue to identify similarities

## Grade 3 Continued

and differences of each place that is explored. Students will receive information sheets for their next project and these should be signed and returned.

**Math:** One way our third graders have been closing out the second quarter of the year is to learn to use data in making tables, single bar graphs, and pictographs. New ideas such as intervals, data sets, labeling, and categories of data that began as complete unknowns now seem quite familiar! It is so good to see them comfortable with these new terms and ideas. Students have also been acquiring the times tables little by little. We have sung songs, chanted sequences, memorized the patterns, drawn arrays and pictures, learned fact families, and played games to make this onerous task a bit more fun.

We have also developed strategies for solving basic fact unknowns with "break-apart" multiplication. Ask your student what this entails. Diving into division facts and uses follows next, and is the final topic in math for the quarter. One of our new words for the year -inverse- comes in handy here, since division is the inverse of multiplication. Therefore, if you know that  $4 \times 6 = 24$  and  $6 \times 4 = 24$ , you also know that  $24 \div 6 = 4$  and  $24 \div 4 = 6$ ! This knowledge brings a lot of comfort to students who feel as though their heads have no more room to fit another fact!

**Science:** In preparation for the STEM Fair coming in April, third graders have done group projects which teach the major topics necessary to a thorough experiment. We have created a growing medium for four different kinds of commonly planted seeds and asked the QUESTION of which seed will germinate first. Then we PREDICTED which seed we thought would win this race. We listed the MATERIALS, and wrote our PROCEDURE. Then we conducted the experiment and made daily OBSERVATIONS, COLLECTING DATA for a 5 day period. After all of this, we could GRAPH our data, and MAKE CONCLUSIONS as to whether our predictions were right. Knowledge of how an experiment is created and conducted will give our students the chance to feel like scientists as well as make them keen observers and judges of the STEM Fair projects they will see at our Fair.

**CALVERTON  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

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4



*We are a Soaring  
Community!*

**FYI**

- 1.16.12 School's Closed
- 1.17.12 PTA Meeting
- 1.20.12 2nd Quarter Ends
- 1.23.12 Schools Closed

Did you know the Calverton Elementary SGA raised \$277.00 in order to purchase toys for a homeless women and children's shelter. They were very appreciative. They were very appreciative for your support!

Reminder:  
**Don't forget your BoxTops!!!**

**Nurses Corner.....**

Nurse's Corner: Keep our Calverton Community FLU FREE! The flu is caused by the influenza virus and can be mild or severe. The most common symptoms are: fever, cough, sore throat, and body aches. Prevent getting or giving the flu by: frequently washing your hands, coughing in your sleeve, getting the flu vaccine, and keeping your body's immune system healthy by eating and sleeping well and exercising to keep your lungs strong. Treatment includes: rest, liquids and Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Do NOT give your child aspirin or aspirin containing products e.g. Pepto Bismal. Your doctor might prescribe an antiviral medication. Influenza is not a bacterial infection and therefore antibiotics are not effective unless you have gotten a bacterial infection in addition to the flu. Consult your doctor before giving your child antihistamines, decongestants, and cough medicines. Your child should receive medical care if he: has asthma or other chronic illness, has difficulty breathing, is unusually irritable or becomes difficult to awaken, or becomes dehydrated. Your child may return to school when he feels well and is FEVER FREE 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Please do not send your child to school while he is still sick. It is the policy of Prince George's County Public Schools to require a note from your doctor if your child is absent for more than 3 days due to illness EXCEPT if your child has the flu. If you believe your child has influenza, call your doctor's office for advice. We do not want you to feel you need to take him to the doctor simply to get a note for school.

**GRADE 4**

Science students will soon be working together to create Oyster Reef Balls. By mixing cement and pouring it into a spherical mold, students will create a habitat that will help restore the oyster population of the Chesapeake Bay.

The STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Family Night Kick-off was a great success! If you missed it, don't worry. Your student was given a comprehensive packet regarding the material presented that evening. Please review it with them.

We navigated through a virtual solar system. We encourage you to use this wonderful interactive website to explore our solar system with your children:

<http://www.solarsystemscope.com/>

Students have completed their adventures in Geometry. They can now identify, compare, classify and describe angles in relationship to other angles, identify and describe geometric figures, as congruent as well as identify and describe the results of translating reflections and rotations.

In addition we have learned oodles of vocabulary words. We look forward to high scores on the Unit Assessment Four Test. In January, we will delve into the realm of measurement. Parents, continue to encourage your students to master their math facts for the weekly timed test. We do have a small percentage of fourth graders who have met the goal of passing all four tests by December. Hurray!! Please ask your students which Math Facts test they're on. Encourage your child to go on First In Math over the holidays. If your student gains at least 300 points, they will earn a special prize.

Thank you for all of your support in working with your wonderful students. Please check with you children to see if they need school supplies replenished. They make great stockinguffers.

Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Happy Kwanzaa! Best wishes for a new year!!

**GRADE 5**

Reading/Language Arts - We just finished our second unit of the year, which focused mostly on fiction texts. We read short stories, plays, and poems. We learned how to infer character traits, analyze poetry, and read stage directions. In the next coming months, we switch our focus back to non-fiction. We're learning very important skills, such as note taking, summarizing, and distinguishing between important and minor details. These skills will help students in core subject areas in the future.

Mathematics - Students have been working on manipulating fractions. This can be a very tricky subject, so students have been working very diligently to gain a thorough understanding of the concept. Current problems include adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with regrouping. Students also continue to work on increasing their sticker count in First in Math. All fifth graders should be working nightly if the Internet is available at home. Practice on this computer program will help students review subjects covered in class, as well as help them learn their basic math facts.

Science - Our STEM Fair is well under way in fifth grade. Over the past few weeks, students have chosen a topic and created a question to guide their project in the right direction. Students will continue to work on their STEM Fair projects both in school and at home. In addition, classes have finished their unit on space and are now exploring the various states of matter.

Social Studies - We have just finished our unit on the exploration of the Americas. Students will now begin learning about the earliest American colonies, including Roanoke and Jamestown. In the next several weeks, students will learn about how the 13 colonies formed and what daily life was like in colonial America.