



MUSTANG EXPRESS

Volume 3, Issue 1

Malcolm Elementary School

"Where Children Think, Dream, Believe, and Achieve."

Save The Date"

October		
2	Wellness Walk	
5	Just Say No Meeting	Until 4:45
7	PTA Meeting	6 PM
8	PTA Incentive Party	
9	Picture Day	
12-13	Nanjemoy Creek	(Hawkins)
14	Just Say No @ Five Guys	5-9 PM
16	MSTA Convention	No School: Students & Teachers
21	Early Dismissal	PM Pre- K
	Road Show at Thomas Stone	6:30 PM
23	St. Mary's City	(4th Grade)
24	Just Say No Walk- A- Thon	6 AM-9 AM
26-30	Red Ribbon Week	
	Book Fair	
27	One Room Schoolhouse	(Waldrop)
28	One Room Schoolhouse	(Praytor and Sidney)
28	Family Reading Night	6:00-7:30
29	Early Dismissal	AM Pre- K
30	Book Character Day	2:00
November		
2	Just Say No Meeting	Until 4:45 PM
4	PTA Meeting	6 PM
5	Parent- Teacher Conference Day	No School for Students
6	Pre K Parent-Teacher Conferences	No School for Pre-K
9	Spirit Assembly	9:35 Pre-K (AM) K, 1, &2 2:30 Pre-K (PM) 3, 4,
10	Veteran's Day Activities	
11	Veteran's Day Holiday	Schools & Offices Closed
15-21	American Education Week	
24	Chick- fil- a Fundraiser	5-7 PM
25-27	Thanksgiving Break	Schools & Offices Closed

Principal's Pen

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We had a smooth opening to our school year and we were happy to see that our students were excited to return to school. Ms. Williams and I also welcomed many new friends to Malcolm. All new students were invited to have lunch with Ms. Williams, Ms. Jenkins and me. This gave them an opportunity to share their experiences, ask questions and to share any concerns. We continue to have excellent support and participation of our family members as was evidenced at our first PTA meeting, Back to School Night, Volunteer Orientation and Grandparent's Day. The

PTA continues to partner with us as well as our Malcolm community. Students have settled into the routines of the classroom. Ms. Williams and I have observed engaged students and excellent delivery of instruction during our daily walk-throughs. Parents please remember that if you have questions or concerns about your child/children's academic progress that the teacher should be your first point of contact. As a reminder, students can't be dropped off prior to 9:05. It is planning time for the teachers and we don't have staff available to monitor students. In addition, it is very important to have your students attend school unless they are ill. At-

tendance is one of the state mandates for meeting our AYP. If at all possible please schedule your child's appointments so they don't miss school. If appointments are scheduled in the early morning or late afternoon as an alternative, it will not impact their instruction as much as being picked up in the middle of the day. We have many wonderful events planned this year. Please check your child's weekly folder, the website and marquee for upcoming classroom activities and evening events. Ms. Williams and I are looking forward to another successful school year.

Pre- Kindergarten

Teacher: Ms. Walker

Instructional Assistant: Ms. Gould

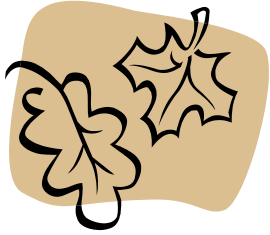
Things are falling into place as we enter the month of October. The beginning of the school year has been great, and we look forward to the months to come! The students will be learning many interesting things and participating in many fun activities during the months of October

and November. We will be exploring the units entitled "On The Farm", "Fabulous Fall", and "Thanksgiving". Parents are welcome to join us when we visit the farm on October 23rd and celebrate Book Character Day on October 30th. We will continue with our special colors of the

week and our weekly Homework Journals. You can look on your child's behavior calendar to check on upcoming activities. We would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone who has sent in snacks and juice to share with the class. We appreciate your generosity!

Kindergarten

Teachers: Mrs. Bieber, Mrs. Cowan, and Ms. Walden
Instructional Assistants: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Frazee, and Ms. Minor



The season has changed and our new kindergarteners are falling into our classroom routine vibrantly. We began the year discussing the rules for school safety and bus safety. We have been focusing on several letters of the alphabet and concentrating on capital and lower case, their sounds, consonant and vowel letters; the sign they make using sign language and words that begin with these letters. We have been

counting, learning shapes, reviewing colors and working with manipulatives in our new math curriculum. As we work on our "All About Me" theme, our 5 senses are busily noticing the world around us and the changes that our new season is showering on us.

We will be going on a field trip to Aekiah Farm on October 20th. This will be an ALL DAY field trip and

more information will be forthcoming.

Mark your calendar now for November 5th when we will have report card conferences for the first quarter. We hope to see all of our parents.

First Grade

Teachers: Ms. Brucceleiri, Ms. Long, and Ms. St. Onge

All of the first graders have adjusted well to the new routines. A very special thank you to all of the parent volunteers that have been working so hard here in school as well as at home. We have been very busy learning new things in the classroom. In Science, we have learned how to classify and sort matter using the properties of texture, size,

color, and shape. We also have been learning all about living and nonliving things. In Social Studies we continue our unit on families and communities, in particular, families and communities of the past. The students have adjusted well in their Guided Reading groups. Please continue to practice reading at home with your child. This will

help them become more fluent readers. During Math, the students have been playing mathematical games and solving problems, in which they count, find which of two numbers is larger, and find the total of two or more numbers. As always, thank you for all of your support!!

Second Grade

Teachers: Ms. Praytor, Ms. Sidney, and Ms. Waldrop



It was a pleasure meeting all the parents at Open House and learning about your child. Students have been working hard to help start the school year off right. At the end of October there will be a half-day field trip where students will visit a one room school-house. We will also have Book Character Day in which

students will be asked to dress up as a character from a book they have read. More details to come. Conferences will be held on Nov. 5th. Please sign up on the sheet that will be sent home to schedule a conference time with your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend, your child will bring their report card home on

Nov. 6th.

Please continue to refer to schoolnotes.com or our classroom websites to find our homework assignments, word lists and more. Remember to look at the agenda book each night to ensure that we keep the line of communication open. A big thank you for all your support so far this year.

Third Grade

Teachers: Mr. Good, Ms. Kay, and Ms. Lutz

The school year is off to a very successful start for Malcolm's Third Grade students! The first month of school brought many new experiences. We welcome Ms. Lutz to our third grade team this year! Students have learned new routines and are successfully learning our new specials and science schedules. Our classroom communities are up and running as students fulfill their job duties and services.

In reading, we have been on various adventures through our first theme, "Off to Adventure." Currently, we are focusing on family traditions. Celebrating traditions will give us opportunities to make connections from our own family traditions to those in different cultures. We are sharpening our writing skills each week, and will soon be on our way to writing comparing and contrasting paragraphs. Students

can look forward in Math to adding and subtracting with regrouping so keep up the daily practice. A big THANK YOU to our parent volunteers who help out here at school as well as at home making sure that we have all that we need to teach successfully. We look forward to your participation in our fall activities including Family Reading Night and Book Character Day!



Fourth Grade

Teachers: Ms. Elrod, Ms. Hayden, and Ms. Kelly

Fourth grade is very excited about our successful start to the school year. In Literacy, students have been on a mission to learn about the journeys of others and improve their reading skills of predicting, making an inference, summarizing, and finding the main idea. Students will now be reading American Stories and will practice fluency

through reading and performing plays. Ask your child to share their knowledge of Maryland's geography. They have learned characteristics of the three regions. Students will enhance their knowledge of Maryland's beginnings through our field trip to historic St. Mary's on Friday, October 23rd. Students should be practicing their

multiplication facts on a daily basis. Knowing their facts will help as we move into problem solving and multiplying multiple digit numbers.

Fifth Grade

Teachers: Ms. Burkheiser, Ms. Hawkins, and Ms. Hollomon

As we begin our fall seasons, we will be preparing for our Book Character Day on Friday, October 30, 2009. Each classroom will be accepting class size (at least 30) treats to share that day. More detailed information will be sent home. In Literacy, the students will be working on **Theme 2: Give It All You've Got.** This is a focus on Poetry. Students will read stories

about individuals who strive to excel and overcome fears and obstacles to reach their dreams. They will continue to work on the following reading and writing skills: Story Structure – Topic; Main Idea; Supporting Details; Fact/ Opinion; Evaluate and Inference; Drawing Conclusions; Summarizing; Poetry Structures; and Writing Personal Essays, Descriptive

Paragraphs. All students should be participating in the Book It Program by recording their number of pages read during their 30 minutes of reading each night. All students should also be reading Accelerated Reading novels and taking the Accelerated Reading tests in the library. Each student should complete two Accelerated Reading novels and pass two tests per



Fifth Grade (Continued)



quarter. In Social Studies, students will continue researching why and where early colonists settled; Describing the religious, political, and economic motives of individuals who migrated to North America and the difficulties they encountered (Colonial America); and the

Exploration of the 13 colonies, with a stronger focus on Jamestown, Plymouth, St. Mary's City, Boston, Philadelphia, and New York

discussing Mayflower Compact and the House of Burgess. In Math, students will continue to work on: identifying and writing equations and inequalities to represent relationships; Finding the unknown in an equation using the following operations (+, -, /, & x); Divisibility Rules; Determine prime factorization for whole numbers and express them using exponential form; finding the GCF and LCM; Data collection: surveys, stem

and leaf, line plots, bar graphs, double bar graphs Finding range, mean, median, and mode of a given set of data All students are encouraged to continue practicing their basic multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction fact families and operations weekly.

Counselor's Corner

Counselor: Ms. Jenkins
Intern: Ms. Fykes

Welcome back to all of our Malcolm families!

Malcolm is very fortunate this year to have a new face in our Counseling department: Ms. Sandra Fykes is interning with me this fall and has jumped in on the fun of guidance lessons and group activities.

This year Malcolm has teamed up with Chick-fil-A for our character education program!

In addition to PBIS incentives, your child may be rewarded throughout the year with free Chick-fil-A coupons for demonstrating good character in school. To help support this new partnership, we will be holding a Malcolm Spirit Night at the Chick-fil-A in Waldorf on Tuesday, November 21st from 5-7pm. Please come out and show your support!

As always, I am available as a resource to you and your child. Should you have any concerns about their academic, social, or behavioral progress, please do not hesitate to call or send me an email. My email address is pkjenkins@ccboe.com. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year!

PBIS

Counselor: Ms. Jenkins



Malcolm's PBIS program was in full swing from the moment our students walked in the door on the first day! For our new families, PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports School and it is a program designed to encourage good behavior through positive reinforcement. We reward students

individually as well as a class for making good choices through a variety of different programs. You will learn about many of our programs throughout the school year.

One PBIS program that will occur quarterly is our Referral-Free Activities. All students without any Level 2 or 3 referrals for the quarter will be

invited to participate in a fun activity. For our first Referral-Free activity, students will enjoy a movie and snack on Tuesday, November 3rd. If a student is unable to participate due to a referral, they will have the opportunity to join in on the fun for the next quarter's activity.

ILT and Reading Recovery

Dr. Campbell, Ms. Dempsey, Ms. Gepert, and Ms. Oliver

Some of the best times with your child may be when you share a story. Get the most out of reading aloud with these three easy tips from the "Reading Connection"

Hold the book so your youngster can see the words

and pictures while you are reading. Run your finger under the text, or point to interesting things in the illustrations.

Take your time and don't rush the story.

Don't be afraid to stop reading a book if your child doesn't seem interested. Have a back-up selection ready so read-aloud can continue.



Student Support Team (SST)

Mrs. Pugh, Chairperson

The SST at Malcolm meets on a monthly basis to discuss individual students. Students can be referred by the teacher, parent or other staff members. The team consists of the Principal or Vice Principal, Classroom Teacher, School Psychologist, Counselor, representatives from the Special Education Team,

and a member of the Instructional Leadership Team. Based on the nature of the referral, our School Nurse or Pupil Personnel Worker may be asked to attend the meeting. The purpose of the team is review the referral and to recommend additional supports that will facilitate the student's overall success in

school. The team addresses not only academic, but social, behavioral and health related issues. The SST is a valuable resource which has benefited many of our students on an ongoing basis. If you would like more information please contact Mrs. Pugh or Ms. Williams.

From the Media Center

Librarian: Mr. Banks

Media Assistant: Ms. Brown

We welcome our students back to Malcolm Elementary and hope they had a nice summer. For October and November we will be having some events to keep our students reading.

On October 26 through the 30th we will be having our Scholastic Book Fair. This will be a great opportunity to buy books and have fun. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help us is encouraged to do so.

On November 10th we will have our Veterans Day program. On this day we honor our veterans who served our country. If you are a veteran and would like to participate please contact Mr. Banks at the library.

Science

Teachers: Mr. Condo

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 have adapted from summer vacation mode to Scientist mode with great efforts this school year.

All grade levels have been engaged with studies on living things. Our focus has been on

the needs & behaviors of plants and animals. A highlight of our investigations was the observation of worms in the science lab.

After the completion of Life Science we will move into the study of Earth Science during

the month of November.

Science Fair information will be coming home with all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students during the last week of October. It is not too early to start researching possible project topics now!



Nurse's Nook

Nurse Pat



Basics for Flu Prevention:

- *Get vaccinated with the seasonal flu vaccine
- *Get vaccinated with the H1N1 flu vaccine when it becomes available
- *Practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Be Prepared:

- *Please read page 24 of the school calendar regarding Illness and Medication

*Do not send your child to school if he/she is not feeling well—have a Plan A and Plan B in place for who will care for your child if you need to be at work

*Please keep your contact numbers current with our secretaries

*Have a Plan A and Plan B for picking up your child if he/she becomes ill during the school day

*Please pack a seasonally appropriate change of clothing in your child's book bag

Questions:

Please email or call me
phorner@ccboe.com
301-645-2691

My priority is to keep your children healthy and safe while they are at school.

Music

Teachers: Ms. Berfield

We are off to a roll in music class this year! We have learned that music can be loud, or soft, or anywhere in between as well as fast and slow. Do you know the music terms for these two topics? If you said tempo and dynamics, you are correct!

Along with this year's music lessons, students in grades K-

1 will be working with a new music method. Dr. John Feierabend, a music educator for over 30 years and an authority on music and movement development, has created a program that will enable children to learn music through folk songs, rhymes, and movement exercises. This will allow all students to connect to music

through music play.

On a final musical note, please mark your calendars!

December 8, 2009—Winter Concert, 6:30pm

May 15, 2010—Spring Concert, 6:30pm

We hope to see you all there! Keep singing!

Technology

Facilitator: Ms. Dominguez

Students are already falling into good practices in the computer lab. Students in grades 2-5 have been working on typing skills, including proper posture and finger position. Students will continue to work on these skills throughout the school year. Students will also be learning about Internet



Safety in the coming weeks, while they work on other computer skills and activities that supplement classroom learning. If you would like to discuss Internet Safety (as well as personal "real-life" safety) with your kids, you can visit www.netsmartkids.org.

I'm very proud of our students in kindergarten and first grade. They are looking like pros when it comes to using the computers. I look forward to teaching them, and the rest of the Malcolm students, more new things on the computers.

Art

Teachers: Ms. Haymes

2009 Charles County Fair Winners

Malcolm had many winners in the Charles County Fair this year! Below is a list of students who had artwork or other school projects displayed at the fair:

First Place

Graham Troiani – “Non-Objective Art” Tara Jagen – “Dragon” Caitlyn Evans – “Banyan Tree”

Second Place

Justin Washington – “The Itsy-Bitsy Spider” Danielle McCann – “Sunset Silhouette Scene” Peyton Boelke – “Abstract Composition”

Angelica Ortiz – “Fair Picture” Elizabeth Hidrobo – “American Bald Eagle”

Third Place

Neko Ennis – “Symmetrical Aliens”

The following students also had artwork and classroom projects in the fair:

Madison Baratta – “Jungle Scene” Chloe Cooke – Black History Month Diorama Erica Tolson - Black History Month Diorama
Tyler Chase – Cereal Box Book Review *Chontell Hillary* – *Pizza Box Biography Project*



Physical Education

Teachers: Mr. Walter

As the new school year begins, I would like to remind all parents about the significance of your child’s physical activity. Our physical education program is the foundation of an active lifestyle for all students. Our program provides the skills, knowledge and attitudes that facilitate choosing physical activity in after school programs in the

community. In class we are determining our base line fitness, so that we can develop goals for improvement by the end of the school year.

Just Say No

Sponsors: Ms. K. Davis and Ms. Frazee

The Just Say No Club has been busy organizing our members for the year and preparing for upcoming events. October holds many events for our club. We have our annual Walk-a-Thon at the St. Charles Towne Center on October 24th. Students from all over the county will come together in support of this event as we

walk against drugs. This years Red Ribbon Week will be held from October 26th-30th. This is a week long school-wide campaign to learn ways to “JUST SAY NO”. All Malcolm students will wear red “Drugs are not cool” wristbands and sign a pledge banner committing to remaining drug,

alcohol and tobacco free. On Wednesday, October 14th we will hold a fundraiser at Five Guys in Waldorf from 5:00 until close. Money earned will be used to fund our projects for this year. We hope you will join us for a fun-filled dinner and support this worthy cause.





Where Children Think,
Dream, Believe, and Achieve.

PTA

Ms. Clark, President; Ms. Carter, Vice President; Ms. Roth, Secretary; Ms. Chase, Treasurer

The PTA would like to welcome our new Secretary, Heidi Gregory. Heidi is the parent of two Malcolm students, Maggie (third grade) and Elijah (first grade). Our Fall Membership drive was launched on Back to School Night. Our theme for this year is ***"It's a Family Affair"***. We are asking every Malcolm family member to support our PTA with a \$7 membership (including students). We are seeking corporate sponsors (including small businesses) for a small tax deductible donation of only \$50. We will list our corporate sponsors on our brochures and letterhead. We have over 20 student members so far. All students can join the PTA but we are urging 4th and 5th grade students to join our PTA. Student PTA Membership includes a yellow spirit bracelet. When students wear their yellow spirit bracelet, they get to go to the front of the cafeteria line, sit with a friend at lunch and they get to choose an extra library book. Other student benefits include a private Membership Party (date TBA), "No Homework" pass, \$5 Mustang Moolah, candy, pencils, and much more. Our meeting dates for the year are October 7th, November 4th, January 6th, March 4th (@ 5:30 pm) and May 6th.

We will meet at 6 PM and will provide a movie and popcorn for the children so bring them along. Join us for our upcoming Chuck E Cheeses night on November 5th from 3-9 pm.

We will host the Santa Shop on December 7-11th. The Winter Wonderland/Holiday Dinner is scheduled for December 11, 2009. There will be an opportunity to take a picture with Santa during the dinner. We are in need of volunteers and creative ideas. The Male Membership Committee is considering a Cook Off. So if you're a man and you think you can cook, send in your comments and suggestions. The class with the most PTA members will enjoy a pizza party on October 8, 2009. Keep those memberships coming!

Our Box Tops drive is well on it's way. Let's see which student can turn in the most box tops this year. Last year's Big Number was 1500. Can you beat it? Please turn in your box tops by October 30 and the first round of prizes will be awarded in November. Our Giant and Food Lion Reward program has been very profitable for Malcolm. We earned over \$2,000 last year just for shopping at these stores.

As you may have heard, we're recycling **CAPRI SUN** packages. Please package them in lots of 25 (preferably without straws).

