PARENT BULLETIN
November 7, 2017

NATURE’S VISION FUNDRAISER THANK YOU!
We would like to thank all of those who supported our Nature’s Vision fundraiser. It was great a success! Everyone had wonderful things to say about this fundraiser. We’re so happy everyone was pleased and we look forward to another Nature’s Vision Fundraiser next year.

PTO POPCORNPOLIS FUNDRAISER
Our PTO is sponsoring a Popcornopolis Fundraiser. They did this last year and it was a big hit. The popcorn was delicious. Please consider ordering. The deadline is Wednesday, November 15, in order for it to arrive in time for the holidays. Any questions, please contact: Natasha Curtis at montpelierptofundraising@gmail.com

ACCURATE PHONE NUMBERS!!!
It is extremely important that we have accurate phone numbers to reach you in case of an emergency, whether it be an emergency with your child or a school wide emergency. If you have changed your phone number please send a note in to your child’s teacher with your new contact information. This information is entered into our database that is used when we need to reach you or do a schoolwide call out. Also, please take the time to make sure we have your email address on file. This is another way we can reach you in case of an emergency or important updates. Click HERE to enter your email into our database. Thank you!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Friday, November 10, school is closed for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Make sure you have signed up for your conference or have spoken to your child’s teacher about a conference time.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK – November 13th-17th
American Education Week will present all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. 2017’s theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," Read about the history of American Education Week here.

CHARTER SCHOOL NEWS
Starting November 1st parents have the opportunity to apply on-line to the PGCPS Public Charter School of their choice. This includes, among many others, the Chesapeake Math, Information Technology (CMIT) School. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, January 26, 2018, at 5:00 PM. Information and applications can be found on the PGCPS Charter Schools website.

BLAZE PIZZA NIGHT
Join us on Tuesday, December 5, for another Blaze Pizza fundraiser night. 20% of the proceeds that night will be donated to Montpelier. Our last fundraiser night was a great success.

WINTER CONCERT
Join us on December 14, at 6:30 pm for our annual Winter Concert. Our Chorus, Orff Ensemble and Instrumental Music Students will be performing in our Multi Purpose room.

MATH and TESTING CORNER
Testing: We are very busy with testing different subjects for different grade levels. In the beginning of November, fifth graders will take the Formative Assessment for Science. The next week third graders will take the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, which is a tool used, in part, to identify students who are Talented and Gifted and who will be able to be in the TAG class. At the end of November, our first graders will take their grade level OTIS Lennon School Ability test to be used in the same way. Last month, the children in grades 2-5 completed a math inventory and a reading growth assessment. Your child’s teacher should have the results and will share them with you at your parent conference.
Math: We are continuing our rigorous math program this month. Problem solving is so important to understanding math. We are developing the students’ number sense, as that will help them to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. One of the biggest noticingsthat I hear from teachers is that their students do not know their math facts. Remember, that is something that needs to be reinforced at home on a nightly basis. If your child is in K-2, please work on addition and subtraction every night. If they are in 3-5, and they do not know their multiplication and division facts, please work on those on a nightly basis. Repetition is key to making sure they memorize them. Also, having the students identify the fact family is a great way to help them memorize. We will continue to work on strategies in class, but the facts themselves are something we ask parents to have their child master. Thank you

Count On Us is back for another fabulous year! Please encourage your children to call with any math questions (homework or otherwise!)

- The show can be seen on
- Comcast channel 96, Verizon channel 38
- and even as a live webcast found on www.pgcps.org
- Airs Mondays and Wednesday
- 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Call in questions to 301-772-0080
- For students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- E-mail questions to cou@pgcps.org
- Make sure to call in if you need any help on your math homework!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our school is part of the Healthy Schools Alliance to support a healthier generation of kids. We would like to remind our Montpelier families that birthdays are celebrated by announcing the birthdays during the morning announcements and presenting each student with a birthday pencil and sticker. Due to excessive allergies and our participation in the Healthy Schools Alliance, classroom birthday celebrations are not permitted at any grade level.

LOST AND FOUND

Our “Lost and Found” collection bin is located in our multi-purpose room. It is overflowing with “found” items (including coats, hats, gloves, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.) All items left unclaimed will be donated to charity or discarded as of November 17th. If your child is missing a possession, please take a moment to look through the collection bin.

STUDENT PHOTOS

Strawbridge Studios will return to Montpelier Elementary on December 5th for holiday photos, picture re-takes or a missed photo opportunity from their first visit. If you are dissatisfied with your child’s first portrait, simply return the entire photo packet to the photographer on December 5th and a new photo will be taken. Envelopes will be coming home later this month for your holiday photo choices. Participating students may wear school appropriate clothing instead of a uniform on that day.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

Once the teachers leave (3:30PM), students are not permitted to re-enter the classrooms to retrieve forgotten items. This policy applies to students enrolled in our Before & After School Early Learning Program, as well. Neither the office staff, night custodians nor other staff members are permitted to authorize access to the classrooms after regular hours. Have a backup plan to get any missing information (Check with your child’s teacher to see if homework is posted online or arrange a homework buddy.)

IT’S COLD OUTSIDE!

Now that colder weather is on its way, students should dress warmly and bring hats, coats, and gloves to school. Recess is held outdoors for all students whenever the weather permits. If a child is healthy enough to attend school, then the child should be well enough to go outside for recess. If it is raining or the temperature with the wind-chill factor is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, recess is held indoors.
FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT

Want a chance to burn some energy (and calories!) before the big Thanksgiving feast? Come join us for an evening full of fun and exercise at our Annual Family Fitness Night, November 15, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Tips for a healthy holiday season

Enjoy sweets in moderation; don’t over-indulge.

Focus on proper portion sizes.

Make sure your plate is colorful: vegetables, fruits, proteins, grains, carbs.

Choose healthy snacks: apples + peanut butter; celery sticks + ranch; grapes; raisins; granola; etc.

Practice relaxation techniques: yoga, calm breathing, take a walk outside.
Bundle up and go outside for fresh air; take a bike ride; go for a jog; play kickball; make an art creation with things found in nature; go to a park; play sports.

Limit TV, watching and video game time; too much time in front of the television or computer can lead to eye strain, physical inactivity, and disrupted sleep schedules.

Listen to music that makes you happy.

Smile! Smiling is contagious.

PTO COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

Our PTO is having a Community Outreach Event on November 18, from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for your children to see how we all need to help our neighbors. They currently are in need of 6 drivers to help with this event. Please sign up if you are able to help. This organization is similar to meals on wheels.

They will be delivering meals to individuals with health issues or concerns that make them unable to travel to somewhere nice to eat and will be working with Food & Friends who are on a mission to caring for men, women and children in our community. More information on them can be found at www.foodandfriends.org.

Sign up here to help: Food & Friends Sign Up

DATES TO REMEMBER

November
8 PTO Chuck E. Cheese Night 3 pm – 9 pm
10 Veterans Day – Schools closed for students for Parent/Teacher Conferences
13 2 Hour Early Dismissal @ 1:10 - Professional Development
15 Family Fitness Night 6:30 pm
15 PTO Moe’s Southwest Spirit Night
18 PTO Food and Friends Community Outreach
22 - 24 Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools closed
29 Report Cards Released

December
5 Picture Retakes and Holiday Photos
5 Blaze Pizza Fundraiser
7 PTO Chick Fil-A Night 4 pm – 9 pm
8 2 Hour early dismissal @ 1:10 - Professional Development Day
14 Winter Concert 6:30 pm - Multi Purpose Room
Anyone who requires an auxiliary aide/service for effective communication, or the modification of a procedure/policy in order to participate in a school system sponsored program/service/activity should contact the school principal, individual or organization hosting the event, or the PGCPS ADA Compliance Officer. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.