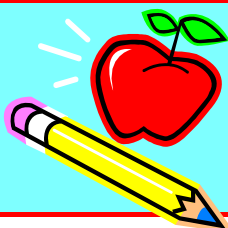


BACK TO SCHOOL!



Calverton Elementary
Beltsville, MD

September 24, 2009
Volume 1, Issue 2

Calverton Elementary School's Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Families,

Thank you families for attending Back to School Nights. Your children are very proud of their work and we are very proud of your children.

Remember that **Friday, September 25th** and **Monday, September 28th** the school is closed.

Save the World students were invited to fly the Peace Dove at Healy Hall at Georgetown University with Jane Goodall who was the main speaker. Her speech is linked and you can hear and see the speech and the dove at <http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID44276> Some of Calverton's students asked Jane some questions along with Georgetown University students.

On September 3, 2009 at 7:00pm in the multipurpose room, sixth grade students and parents will meet with Northbay representatives to discuss the sixth grade trip.

As always,
Peace,
Mary M. Tschudy, Principal



Writing Corner

Write Traits is a writing method that teaches students to look at the main characteristics of writing and assess them independent from one another. The Write Traits writing method helps students discover that proficient writers skillfully integrate all the traits into their writing. By teaching students to see, hear, practice and internalize the traits, they gain control and confidence in their own writing. The six writing traits include the following traits:

Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice, Conventions Students in third through sixth grades are focusing on the "Trait of Ideas". This trait makes up the content of the piece. When the ideas are strong, the overall message is clear. The summary of the "Trait of Ideas" is as follows:

- The main idea of the paper is clear. It is easy to understand what the writer is trying to state.
- It is evident that the writer knows a lot about the topic.
- The paper is full of interesting, details about the topic.

Parents can help support this writing program by encouraging their children to state the main ideas of their writing and reading assignments. The newsletter will inform parents when the next trait is introduced to the students.

Each newsletter will feature a student's writing sample. The following poem is from Mr. Cohen's class. The students wrote Haiku poetry focusing on the main idea of friendship during a health lesson.

-Mrs. Constance Wood, Writing Specialist



Friendship

Written by the poet Irlanda Luz

My friend is a jewel.
I polish her every day.
She stays in my heart.

Important Dates

Thursday, September 24th

Health Workshop
6:30pm

Friday, September 25th

Professional Development
Schools Closed for Students

Monday, September 28th

Yom Kippur
Schools Closed

Tuesday, October 6th

First Quarter Progress Reports
Released

Counselor's Corner

Calverton Elementary School has launched a school wide decision-making framework for establishing positive academic and social behaviors to promote an effective learning environment for all students, which ultimately teaches self-management. PBIS consists of rules and routines that are taught by school staff to prevent behaviors targeted for change. In our school we have three expectations for all our children - being respectful, being responsible, and being ready to learn. In order for the children to know what is expected we have identified specific behaviors that demonstrate what being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn looks like in very specific locations throughout the school. For example, being respectful in the classroom includes raising your hand and waiting to be called upon, while being respectful in the hallway includes keeping your voice quiet. It is believed that when children know what is expected they are better able to follow school rules.

-Ms. Judith Pollock, School Counselor

Math Corner

We want Calverton parents to know as much as possible about the curriculum that is taught in Maryland. An excellent website is www.MDK12.org, created by the Maryland State Department of Education. When the Home Page comes up you can select the Parent Link in the header to learn more about the reading, mathematics, science, and social studies that is taught in PreKindergarten through Grade 8. Another good link on the same Home Page is Maryland School Assessments on the left side. Once you open that, select the tabs that ask questions about the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) to learn more about the tests given in math and reading (grades 3-8) and also science (grades 4-8). There is a Math Problem of the Week for grades 3-8. That is great practice for your child! Just select the appropriate grade level.

The thirty-six fourth graders in America Counts will have their first tutoring with University of Maryland mentors on Wednesday, September 30. We are very excited to be able to offer this program in partnership with the University of Maryland again this year.

Thirty fifth graders received math tutoring permission form on Friday, September 18. Students who have not returned their tutoring form to Mrs. Wright and Mr. Reif need to do that so they are ready to start on Thursday, October 1. If your child is unable to take advantage of this opportunity please return the form with a note so that another student can be added.

-Mrs. Gale Waibel, Math Resource Teacher



I am happy to announce the

First Parent Technology Night

***Thursday, October 8th
6:00-7:00 p.m. in Room 102***

Presented by: Shirley Upchurch and Sandra Freeman
Calverton Elementary Teachers

The topic for October 8, 2009 will be **Internet Safety and Computer Introduction including the Family Portal**

-Ms. Shirley Upchurch, Technology Teacher



Children Learn What They Live *By Dorothy Law Neite*

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
If a child learns to feel shame, he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement he learns confidence
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

Reading Corner

Calverton welcomes back the America Reads Program from the University of Maryland. This year we will have eight university students who will provide tutoring for approximately 35 first and second grade students. The program begins on September 29 and ends the middle of December.

Remember to sign your child's reading and math calendar for September. Calendars are due on the first day of October. In October, classrooms will begin the Book-It Pizza Hut incentive program. This program rewards students who are reading each night and who complete their teacher's classroom goal. Students are given a coupon for a free pizza if they complete the goal.

We congratulate the following students who did their summer reading calendars: Nana Agyemang, Samuel Bergsten, Mikye Jackson, Danielle Peoples, Shagun Sharma, Huu Ho, Ilaweni Rajkumar, Ruthann Richards, Henry Saathoff, Evan Jones, Nesta Garraway, Qinten Spence, Denzel Green, Jaycee Polanco, Amiel Cruz, Allan Naing, Angelica Arias, Ivan Canalas, Mark Boozer, Massiah Hoard, Allan Naing, Nicolas O'Connor, Eric Villanueva, Christy Matthews, Shepsura Page, Natasha Rokkala, Jasmine Maddy, Andrea Martinez, Orven Cruz, Mohammed Barry, Gabriel Rentos, Stuti Deshpande, Silvia Sanchez, Ronee Howard, Ashley Ramirez, Kweku Arthur, Keeshon Martin, Tartee Piangbe, Jacqueline Fuentes, Ashka Talati, Amaka Emerson, Michael Onwukwe, Godsee Joy, Kenny Aklikokou, and Jocelyn Vasquez.

*-Mrs. JoAnn Price & Mrs. Carolyn Bergartt,
Reading Specialists/Reading Recovery*