



**Mrs. Lynne Palmer
Principal**

**Oliver Beach News
April 2019**

**Mrs. Jennifer Pilarski
Assistant Principal**



Principal's News



Welcome to April, a step closer to warmer weather. As spring brings warmer weather, and extended daylight and evening sports activities, please remind your students that homework is very important and needs to be completed daily. Additionally, please help them remember the importance of wearing appropriate footwear to school. Flip flops and slides are unsafe for the playground and physical education class. Tennis shoes with enclosed heels and toes need to be worn in order for students to participate in these activities safely.

A few words regarding attendance. All BCPS schools are expected to meet a standard of 94% attendance by students during the school year. I want to thank all of you that have made a concerted effort to have your child arrive each day for school on time and ready to learn. I ask that you continue this effort. It is not only BCPS policy but is the law for students in grades K-12. We do monitor attendance closely with the Pupil Personnel Worker. We understand that children need to be home when they are ill, but please be sure to schedule vacations during the summer or when schools are not in session.

The third quarter ends on Friday April 5th with dismissal at 12:20 pm. I cannot believe that we are moving into the last quarter of the school year. Persistence was one of our most recent virtues that we focused on schoolwide and it couldn't be more appropriate for this time of year. Please encourage your children to continue to

persist for the last few weeks of school and do their best.

Notes from the nurse



Spring Allergy Season Has Started!

What?! I know that it may be difficult to believe, but it's true! We have already had days when pollen levels have been in the "medium" range. If you have spring allergies, NOW is the time to start taking your allergy medication. Many times, people report: "Allergy medicine doesn't work for me" or "I don't have seasonal allergies," as the person snuffles and coughs their way through a month or two. If these words sound familiar you may want to rethink whether or not you have seasonal allergies. You can develop allergies during any point of your life. You may not have had allergies in the past, but you may have them now. Some of the signs of seasonal allergies are:

- coughing
- sneezing
- itchy or sore throat
- headache
- nasal congestion
- puffy red eyes
- tearing of the eyes
- stomach ache

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, consider taking an over the counter (OTC) allergy medicine or making an appointment with your health care provider. If your allergy medicine isn't working for you, there are many diverse types. Try a different medication. When allergy medicine isn't taken correctly it also

affects its effectiveness. Allergy medicine needs to be taken every day to be effective. Before you decide whether or not any brand of medicine works for you, take it consistently for two weeks. This allows time for the inflammation to heal. Most allergy medicine is taken once a day at night, as pollen levels are highest in the morning. If you are taking your allergy medicine at night, your medicine level will be high when the pollen level is at its highest. Conversely, if you are taking your allergy medicine in the morning, the amount of medicine in your body to prevent histamine release will be at its lowest during the day while the pollen level is at its highest.

Thank you for your support in keeping our kids healthy, happy & ready to learn,

Eva Merryman, MSN, RN, CPN
School Nurse
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Current School Year Calendar and the Calendar for the 2019-2020 School Year

Due to weather-related closings, the BCPS calendar has been adjusted to provide the required instructional days and hours for students. BCPS has closed schools six days so far this year due to inclement weather, exhausting the four make-up days built into the calendar.

The following two adjustments have been made to the 2018-2019 calendar:

- Wednesday, June 5, 2019 is now an instructional day with schools in session for students. It was originally a professional development day with no school for students.

- Pending the need to close school for future weather-related events, the last day of school will be Monday, June 17, 2019. The school year was originally scheduled to end on Friday, June 14, 2019.

In addition, the board approved the calendar for the 2019-2020. Schools will open on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, and end between Monday, June 15, 2020 and Monday, June 22, 2020, based on the need for weather adjustment. A week long spring break is included from Monday, April 6, 2020 through Friday, April 10, 2020. Schools and offices are closed on Monday, April 13, 2020; however, if two or more emergency closures occur prior to Monday, April 13, this day becomes a regular school day with all schools and offices open.

Kindergarten Registration Information

If you have a child that will be attending Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year and is not enrolled in our Prekindergarten program you will need to call the Oliver Beach office and request a registration packet. The number is 410-887-5943. You may also email Pat Chisholm at pchisholm@bcps.org.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (formerly known as PARCC)

Each year students in grades 3-5 participate in state mandated testing for English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. In order to minimize disruption, we are testing in the mornings during a two-week period. Please make every effort to have students in school on time on these dates.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 13 3 rd and 5 th Grade ELA Session 1	May 14 3 rd and 5 th Grade ELA Session 2	May 15 3 rd and 5 th Grade ELA Session 3	May 16 4 th Grade Math Sessions 1&2	May 17 4 th Grade Math Sessions 3&4
May 20 3 rd and 5 th Grade Math Sessions 1&2	May 21 3 rd and 5 th Grade Math Sessions 3&4	May 22 4 th Grade ELA Session 1	May 23 4 th Grade ELA Session 2	May 24 4 th Grade ELA Session 3

Library News

Exciting News from the Library!

The Innovative Learning Office for Baltimore County Public Schools graciously purchased and installed additional bookcases and a circulation desk for our students which allowed us to build usable “walls” around the library and have one central location for students to check out books. I am hopeful that this will increase the number of books students are checking out! We want our young scholars reading!

The bookcases will act as a barrier to help reduce distractions and noise coming from the hallway as well as from the library. Also, with the addition of the bookcases, we will be able to spread out our library collection so that our young scholars will see more of the books we have in our collection. I want to especially thank the wonderful volunteers who helped reorganize the library with me. It was a big feat, but it is looking incredible!

We will also be obtaining new seating and tables for a Maker Space in the library. More

information about the Maker Space will come out in the May Newsletter.

Special News:

Congratulations to the Top 10 Students with the Highest Number of Book Checkouts for March:

1. Louis O.
2. Bella C
3. Brandan S
4. Cooper A
5. Cole D
6. Cooper E
7. Ayarilis P
8. Camden W
9. Abigail W
10. Makayla C

Please look for April’s Top 10 Students in our next newsletter.

The Counselor Corner



Happy April everyone!!



For the month of April, my classroom guidance lessons focus on coping skills. It is very important for our children to be able to develop their whole self (which includes a healthy balance of their mental, social/emotional and physical well-being). The essential question for this month’s lessons is, “What are safe strategies for handling our feelings and emotions”? By the end of each lesson the goal is for all students to be able to state ways to safely express their thoughts and feelings as well as to identify positive and negative ways to handle anger.

- In **kindergarten**, students will listen to the story, The Recess Queen, and then identify different feelings. The students will also practice calm down

strategies and practice their breathing strategies.

- In **first grade**, students will listen to and discuss the story, Howard Wigglebottom Learns to Back Away. The students will also identify positive and negative ways to handle anger.
- In **second grade**, students will be able to identify whether a problem is solvable or unsolvable and demonstrate how to handle an unsolvable worry after listening to and discussing a story.
- In **third grade**, students will be able to describe effective stress management techniques in order to cope with their stress in a healthy way after listening to and discussing, Don't Pop Your Cork on Mondays.
- In **fourth grade**, students will be able to demonstrate how to filter their thoughts before speaking. They will listen to and discuss the story, I Can't Believe You Said That.
- In **fifth grade**, student will discuss how their education preparing them for their future and what the differences between elementary school and middle school are. This month's lesson is designed to help the fifth graders make a successful transition to middle school.

Schoolwide, this month, we will be focusing on students demonstrating two virtues: honesty and flexibility.



Being honest is being open, trustworthy, and truthful. Honesty is an important way to

build trust. Others can believe us when we are honest. Demonstrating honesty means that we keep our word, admit mistakes, tell the truth kindly, don't feel a need to impress others, and accept ourselves for who we are. Being honest also means that we will not lie, cheat, or steal. Praise your child when you see him or her being honest.



I recently read a quote that stated, "I learned when hit by loss, to ask the right question: "What next?" instead of "Why me?" This type of thinking requires real inner strength and flexibility. Flexible thinking happens when someone focuses on accepting changes and calmly handling not having their own way. Having flexibility means being open to the opinions and feelings of others. Also, flexibility helps someone be willing and open to try a new way when something isn't working out. Without flexible thinking, people continue doing things the same way when new ways are needed. This is very rigid thinking. Often rigid thinking causes someone to get upset and angry when they don't get their own way. When someone is upset they want to try to control other people in hopes of getting their own way. Flexible thinking takes practice little by little and day by day. Praise your child when you notice that he or she is showing flexibility.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you might have.

Sheryl Stewart - School Counselor
sstewart5@bcps.org

School Store News



This is just a reminder that our school store is open once again every Monday and Friday from 8:30 – 8:45 am. The price of the various items ranges from ten cents to two dollars. There are lots of fun pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and so much more!!

Volunteer Breakfast



Our volunteer breakfast and celebration will be held on **Wednesday, May 28th** from about 8:30 – 9:30 am. It will be a great time recognizing all our volunteers. Thanks so much!!

Career Day



This year's Career Day will be held on Monday, June 3rd. Please consider sharing with the students at OBES a little about your career. We need your help in order to have this opportunity for our students. Even at this young age it is important for children to consider what they might be interested in doing one day for their career. Please email Mrs. Stewart at [sstewart5@bcps.org](mailto:ssewart5@bcps.org) if you are available. Thanks in advance!!

A note from PE

Parents: We will be having our annual Field Day on May 31, 2019. I am looking for

parent volunteers to help me out on that day. If you have been volunteer trained and would like to be part of our fun Field Day please email me at jtelesky@bcps.org.

Thanks,

-Mr. Telesky

A note from Art

We continue to create beautiful things in the art room. I love watching all of my little artist bloom and grow in their talents.

Mural Club: Wow, we have a big group this year, 20 students. I'm so proud of how well they are working with each other and am excited to move to our mural boards this month.

Fifth Grade: Parents, please be sure to sign and return your child's progress report. Missing assignments, or low grades can be made up and re-submitted. We are working on our sock monkeys and would love parent volunteers to help. Please be sure send in the volunteer form if you can come in and spend time sewing with the students.

Fourth Grade: We are challenging ourselves with self-portraits. I really love how no matter the skill or comfort level of the student, so much of their personality shows in their work. I'm excited to have these displayed for our upcoming art show!

Third Grade: We are finishing up our watercolors inspired by Faith Ringold's "Tar Beach" and I couldn't be more happy. I love seeing all the imagination at work as students illustrate where they would fly if they could fly anywhere.

Second Grade: We are challenging ourselves with weaving and would love parent volunteers. Please be sure to fill out the volunteer form and send it back if you have some time that you could come and spend with us.

First Grade: First grade is working on creating an animal in a habitat, inspired by the art of Henri Rousseau. A great dinner conversation would be "what animal do you think you will draw in art class? where will it's habitat be? what will it look like...?"

Kindergarten: Today we will be starting a unit based on Mo William's illustrations. We will be focusing on Elephant and Piggy and Pigeon stories. Go ahead and hit up the library and bring some of Mo William's books home to enjoy and discover all of his fun and expressive illustrations.

PreK News

The unit we are working on now for ELA is folktales. The students have added multiple sight words to their vocabulary. They are practicing how to read independently. In math we are creating different patterns (AB, ABB, AABB, ABC). Pre-K is very excited to celebrate Spring!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has begun their seventh ELA unit focusing on baby animals. We are learning about how animals are alike and different and their habitats. Students have been learning sight words and reading them in text, while identifying familiar letters and sounds to decode. In math students are learning how to add and subtract within 10. Kindergarten students are working hard learning virtue language and applying it throughout their day. We are beginning our new science unit the Checkerspot Challenge

and are watching the life cycle of caterpillars in our classroom.

First Grade News

First grade has been working hard on reading nonfiction texts about unique animals. In small groups we have been busy applying our phonics skills and knowledge of sight words to grow as readers and writers. In science we are continuing to brainstorm designs to solve a problem. In math we finished our unit of measurement, telling time, and identifying fractions. We are now working on solving story problems with missing parts.

Second Grade News

Second Grade is currently working on Unit 07: Fractions in Math. Over the course of this unit, students will investigate what fractions are and the many ways they can be represented and used. They identify fractions of a single object ($\frac{1}{2}$ of a square, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a rectangle, etc.) as well as find fractions of a set ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 12). In Social Studies students are working on Unit 2: North America. Unit 2 focuses on elements of community in the nations of North America. In Reading students are working on Unit 5: Making a Difference. Characters who make a difference in their homes, schools, or communities will be introduced through realistic fiction stories during this unit. Unit 5 will conclude with the culminating event: students voice their opinion about which real life hero made a difference and honor their work.

Third Grade News

Happy Spring! The 3rd grade is working on exciting new topics this month. In Math we are coming back to using all four operations and solving multi-step word problems. Please continue to practice your

math facts. In ELA, we are starting our author study on Roald Dahl and will be reading several of his novels. Continue to read at home and ask and answer questions about what you are reading. In Science, we are learning about extreme weather and how it can affect us. This ties into our upcoming field trip to Weather Day at Oriole Park. Keep up the hard work as we enter the last quarter of the year!

Fourth Grade News

The 4th grade has wrapped up their unit on fractions and will begin a unit on decimals and measurement this month. The students have thoroughly enjoyed their science unit- Rubbish Rescue- as they've worked in groups to create a prototype of a land trash collector using renewable energy- similar to Baltimore City's "Mr. Trash Wheel". Students will be writing a "sales pitch" to present their prototypes to a judge. The winning team will be invited to attend the Maker Fair Event in April. Keep your fingers crossed that some of our 4th graders' original Haikus- on the topic of "Family"- will be selected to appear in this year's Baltimore County Poetry booklet. We submitted our entries last week and hope to hear news soon! Picture day is April 17th and the 4th grade Spring Party will be in the afternoon on Thursday April 18th.

Fifth Grade News

5th Grade field trip date reminders:

Monday, April 8th to Philadelphia (all day)

Monday, April 15th to Marshy Point (9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

We have all our chaperones and everyone ready to go for both. Please be on the lookout for any reminders or important information for the day of each trip!

Upcoming Dates



- 1 – 5 – Book Fair
- 2 – Spring Concert – 6:30 pm
- 5 – Third Marking Period Ends Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early (12:15 pm for Oliver Beach)
- 15 – Joe Corbi's Pick Up – After School
- 15 – 18 – Spirit Week
 - 15 – Red/White/Blue day
 - 16 – Hat Day
 - 17 – Sports Team Day
 - 18 – Sunglasses Day
- 17 – Class and Individual Pictures
- 19 – 22 Spring Break Schools Closed
- 23 – Report Cards Distributed
- 25 – STEAM Night 6:00 – 8:00 pm



3 – Spring Dance

6-10 – Teacher Appreciation Week

8 – Pre-kindergarten Roundup –
Please call the office for packet and time

16/17 – Muffins with Me

21 – PTA Pizza Johns Night

31 – Field Day
PTA Color Fun Run



11 – **Fifth Grade Farewell**

12 – **PreK Graduation 9:00 am**

14 – **Kindergarten Graduation 9:00 am**

Assessment Day – Elementary and
Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early
(Oliver Beach will close at 12:15pm)

17 – Last Day of Classes – Elementary and
Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early
(Oliver Beach will close at 12:15pm)

