



Oliver Beach News  
December 2018



Mrs. Lynne Palmer  
Principal



Mrs. Jennifer Pilarski  
Assistant Principal

***Principal's News***



We want to thank everyone for making American Education Week such a successful and positive experience. Also, a special thank you to everyone for making our school play, "The Little Mermaid", so awesome!! It was an exhilarating week with multiple performances, and we appreciate the support of the teachers and parents.

Oliver Beach Elementary School is a very special place - thanks to our parents, students and staff. As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded each day of how fortunate we truly are.

ON behalf of the faculty and staff we wish our families all the best during this holiday season. We hope you enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year.

***Notes from the nurse***



With the colder temperatures, we've had our fair share of cold weather illnesses! Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to get their flu shots. If not, there is still time! Flu shots are readily available at all doctors' offices and clinics.

This month's health tip is to stay active, even when kids have fewer opportunities to play outside. Some great ideas to keep active include walking the malls, active computer games like Wii Fit or Just Dance, helping with chores (!), and indoor classes at your local gym or Y.

As a final reminder, please do not send kids to school who are ill or have a fever. Students need to be fever free for 24 hours

without medication in order to attend class. This allows for kids to get well quicker and return ready to learn, as well as protecting other students from getting ill.

Thank you for your support to keep our kids healthy, happy and ready to learn!

Eva Merryman, MSN, RN, CPN

School Nurse

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***The Counselor Corner***



November was such a busy month at OBES. Thank you everyone who attended a conference with your child's teacher as well as visiting during American Education Week. Both opportunities hopefully helped give you a good glimpse of your child's school day. We cannot thank you enough for encouraging your child to do his/her personal best as well as making education an important part of his/her life. Your attitude towards your child's education can make such a huge difference in your child's life.

Here are nine simple ways you can support your child's academic journey.

1. Set aside time to read together.
2. Be a role model for learning. Share with your child when you learn something new.
3. Pay attention to what your child loves. Talk with them about their

interests and when possible share in that interest with them.

4. Tune into how your child best learns (visually, by listening, or doing). Sometimes making up songs or rhymes helps children learn.
5. Practice what your child is learning at school.
6. Make connections to what your child is learning in school to everyday life.
7. Help your child take charge of his/her learning and encourage your child to persevere.
8. Don't over-schedule your child with too many outside activities because it is important for children to have down-time in their life, too.
9. Keep screen time to a minimum. Unstructured time with books, toys, crafts, and friends allows children to develop their own interests, skills, and creativity.



It is hard to believe, but the month of December has arrived! This month our classroom guidance lessons are focused on the theme of personal safety. At OBES, we hope that every child can identify at least one adult whom they trust to speak to about any worries, concerns, or problems they are facing.



In December, schoolwide we will be focusing on students showing the two virtues of kindness and orderliness. Kindness is showing you care and doing something good to help make the lives of others better. Showing kindness takes practice. Individuals need to be aware and

sensitive to others around them. Orderliness is being neat, organized, making and following through with your plan. Orderly people get jobs done efficiently. These two virtues are great to develop early and continue to demonstrate in the years to come.



This time of year can be very stressful to adults and children. Here are a few suggestions to remember that might help make this time of year a little less stressful for your child.

**Stay with your routine as much as possible.**

**Give warnings of transitions.**

**Don't overschedule.**

**Try to spend 15 minutes one on one with your child.**

**Try to stay on a healthy, familiar diet.**

**Maintain your child's bedtime routine as much as possible.**

If you could use some assistance during the upcoming holiday seasons, please give me a call at the school or email me at [sstewart5@bcps.org](mailto:sstewart5@bcps.org). I am here to support your child to reach their potential any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I wish you a wonderful month of December.

Sheryl Stewart - School Counselor



Our next School Spirit days will be:

Monday, Dec. 17 – wacky tacky day

Tuesday, Dec. 18 – crazy hair day  
Wednesday, Dec. 19 – pajama day  
Thursday, Dec. 20 – stuffed animal day  
Friday, Dec. 21 – holiday shirt/sweater

### **Charitable Club – Canned Food Drive**



The Charitable Club is thrilled to announce that OBES collected 346 non-perishable food items. The third grade classes were our top winners for bringing in items. Thank you for giving so generously! The food items were taken to the Bowleys Chase Community Food Pantry. This was such a wonderful way for you to give back to so many here in our community!!! Thank you so very much for making a difference in so many lives!



The Charitable Club has set up a beautiful mitten tree in the front lobby. We will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to donate to local children in order to keep hands and heads warm this upcoming winter. Some of these items will be donated to the Family Crisis Center. We will be accepting donations until Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance!! 😊



### ***PE News***

This month in PE students will continue to engage in cooperative games but will also be competing individually while utilizing their

basketball skills. Students will use their best effort to have safe movement and self discipline while practicing dribbling, passing, catching, and shooting skills. The culmination for Intermediate Grades will be a bracket tournament. Cheer on your favorite b baller!

Mrs. Brace

### ***Library News***

#### **Curriculum:**

During first quarter, students in grades K-5 successfully completed our Digital Citizenship Unit. In this unit we learned how to stay safe online, how to prevent and stop cyberbullying, how to protect creative rights, and about how to give proper citations. To find additional resources on the topic, please consider going to: <https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship> for extra videos and support materials.

#### **New Opportunities:**

In addition, the BCPS Library Media Program is excited to announce that the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) tile is now available under Digital Content in BCPS One. Students and staff may access BCPL content (databases and eBooks) through this tile. Students will need to use their BCPL Student Accounts to access the database and eBook content. A link to the BCPL and SAIL page is included for information on Student Accounts

BCPS LIS Wiki: BCPL and SAIL  
<https://bcpslis.pbworks.com/w/page/85364083/BCPL%20and%20SAIL>

#### **Special Thanks:**

Thank you to our incredible PTA for supporting literacy in the school through holding our first Book Fair of the year! It was a success!

## **Maker Space:**

Our Maker Space is up and running. During first quarter, first and second graders used their knowledge of fairy tales to design a house that couldn't be blown down for the three little pigs and designed a chair that could fit all three bears without breaking. Students put their engineering skills to the test through creating, planning, and testing their designs.

Third through fifth graders used an electronic invention kit called Makey Makey to connect everyday objects to computer programs. We learned about circuitry and the importance of ground wire. We also used basic coding to get our programs running and explored various conductive material.

We plan to do more within Maker Space but need your help. We are currently in need of the following items; our wish list is below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copper Tape</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duct Tape</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heavy-Duty Command Books</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foam Pieces</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 Volt Batteries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crayola Model Magic (Amazon)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watch Batteries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

**Thank you for supporting literacy & STEM integration in school!**

## ***PreK News***

We can hardly believe we are in December already. In Math, Pre-K students have been identifying numbers one through five. We have been practicing using one to one correspondence. In ELA, we have learned a few new sight words: little, can, look and love. The children are working hard writing letters and numbers.

Keep reading nightly and remember to fill in your reading log!

## ***Kindergarten News***

Kindergarten students have started their measurement unit in Math. We are learning to measure objects using non-standard units such as sticks and cubes. In ELA we are focused on short I words, segmenting and blending sounds to create words. We will begin our first Science unit very soon!

## ***First Grade News***

First grade has been working very hard to build stamina and independence. In phonics, we have been learning about blends and digraphs, as well as, mastering new sight words. In language arts, we have been exploring elements of nonfiction and learning ways to organize and retell information. In math, we have been practicing ways to compose and decompose numbers by breaking them apart and putting them together using different combinations. In social studies, we have been exploring the 3 topics included in the study of geography: environment, people, and resources. We are so proud of our first graders!

## ***Second Grade News***

Second Grade is currently working on Unit 03: Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System 2 in Math. In this second number unit, we are solving problems with multiple addends and considering whether order matters in addition. For example, does  $7 + 4 + 3 + 6 = 7 + 3 + 4 + 6$ ? Also, we are revisiting addition and subtraction story problems, investigating even and odd numbers, and beginning to make sense of counting by groups and place value (tens and ones). In Social Studies, we recently

began Unit 4: History in Action. During Unit 4, we will delve into the background of Ancient Egypt by exploring the tools historians and archaeologists use to make sense of the past. In Reading, we are working on Unit 3: Unique. Over the course of Unit 3, we will explore unique cultures, environments, plants, and animals from around the world, and focus on the qualities that make them unique.

### ***Third Grade News***

In third grade ELA we are finishing up our unit on Fables and Folktales, and will begin our third unit on Inventions and Innovations. In math we have been using many strategies to add and subtract two and three digit numbers. We are almost done this unit as well and will begin our third unit where we are discovering more about Multiplication and Division. In Social Studies, we are learning about some of the cultures in Asia. After the winter break, we will be starting our Safe Racer Science unit and will need some recycled materials. A letter will go home with more details as we get closer. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy winter break!

### ***Fourth Grade News***

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, we have been working on an author study by reading a number of books written by Kate Dicamillo. Students are responding to comprehension questions using RACE (R-Restate using echo words; A-Answer the questions; C-CUPS; E-Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text.) Check out other books Kate Dicamillo has written on Tumblebooks!

In math we are finishing up Unit 2 on multiplication. Students have learned various strategies to multiply larger numbers such as, area models, partial products and

the standard algorithm. They are also working on estimating answers to determine if the actual answer is reasonable. Our third unit in math is division.

Fourth grade just completed Geologic Journeys in science and we are starting the next unit called, "Turtle Trouble". In this unit, students will learn about the internal and external structures of plants and turtles and how they contribute to their survival. This unit is connected to our upcoming field trip to the National Aquarium on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Fifth Grade News***

COMING SOON! 5<sup>th</sup> grade is working hard on their research of a "Hidden Figure of the American Revolution"! We will be ready to share our presentations the last week before Winter Break. Stay tuned for more information on the date and time of our presentations, we would love for you to join us!

### ***Inclement Weather***

As we go into the winter months there is always a possibility of inclement weather. Please remember to check for any school closing or delays on BCPS.org, your BCPS App on your cell phone, local television or radio stations, or the BCPS phone number 443-809-5555.

Also, we want to remind you that the children go outside for recess in cold weather. We are asking you to please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather each day. Please provide a warm winter coat and scarf/hat/gloves for cold weather.

*Upcoming Dates*



*December*

- 10 – Intermediate Awards Assembly  
(grades 3-5) – 9:00 am
- 11 – Primary Awards Assembly  
(grades 1 and 2) – 9:00 am
- 18 – Winter Concert – 6:00 pm
- 24 – January 2 – Winter Break

10 – Team BCPS Day – Wear Blue

21 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's Birthday  
Schools and Offices Closed

25 – Second Marking Period Ends  
Schools Close 3 Hours Early (12:15 pm  
for Oliver Beach Elementary)

