



Calverton Elementary
Beltsville, MD

October 9, 2009
Volume 1, Issue 3

Calverton Elementary School's Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Families,

This week, you should have received your child's first quarter interim progress report. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

In addition, information regarding your access to the SchoolMax Family Portal was sent home with your child. If you are unable to login or need further assistance, please contact the school office at 301-572-0640.

Lastly, I would like to invite fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other male role models to Men Make A Difference Day at Calverton Elementary. You will have an opportunity to learn more about our school and how you can help your child succeed. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, October 12th at 8:15am in the multipurpose room.

As always,
Peace,
Mary M. Tschudy, Principal

Important Dates

Monday, October 12th

Men Make a Difference Day
8:15am in the Multipurpose Room

Monday, October 12th-Monday, October 19th

MSA Benchmark Testing
Grades 3-6
Make-ups to follow

Friday, October 16th

MSTA Convention
Schools Closed

Tuesday, October 27th

Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly
8:15am in the Multipurpose Room
Grades 1-3

Wednesday, October 28th

Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly
8:15am in the Multipurpose Room
Grades 4-6

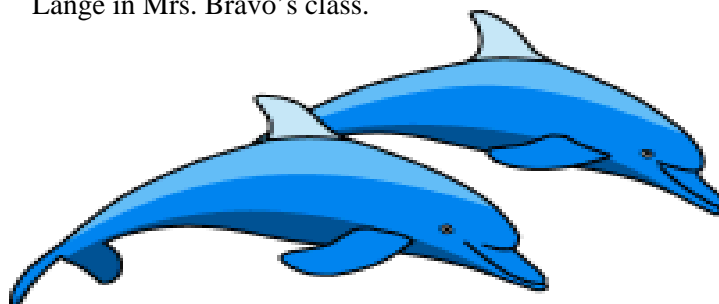
Writing Corner

October 20, 2009 has been designated as the first "National Day of Writing". The National Day of Writing, which is being supported by the National Writing Project in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English and other organizations, is a day to celebrate the importance of writing for all students in all grades from preschool to the university. Parents can support this writing initiative by having their children practice some fun writing activities at home. I strongly recommend that all children have a writing journal for home use. A writing journal in the hands of a child makes a powerful statement about the value of writing.

Students are continuing to focus on the "Trait of Ideas" and also addressing the "Trait of Organization". Once the writer decides on the main idea they are going to write about, they should think about how they are going to organize and write their thoughts. The summary of the "Trait of Organization" is as follows:

- Writing a strong lead (topic sentence)
 - Placing information in the best order
 - Sticking to the main idea
 - Writing a strong conclusion (ending)
- Mrs. Constance Wood, Writing Specialist

The writing sample for this newsletter is written by Ryan Lange in Mrs. Bravo's class.



My Something Beautiful Written by the poet Ryan Lange

My something beautiful is dolphins because they are beautiful when they are swimming in the water. They are black and gray and swim in the bay. They make me happy when I look at them.

Math Corner

All the students in grades 3-6 have their First In Math (FIM) logon and password. If you have a computer with Internet at home your child should be playing each day. Playing time can be recorded as Math Facts practice on the monthly Math Calendar. To play FIM, students go to www.firstinmath.com and enter their student ID and Password. We have asked students to spend this first week working on their basic facts by completing their Addition and Subtraction GYMS as well as Skill Sets #1 and #2. Once they have completed these they can move on to Multiplication and Division GYMS as well as Skill Sets #3 and #4. There are DIRECTIONS for all the games as well as hints about playing strategically. If a game is new for a student they can go to the PRACTICE link and figure out how to play without losing any turns. NEWS & NOTES has a Special Feature on Prince George's County and an article about Calverton's 6th PLACE NATIONAL FINISH in 08-09. You can also read about other PG schools that competed. RANKINGS lists Top School, Top Teams, and



Top Players. Students love to check this. Every day the Player of the Day for each of the 17 teams will wear a lanyard advertising they had the greatest sticker gain the day before. At the beginning of each week the class with the greatest increase in stickers will be awarded the large FIM trophy. Best of all every student who makes this a daily routine will increase their math fluency! Please ask your child to show you FIM!

-Mrs. Gale Waibel, Math Resource Teacher



Technology Corner

The computer lab has been a beehive of activity. Students are excited about First in Math, their country research projects and being able to log onto the reading sites such as Starfall. It is exciting to see and hear the excitement when they come to the lab!

Parents, please remember to come to the Parent Technology Nights in the Computer Lab. Last night was our first session from 6:00-7:00pm. We watched a video clip from Safari Montage on Internet Safety, explored some exciting educational websites and logged onto the Family Portal. Remember, these are just for parents. Starting in November we will have STEM Fair Nights at the Computer.

In November, you can learn how to create your own seasonal PowerPoint to share with your family and friends. If you need help logging onto the Family Portal, please contact me at shirle.upchurch@pgcps.org or call to make an appointment to come into the Computer Lab. The school phone number is 301-572-0640.

-Ms. Shirley Upchurch, Technology Teacher



Exciting News from Prince George's County Public Schools!!!

Many of our textbooks are now available online. Check out <http://pgcounty.scottforesman.com>.

Nurse's Corner

The Health Department will be receiving H1N1 Flu Mist vaccines within the next several weeks. Since there is a four-week interval before administration between seasonal flu and H1N1 and H1N1 cases have increased in Maryland, the Health Department decided that they would be providing H1N1 flu mist first. Therefore, we have been instructed to hold on to the consent forms that have already

been completed. Another consent form will be sent home that is specific for H1N1.

Please do not complete either of the forms if your child has asthma or any other chronic respiratory disease. It is important for these children to receive the injectable vaccine, which we do not offer here at Calverton.

-Ms. Kay Diggs, RN, Calverton School Nurse



Feed Your Child's Brain

Research continually shows that when children eat a healthy breakfast they score higher on tests, have better concentration, have fewer discipline problems, and have fewer absences. They also have fewer illnesses, accidents, and maintain healthier body weights. Skipping breakfast has been linked to childhood and adult obesity, which brings a host of medical problems, including diabetes and heart disease. Skipping breakfast also may be a sign of anorexia nervosa, which can lead to cardiac arrest. We all know these things, so why am I seeing so many students in my office who tell me they haven't eaten breakfast???

Breakfast means "breaking the fast". Your children should be getting a minimum of nine hours of sleep each night. To prevent problems such as reflux, they should not eat meals for two or three hours before going to bed. This means it has been eleven hours since they have eaten dinner. The two reasons I hear most from the students about why they didn't eat breakfast are:

1. "I wasn't hungry." - I listen to their abdomens with a stethoscope and trust me when I tell you, they are obviously hungry.
2. "I didn't have time." - None of the children have told me that there is no food at home, but if this is a problem, please let us know. Breakfast is served at Calverton Elementary School. Look at the website or call the school to obtain information.

Your partner in keeping your child healthy and in class,
Ms. Kay Diggs, RN, Calverton's School Nurse

