

BERRY ELEMENTARY JAGUARS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to February and March!

The cold air is here! Please make sure that you stress with your child the importance of wearing a coat to school. We have noticed that many of the students come to school still wearing hooded jackets. When asked why, students tell us that the coats are too bulky. If you could address this with your child we would appreciate it.

MSA is on its way. March 17th and 18th students will take the MSA math and on March 24th and 25th students will take the reading MSA. We want our school to continue to do well as we have in the past. We need your help by making sure that your child is here every day for testing. Please do not schedule an appointment for those days and try your best to refrain from taking students out of school early. Testing begins at 9:30 on the above dates and ends sometimes after 1:00. Our goal is to have a 100% participation rate. We can do it!

During the MSA period, students should be well rested. I would suggest that they get to bed by 8pm at the latest. Make sure that they have a well balanced breakfast and that they arrive to school no later than 9:05. Once the

testing begins for your child's class; we can not disrupt it to let a child enter.

We will be having another MSA kick-off to celebrate last year's scores and to set a goal for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on the 13th of March. Who knows, the students may see someone famous at this event.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the parents who have come to work in our school. We are always appreciative of your support.

The next newsletter will be our April/May Edition.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Berry Elementary School
10155 Berry Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20603
301-638-2330 / 301-753-1782
301-638-3659 (fax)

Charles County Public Schools
P.O.Box 2770
La Plata, MD 20646
301-932-6610

When inclement weather strikes, listen to the radio and television, or call:

24-hour information lines:

301-934-7410
301-932-6656
or register to receive email notification at: www.schoolsout.com

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS

Registration for Kindergarten and applications for Pre-Kindergarten will be taken beginning April 1st. Please call the school at 301-638-2330 to set up an appointment to complete the application process for Pre-Kindergarten after April 1st. We will take registrations and applications daily from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will have evening hours on Tuesday, April 28th until 7:30 p.m. Please try to get your child registered as soon as possible so that we have the proper staffing for the start of the next school year.

It is also critical that you register any child who will attend our grade one

class next year and is not already in our kindergarten program.

Please note the new age requirements: Pre-K students must be 4 years old by September 1, Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 1 and first graders must be 6 years old by September 1.

To complete registration parents need to bring:

- ❖ Birth Certificate
- ❖ Shot Record which includes the following:
 - DPT
 - Polio
 - MMR
 - Chicken Pox
 - HepB
 - HibPCV7 for Pre-k ONLY
- ❖ 2 Proofs of Residency - They must come from the following list:
 - Copy of Deed, rental agreement or lease
 - Utility Bills (portion with name, address and service address)
 - Car Registration
 - Current Home Owners or Car Insurance Bill

Please note: Due to our school growth and future potential growth, we do not accept out of zone students because of babysitting reasons.

GIFTED NEWS

Thanks to all who attended the PTO meeting on Tuesday, February 3.rd At the meeting I explained the gifted ID process that we use in Charles County to determine if a child is in need of gifted services. As I explained in the meeting, I will be sending out a letter to those students nominated by the school for gifted services between February 17th and March 6th. Included with the letter there will be a behavioral observation checklist for parents to fill out to get a more complete profile of your child. Please complete the checklist and return it by March 9th. If you would like to nominate your child for gifted services, you must do so between now and March 6.th Parents can get an application on-line at the web site below or from me directly.

Continue to visit the county gifted web site at: www.ccboe.com/gifted for local and national gifted information.

Joe Perriello
Gifted Resource Teacher



**Relay For Life
June 12, 2009
Regency**

Furniture Stadium Opening Ceremony begins at 6 pm

Here at Berry so far this school year we have raised \$2,377.64 for Relay for Life. We have two teams—an adult team (Berry Bench Warmers) and a Children's Team (Berry Jaguars Tracking Down A Cure). Mrs. Green is Captain of the Adult Team and Mrs. Nancy Murphy and Mrs. McGuire are Captains of the Children's Team. If you are interested in having your child be on the Children's Team, registration instructions are below. We would love to have your children join us! The children walk for one hour usually starting at 7:30 pm. The children will wear Berry Spirit Wear T-Shirts for the walk. New this year is that in order to receive a Relay For Life T-shirt the participant must raise \$100.00. If you have any questions you can call or e-mail Mrs. Nancy nmurphy@ccboe.com or 301-638-2330.

To register:

1. Log onto www.RelayForLife.org/charlesc
[o](http://www.RelayForLife.org/charlesc)
2. Click on Sign Up
3. Click on Join an existing team (under join up)
4. Click on search for a team

5. Find Berry Jaguars Tracking Down A Cure Children's Team—click on [join](#)
6. On page select a participation type, scroll down to Early Bird Participation registration, check it and then continue answering all the questions.

Thank you.



Nursing Station

Traumatic Brain Injury

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI. The severity of a TBI may range from “mild,” i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness to “severe,” i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury.

How many people have TBI?

TBIs contribute to a substantial number of deaths and cases of permanent disability annually.

Of the 1.4 million who sustain a TBI each year in the United States:

- 50,000 die;
- 235,000 are hospitalized; and
- 1.1 million are treated and released from an emergency department.

Among children ages 0 to 14 years, TBI results in an estimated:

- 2,685 deaths;
- 37,000 hospitalizations; and

- 435,000 emergency department visits annually.

The number of people with TBI who are not seen in an emergency department or who receive no care is unknown.

What causes TBI?

The leading causes of TBI are:

- Falls (28%);
- Motor vehicle-traffic crashes (20%);
- Struck by/against events (19%); and
- Assaults (11%).

What are the signs and symptoms of TBI?

The signs and symptoms of a traumatic brain injury (TBI) can be subtle. Symptoms of a TBI may not appear until days or weeks following the injury or may even be missed as people may look fine even though they may act or feel differently.

What are the long-term outcomes of TBI?

CDC estimates that at least 5.3 million Americans, approximately 2% of the U.S. population, currently have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a TBI.

TBI can cause a wide range of functional changes affecting thinking, sensation, language, and/or emotions. It can also cause epilepsy and increase the risk for conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other brain disorders that become more prevalent with age.

What are the costs of TBI?

Direct medical costs and indirect costs such as lost productivity of TBI totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the United States in 2000.

For more information on TBI go to:
www.cdc.gov

March Health Observances

National Brain Injury Month

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

National Kidney Month

National Multiple Sclerosis Education and
Awareness Month

National Nutrition Month