

Ashburton Elementary School

6314 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 * 301-571-6959



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

June, 2009

Dear Ashburton Parents/Guardians,

June always brings with it reflections on the past year and changes for the new school year. I am very pleased with how many successes we have had this year. Our students really shine in so many ways. They all have grown and made remarkable achievements over the school year. We have easily adjusted to our new addition and all of the technology that came with it. The students are certainly enjoying the new playgrounds!

I am most grateful for our parents, who are always supportive and volunteer to help whenever we need them. Most recently, we had many parents help with Career Day, volunteer for our field days and numerous field trips. We also know that a number of parents are helping teachers plan end of the year celebrations.

We have parents involved in a number of ways in our school; including those who are members of our PTA and serve on the School Improvement Team (SIT).

All members of the SIT are selected to represent a grade-level or special population, such as ESOL or special education. Members make a commitment to attend quarterly meetings and give input on the school improvement process. The PTA is another avenue for parents to give input to the school and to hear about school processes and procedures. I appreciate the parents and staff who attended the last PTA meeting and gave thoughtful feedback. There was a valuable dialogue on MSA packets, the TQ Star system, and the SIT process. You can find out more information about our SIT process on our website. I encourage you to attend the PTA meetings where there are presentations on timely topics and there is always an opportunity to participate in discussions. I am always available to meet with parents to discuss any concerns that may arise.

I want to thank the PTA leaders for their commitment to our students and school. I look forward to working with Amy and the new Board next year. Thank you for all you do!

Calendar Updates-

June 10- SIT team meeting 3:30-5:00

June 12- 5th grade promotion ceremony 9:15 a.m. & pool party

June 15- Awards Ceremony: grades 3-5 at 9:15 a.m.

June 15- last day of school for PEP

June 16- last day of school for students; early dismissal at 12:35 p.m.

June 23- report cards mailed from Central Office

August 31- first day of school 2009-10 school year

As the year comes to a close, we are busy planning for next year. I want to share with you some anticipated changes, but caution that due to Ashburton's ever-changing enrollment and a very tight operating budget this year, these could be tentative. We anticipate having eight sections of PEP, four of Kindergarten, four of grade one, four of grade two, four of grade three, and three each of grades four and five.

This staffing will necessitate some staff changes. Ms. Stacy Bowker will teach PEP at a school closer to her home. We have hired Ms. Ilyssa Klein for the PEP Classic/Pilot class. Mrs. Lisa Diamond will move with her new husband to New York. Ms. Beth Vacante completed her degree and will teach the PEP Classic class. Congratulations to Ms. Vacante! Due to staffing allocation changes, Ms. Tulick will not teach PEP speech but we have hired Ms. Katherine Hanson to teach speech in PEP along with Ms. Lisa Seligson. Mrs. Kerry Madigan will take a leave of absence to be home with her new baby and toddler son. Ms. Ashley Campbell will teach first grade next year. Mrs. Kymberli Petronio has taken a job closer to her home and with the additional challenge of being in an IB program. Ms. Julie Ashin, coming from Daly Elementary School, will teach second grade. Our part-time music teacher, Ms. Emily Hines, will have more hours at her home school. Mr. Joseph Smith will teach part-time music with Ms. Barr. We wish those who are leaving well and will miss them. We welcome the new staff to Ashburton.

As we are excited to introduce our new Ashburton staff, we also need to say goodbye to a caring staff member that has been with us for 30 years. Ms. Linda Major, special education resource teacher, retired from Montgomery County Public Schools this month. We would like to thank her for her commitment to Ashburton and wish her well as she begins this new chapter of her life.

In August we will mail you a packet with more information about staffing—please note that this summer we have two teachers getting married and some names will change. This packet will also contain a calendar, lunch information, and bus schedules. There will also be information about a kindergarten/new parent meeting one evening prior to the start of school and Open House will be scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, August 28th.

Please work with your child to do the summer math and reading packet that your child will bring home. Read with them, make frequent trips to the library for new books, and encourage them to keep their brains busy. Look for the mail I will send to students in July.

I hope to see you at the many end of the year events during the next few days, including the 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony, the end of year Awards Ceremony for grades 3-5, and many classroom end of year celebrations. Please note that the last

day of school for K-5 students is June 16th and students will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m.

Ms. Cino and I wish you a most pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you next year. We will be here most of the summer, but please call ahead if you need to see someone in the office.

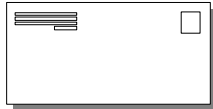
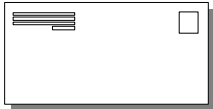
Sincerely,

Charlene Eroh, Principal



We did a great job recycling this year- keep thinking about recycling by holding on to your summer homework and not asking for a second copy to save paper!

Please make sure we have your correct address, with proper documentation if you've moved, so that you will receive report cards after June 23rd, the summer mailing in early August, and a special mailing from Ms. Eroh.



PEP Newsletter June 2009



Dear Families,

Another school year is quickly coming to an end; it's hard to believe how quickly this one has flown by! Our final theme for this year will be ***Under the Sea***, which will last for 2 weeks and hopefully get everyone in the mood for summer with thoughts of the beach, sea and sand, and of course all of those wonderful creatures that live under the water. We will be talking about various beach and water themed activities and animals including fish, whales, crabs, starfish, and more. Please see more detailed information below. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year!

Theme: Under the Sea May 18th – June 15th

Vocabulary: water, ocean, sea, sand, beach, fish, whale, crab, lobster, sea star, starfish, seahorse, seaweed, coral, stingray, wave, towel, beach, sandcastle, shell, sunscreen.

Suggested Reading:

[The Rainbow Fish](#) by Marcus Pfister
[Hooray for Fish](#) by Lucy Cousins
[Fishy Tales](#) a DK Learning Book
[Just Grandma and Me](#) by Mercer Mayer
[To the Beach](#) by Linda Ashman
[Spot Goes to the Beach](#) by Eric Hill
[Ten Friendly Fish](#) by Debby Tarbett
[Ten Tiny Tadpoles](#) by Debby Tarbett
[Under the Sea](#) by Top That Kids
[What Lives in a Shell?](#) By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Songs:

Five Fish Swimming in the Sea
Five Little Fishies



Sample of Activities:

Crafts:

- Rainbow Fish paper plate
- Octopus card board roll
- Jelly Fish streamers
- Egg carton sea creatures
- Whale lunch bag
- Beach scene
- Aquarium
- Sea Star Craft

Literacy/Math/Science Extensions:

- Making sets of under sea creatures
- Sorting shells/fish by color/shape
- Alphabet fish; letter recognition, spelling names
- "Fishing" game; fishing for letters, numbers
- Sensory-water and/or sand table

Cooking/Snack:

- Octopus hotdog
- Fish in the ocean (frosting on a graham cracker w/ fish crackers or fruit snacks)
- Starfish cookies
- Beach bowl (crushed cookies at the bottom, vanilla pudding dyed blue)

Suggestions for Home:

- Take your child to the library and check out picture books about the sea and the beach
- Set up a sandbox at your house. Bury shells and toy sea creatures and have your child hunt for the items
- Take a trip to the aquarium or beach!

Reminders:

- **Field Day** Tuesday, June 9th
Parent Volunteers welcome!
AM: 9:45-10:40
PM: 1:35-2:30
- The **last day of school** for **AM** class is Friday, June 12th
- The **last day of school** for **PM** class in Monday, June 15th

Thank you for a wonderful year. We wish all of our departing families the best as they venture on to the exciting world of kindergarten. We will see all of our returning families when school begins again in August. A safe and exciting summer vacation to all! Enjoy!

June Happenings in Kindergarten

Reading/ Language Arts

We will finish out our Kindergarten year talking about the seasonal change to summer, summer safety, and friendship. We will be completing the big book series and will prepare for first grade by practicing first grade sight words, text features, and story elements.

Writing

We just finished writing our own books, so be sure to read your child's book with them. They are very proud of their hard work!



Math

We will continue to review counting and identifying money. We will also practice using concrete objects to show different ways to add and subtract a given set.

Science and Social Studies

The students will be engaging in hands on exploration activities during June. We had a great field trip to the College Park



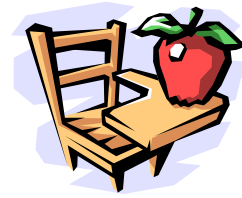
Aviation Museum. Thanks to the parents who volunteered to join us!

We also had a very successful Career Day on Friday, May 15th. Special parents volunteered to share their interesting jobs with the children.

Reminders

Please return ALL library books to the media center as soon as possible.

Have a great summer!



First Grade News

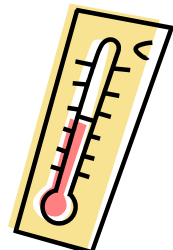
Dear First Grade Families,

Wow! Spring has flown by!! As June begins, we thought that we would let you know about some of the exciting things that will be going on in school!

Reading: We are finishing up our countywide Spring Reading Assessments. We are continuing our intensive review of all of the words that we've studied this year. We will conclude the year with our author study of Arnold Lobel.

Math: We are continuing our exploration of fractions and money. We will also continue our work on application and problem solving with estimation and rounding with money. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts at home with your child.

Science: We are finishing up our unit on weather. We have been learning a lot about thermometers, temperature, and clouds. You can support your child at home by talking



about the temperature and whether or not it's hot or cold outside.

Social Studies: We are working to complete our autobiographies, which we have been doing in social studies, as well as writing. Thank you parents, for providing your child with important information needed to complete their autobiography!

The last day of school is Tuesday, June 16th. We will be having our End of the Year Picnic on the blacktop from 11:15-12:00 p.m. We hope you can come! Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you are planning on attending.

Be on the look-out for the math summer packet and the reading log, which will be coming home soon. These items are optional, but will help your child practice 1st grade concepts from this year and prepare for 2nd grade.

If you have any questions, please contact us (301-571-6959). We have enjoyed your collaboration and support this year!

Sincerely,
The First Grade Team

Town News from Second Grade June 2009

It's hard to believe it's already June! This year sure did go by fast. Here's what we are doing in June.

Reading

We will continue to focus on reading to perform a task and writing summaries using a topic sentence, at least 3 details, and a concluding sentence. Please have your child continuing reading over the summer.

Also, continue to ask them comprehension questions about what they are reading.

Writer's Workshop

We will finish writing poems using free verse, alliteration, repetition, and personification. Summer is a great time to practice writing. Your child can write a letter to a friend or teacher, write about their day, write a letter to persuade you to take them to a movie or amusement park, or write a poem about a place they went to over the summer.

Science

We will end the year completing more hands-on experiments involving liquids. We have worked on creating and observing many different liquids throughout the unit.



Math

All math classes are finishing the last unit. Please make sure your child continues to practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Also, make sure your child works on their math packet!

Upcoming Event:

- End of Year Celebration- June 12 from 1:00-2:45. More information will be sent home soon.

We have truly enjoyed teaching your children. Thank you for your

support throughout the year. Have a terrific summer!

-Ms. Bouquet, Ms. Canard, Ms. Fox, Mrs. Petronio & Mrs. Flores

Third Grade June Newsletter

It's hard to believe it, but it is June already! The school year has flown by! We have had a great year of learning this year and we are so proud of all of our third graders!

Third graders worked very hard on their Wax Museum projects and their author's conference books. The results were amazing and every student should be proud of their accomplishments.

Math:

In math, students have completed Unit 6 and will be taking their unit test the first week in June. The students have worked really hard in math this year and the teachers are pleased with their progress. Students will spend the remainder of the year reviewing past concepts. Be on the look-out for the math summer packet which will include review materials and preview materials for 4th grade.

Science:

We are wrapping up our study of sound in Science. By the second week in June, all third graders will have created and presented their homemade instrument. Students will demonstrate how the pitch of the instrument can change.



Reading:

In Reading, students are working very hard on their Poetry Anthologies and the results are creative and inspiring. We will also be doing an author study on Cynthia Rylant or Verna Aardema at the end of the school year.

Remember that report cards will be mailed directly to parents, so be sure to keep an eye out for them later in June or early July. Students will be bringing home their summer Math and Reading packets. Please make sure your child completes or attempts these packets over the summer to ensure an easy transition into 4th grade. We suggest reviewing the Math packet about a week before school starts in order to refresh your child's memory about what has been covered. **We also strongly encourage students to practice multiplication and division facts over the summer.**

Please make sure your child is **reading over the summer every day!** We can't stress enough the importance of maintaining these skills in order to be ready for 4th grade.

Thank you all once again for all the help and support you've given us during this year. We hope you and your family have a safe and restful summer!

Sincerely,
Katie Butler, Becki Segal, Brooke Flores, Sean White, Susan Zeccardi

News 4 You



Wow! Is it June already? Where did the time go? During the remaining weeks of school, here is what we will be covering:

Language Arts

As our school year comes to a close, we are taking time to assess our reading interpretation, grammar skills, and written expression. Our books for the Authors' Conference were inspirational; the fourth grade students were very proud of their efforts. Students shared their books with their peers as well as students in the first grade. Remember to encourage your children to read, read, read and write, write, write this summer. Every student has contributed to a list of recommended summer reading books. Enjoy!

Social Studies

Students have been busy learning all about the history of Maryland in preparation for our final field trip to Historic St. Mary's City! We have been using primary and secondary sources, as well as interactive websites to put ourselves in the place of the Yaocomaco Native Americans and the settlers. We just can't wait to see all of the artifacts and replicas in person on June 3rd.

Mathematics

During the last couple of weeks of school, we will be reviewing mathematical concepts covered this year and closing out the last unit. Students are encouraged to keep up with the studying of their basic math facts, and to complete the summer math packets to be better prepared for fifth grade!

It's been a privilege having your child with us this year. We wish him/her all the best! Have a wonderful summer! We know your child will make us proud as he/she enters fifth grade!

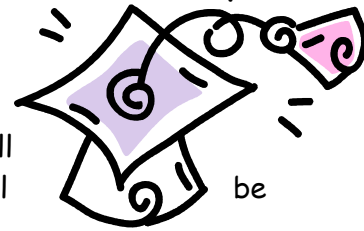
Thank you, Mrs. Brenner, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Ralles, and Mrs. Weaver

Fifth Grade's Fabulous News

The fifth graders have continued to work very hard during the fourth quarter and they have continued to keep very busy! We had a wonderful trip to Philadelphia, we had a visit from former Ashburton students (6th graders), and took a tour of North Bethesda! There are also a lot of activities just around the corner:

June 12th: Promotion Ceremony @ 9:15 a.m.; pool party to follow
June 15th: Awards Assembly

At the promotion ceremony, all students will be receiving a



certificate of completion, and many awards will be given out as well. Two of these awards are the **President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence** and the **President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement**. These awards are based on criteria set by the President's Education Awards Program. Students that will be receiving the award for **Outstanding Academic Excellence** have earned a GPA (Grade Point Average) of a 3.5 or above between 4th and 5th grades. On top of that, they have scored equal to or above a 432 (advanced) on the math section of the 4th grade MSA, **and** scored equal to or above a 437

(advanced) on the reading section of the 4th grade MSA. Students that will be receiving the award for **Outstanding Academic Achievement** have earned a GPA of a 3.5 or above between 4th and 5th grades. On top of that, they have scored advanced on one subject of the 4th grade MSA and proficient on the other subject of the 4th grade MSA.

There is also a lot going on inside the classrooms...

Math

During the month of June, Ms. Campbell's students will be finishing Unit 6. Students are working with probability and algebra concepts. These concepts are a preview of the middle school curriculum. Students have been challenged by how to rearrange numbers and operations to make equations true. They continue to make progress and can solve these types of problems much more quickly. The final unit assessment will be given soon. Ms. Campbell appreciates all of the hard work students have put forth this year in math! Ms. Neumann's students are also completing their final unit, Unit 5: Probability. They have been exploring the likelihood of events, as well as the connection between area and probability. The unit assessment will be on Tuesday, June 9th. Please be on the look-out for summer packets, as they will be coming home with your child shortly. The math packets will be due to your child's math teacher, at North Bethesda, in the fall. Over

the summer, all math students should also continue working on basic facts so that they are strong for 6th grade!

Language Arts

For the remaining weeks of the year, the fifth graders will complete their memoir projects and share them in a celebratory fashion. We shall explore a few last stories in the Junior Great Books and William and Mary Curricula, culminating our year of enjoying and interpreting thought provoking literature. The students will be completing their analyses of their William and Mary novels which have focused on "change" in its many manifestations, as they contemplate their own preparedness for and mixed emotions about leaving elementary school and moving to middle school.

Science

In science, students are finishing the Cells and Heredity Unit. They have learned about plant and animal cells as well as unicellular organisms. Students have been working with the microscopes to make observations of cells. They have become much more comfortable with operating the microscopes which will help them in middle school. Following the unit assessment on June 2, students will design and conduct small experiments based on the questions we had developed during Family Science Night. They will follow the inquiry process as they question, experiment, and explain why "something" occurs.

Social Studies

The students are completing our unit "The Evolving Country". They have been discussing physical features of the United States and the effects they have had on settlement patterns over time. Students have also been learning how the United States gained territory, after the Revolutionary War, which allowed the country to expand to the Pacific Ocean.

We hope that the fifth graders have a wonderful summer and we wish them all the best of luck in middle school!

Thanks,
The Fifth Grade Team

From the Art Room:

The school year may be winding down, but students are as creative and enthusiastic about the arts as ever.

Please come to the halls outside of the new art room in the new wing of Ashburton to see an amazing mural created by the 4th and 5th graders. Thanks to a generous grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Ashburton PTA, we were able to have an artist-in-residency program with local artist Tara Holl.

Ms. Holl and I built on the students' learning about ecosystems and food webs by having them compare and contrast the Chesapeake Bay with the rainforests of the world. The students then created sketches of plants and animals that can be found in the rainforest, and transferred them to the walls

and to cut pieces of masonite. It took weeks of prepping, painting and painting some more, but the mural is now complete. They did a great job, and their work will provide viewing pleasure for many years to come!

Much more temporary, but equally as fun, were some painted-hand animals (Hanimals), created by a number of 5th graders in Art Club. Photographs of their work were chosen to be displayed at the annual Elementary and Middle School Arts Fair at White Flint Mall.



I encourage all Ashburton students to have a fun, creative summer, and I look forward to seeing them in the fall!

- Jonathan Roth