



Hampton Parent Bulletin

Volume 18, Issue 4

December 6, 2018

School Calendar

December

- 11 Vision & Hearing Screening Begins
- 12 Winter Concert
4th & 5th Grades
6:15 pm 5th Grade
7:15 pm 4th Grade
- 21 KG Holiday Party
12:00-1:30
4th Gr. Holiday Party
1:30-2:30
Christmas Holiday/
Winter Break Begins at
the End of the School
Day.

January

- 2 School Resumes
- 17 Science Night



A Letter from the Principal...

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the school year there are many times when the generosity of the Hampton community overflows. In November children of all ages carried in their donations for the food drive and recorded their names on post-it notes for the donation graph. Mrs. Dyer and the SCA filled 35 Thanksgiving bags for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches. During American Education Week visitors completed Turkey Grams to the delight of the recipients and funded needed items for the Thanksgiving bags. We thank Mrs. Swoboda, Mrs. Zipin and Mrs. Murphy for delivering the bags, and we thank everyone for their generosity.

The season of giving continues as children place their donations of hats and mittens on the tree in the lobby for ACTS and donate toys to the Cool Kids program that supports children with cancer. By giving to others our children learn an important lesson at an early age. It is an honor to see the delight on the faces of our children as they proudly hang their donations and place items under the tree.



Our children will also give the gift of music to the Hampton community as the fifth graders present their debut instrumental concert under the directorship of Mr. Evans, our instrumental music teacher. It is always amazing to see the growth of our musicians who began lessons in September. Our fourth grade chorus will perform Snow Biz! which gets everyone in the mood for the cold, snowy winter ahead. Mrs. Fletcher is our vocal music teacher who teaches the songs, movements, and speaking parts. These concerts will be held on December 12th.

Whatever your traditions are in the month of December we wish you, your family, and friends a joyous holiday season. The last day of school is December 21 at the end of the school day, and school will resume on January 2, 2019. See you in the new year.

With gratitude,

Patricia M. Kaiser

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Office News...

Nearly 90% received 3, 4 or 5 stars; 60% of BCPS schools earned 4 or 5 stars

TOWSON, MD — Nearly 90 percent (88.8%) of the county's 160 public schools evaluated in the new Maryland Report Card received 3, 4 or 5 star ratings. Sixty percent earned 4 or 5 star ratings, the highest ratings possible in the state's new accountability system.

Ninety-nine percent of Baltimore County's elementary schools received 3, 4 or 5 stars, and 73 percent earned 4 or 5 star ratings.

"While we are pleased that our school system, overall, compared favorably with others in the state," Interim Superintendent Verletta White said, "we are fully engaged in elevating the performance of all schools – through our budget process, staffing, curriculum development, support services, professional development, and community partnerships. We are working to ensure that all of our schools are high-performing schools in the eyes of their communities and according to the data. I am grateful to our teachers and staff for providing daily, high-quality educational experiences across the county and at every grade level. Our students and communities deserve nothing less."

The state's new accountability system, designed in response to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), uses many factors – such as students' academic achievement, progress, and graduation rates – to assess school performance. Each school is awarded points in several categories. Those awarded points are measured against possible points, and the resulting percentage is used to compare the school against other Maryland schools and to determine star ratings, from 5, highest performing, to 1, lowest performing. Detailed report cards for all BCPS schools and for the school system are available on the [state's Report Card website](#).

I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT HAMPTON RANKED AS A 5 STAR SCHOOL!



The **Word of the Week** program improves vocabulary. Our recent words are: manipulate, absorb, portico, and abundance. Please acknowledge your child when he/she uses one of these words.

Office News

Thank you for calling in advance and sending emails to the teacher when a student is absent. However we can only accept a written note to code the absence as excused. Without a written note, the absence must be coded as unlawful.

ATTENDANCE

To maintain good scholastic performance, students must attend school regularly. The federal government and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) have set high standards for regular school attendance. The State of Maryland standard for attendance is 94% for satisfactory (absent no more than 11 days per school year) and 96% for excellent (absent no more than 7 days per school year). Hampton Elementary School has consistently exceeded those standards, which contribute to our students' academic success.

MSDE determined that a student is counted present for a full day if the student is in attendance four hours or more of the school day. A student is counted present for ½ day if in attendance for at least two hours of the school day, but less than four hours. Hampton's hours are 9:15 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Following an absence, students are required to present a note to their homeroom teacher.

The note, signed by a parent or guardian, must include the name of the student, the date(s) of the absence and the reason for the absence. Upon receipt of the absence note, the school will certify the absence as excused or unexcused. Absences not supported by a note will be considered unexcused. Absences that are considered "excused" include illness of the child, death in the immediate family, quarantine, court summons, violent storms, work or activity that is approved or sponsored by the school or school system, observance of a religious holiday and state of emergency.

Cold Weather Attire

As the temperatures drop it is important for all children to dress appropriately. Children should wear coats, hats and gloves or mittens. If the temperature drops below 32°F children should wear pants or leggings under their shorts.



From the Health Suite

- Mrs. Chambers

HOLIDAYS

Hard Facts about Holiday Safety

- In 2012, 3,270 children ages 19 and under were seen in emergency rooms for injuries caused by nonelectric holiday decorations like broken ornaments.
- In 2012, an estimated 192,000 children were treated in an emergency room for a toy-related injury.
- That same year, an estimated 136,314 children ages 19 and under were injured due to a fire or burn.

Top Tips about Holiday Safety

- ◆ Make sure your tree has plenty of water by checking it regularly. Natural trees look beautiful and smell great, but if they're not watered regularly, needles can dry out and pose a potential fire hazard.
- ◆ Keep lit holiday candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and don't forget to blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
- ◆ Consider your child's age when purchasing a [toy or game](#) this holiday season. It's worth a second to read the instructions to make sure the gift is just right.
- ◆ Keep a special eye on small pieces, including [button batteries](#) that may be included in electronic toys. While these kinds of games are great for older kids, they can pose a potential danger for younger, curious siblings.
- ◆ [Prevent burns](#) from hot holiday food or liquid spills. Simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the edge.
- ◆ Move the ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks towards the top of the tree. That makes room at the bottom for the ones that are safer for young kids.

Media Center News

- Erin Schnirel, Library Media Specialist

Fourth and fifth graders started off the year with the Digital Citizenship units. They have learned internet safety and proper netiquette. Students created a comic using research from databases like World Book, and Destiny. We have learned to use Noodle Tools to prevent plagiarism and help us cite the resources we use on projects. The Common Sense Media curriculum is a nationally certified award winning curriculum used since 2015.

A letter went out to all fourth and fifth grade students to join the Black-Eyed Susan reading team. This program started in October for fourth and fifth graders and will lead into the Battle of the Book team members. Battle of the Books meets Wednesday during lunch and most Monday mornings.

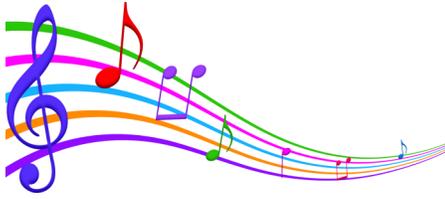
Third graders are participating in a book project during library by creating story maps and plot outlines to ultimately write a positive book review. These reviews will be posted on Destiny to encourage younger students to check them out. Ask your son or daughter to show you the review that they wrote in the library Destiny database.

Second graders are in the passport unit. Each week they come to the library and visit a different country around the world. We visit China, Cuba, and look at the traditions and culture of each unique place that we visit. The blue passports that we fill-in have tons of information we learn from the book and from a variety of BCPS databases.

First graders are learning how to visualize while reading. We have read David Shannon's book, *A BAD Case of Stripes*, and are moving onto poetry and non-fiction books to practice creating pictures in our heads while listening to the author's words. The students are strengthening their minds and practicing early reading strategies.

Kindergarten students are starting a unit on "Awesome Authors" which features, Eric Carle, Mo Williams, and Melanie Watt. We discuss the author's words and illustrator's pictures in each of these awesome books. The students are so excited to pick out their own library books and read them in the comfortable library chairs and bean bags.

All students come to the Library once a week. Please help your child(ren) by making sure he/she has their library books to return. Books can also be returned in the morning or exchanged for new material from 9:00- 9:15 AM.



VOCAL MUSIC NOTES

- Mrs. Fletcher

The holidays are quickly approaching and that means concert time! **Fourth grade** students have been working hard learning and memorizing songs, singing in two and even three parts, practicing movements, and rehearsing speaking parts and solos. They will perform *Snow Biz*, a musical about everything related to winter, on Wednesday, December 12 at 2 p.m. for the school and 7:15 p.m. for family and friends. Please join us! All are invited to attend!

The **fifth grade** is working on a new rhythm called syncopation. They are even playing rhythms on unconventional instruments around the classroom, such as trash cans, file cabinets, and closets. We are currently doing a unit on Theme and Variations. Soon then will listen to Aaron Copland's *Variations on Simple Gifts* and identify how he changed a familiar folk song. They will also compose and perform their own variation to *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. The unit will culminate in a major unit test to identify what is changing in each variation that is heard. **Third grade** students have sung songs in a canon or a round, created sound effects for a story using different tone colors on an instrument, and learned to sight-read songs. They are beginning to review rhythms and learn pitch names of the treble clef in preparation for playing the recorder once we return from winter break.

Kindergarten has been playing classroom instruments, moving to a steady beat and the melodic direction, and using their voices in different ways. Our **first graders** have learned dynamics such as piano & forte and tempo (largo & allegro), as well as quarter notes and quarter rests. They are beginning to learn and play eighth notes. The **second grade** has been learning half, dotted half, and whole notes and rests as they played rhythmic ostinatos to Halloween songs. They also learned how to play rhythms in compound meter. While playing music games, the students even sang solos in front of the class. They will continue learning how to sight-sing songs and compose and perform with more difficult rhythms.