

# OPR PENGUIN POST FAMILY EDITION

APRIL NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL WOODEN

Welcome to April OPR Families!



There are two old sayings, "March comes in like a Lion and out like a Lamb" and "April showers bring May flowers." I am not sure if March ended like lamb. However, I am hoping with my fingers crossed that April showers do bring May flowers.

As we move into April, please note that standardized testing (MCAP) season is here and will continue throughout the month of May. This means that we need to ensure that our scholars come to school each day, they have plenty of rest and arrive on time. If you must schedule outside appointments, please try to schedule them after school hours, early dismissal days and/or during spring break. The schedule was sent to all families in February. Please know that we understand the challenges of scheduling appointments. We will work together!

As we enter the spring months, scholars will go outside more. Please remind your child(ren) the importance of playing safe and keeping hands and feet to themselves. Review our school wide expectations with them prior to coming to school, which will support the home and school connection of positive behavior. For the most part, we are seeing positive behaviors with regards to our scholars following our schoolwide expectations, which makes us proud of our Penguins. However, as we know, children are children and must be reminded of the lessons that we taught during our Boot Camp lessons, which focused on appropriate behaviors for school. Our scholars aren't perfect by any means; however, they try each day to hold true to our Penguin Pride Pledge of being **P**repared, being **R**espectful, being **I**ntelligent, being **D**etermined and being **E**ngaged.

Another important thing as we enter the spring months is it is allergy season. Please make sure that scholars are being provided with their allergy medications to attempt to eliminate itchy eyes and running noses. We do not want to bombard the nurses' suite if we can avoid it due to more severe medical situations. This will help our scholars who struggle with allergies and our nurses who work hard each day to ensure that our scholars are healthy.

As I close, I want to thank all the families who work collaboratively with us to make our school a special place to learn and work. I want to thank all the families who always speak to our staff with respect and kindness, which it is my hope that is provided to you. I have learned in my short years of living that kindness from all of us towards all of us is how we get more bees with honey. It is also a way to show our scholars how we work together to make our larger community a better place. I want to wish all of you a happy spring and a safe and relaxing spring break that will take place April 3-10 for students.

Principal Wooden

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday, April 3:** Tuesday, April 4: Schools Closed for Students
- **Wednesday, April 5:** Monday, April 10: Schools and Offices Closed for Students and Staff
- **Tuesday, April 11:** 4th Quarter Begins
- **Monday, April 17:** Thursday, April 20: 5th Grade ELA MCAP Testing
- **Friday, April 21:** 3rd Quarter Report Cards Distributed
- **Monday, April 24:** Thursday, April 27: 4th Grade ELA MCAP Testing
- **Friday, April 28:** 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students



## TITLE I SATISFACTION SURVEY/PARENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT!

As partners in education, your input is essential! Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below by April 14, 2023.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=U6z2wXdrtU2Uck8QTurJatdl4Pj4bgtHn88VhglOxZFUQzM0Nk1UUUo5WkU5UVFRUUEzSkFTQTNHRC4u>

## GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

### PRE-K

Spring is here and Pre-K is springing into the new season! We will begin our Nursery rhyme unit a discover how the real or the potential problems children can encounter in their everyday lives can be effectively and safely resolved. In reading we will identify



the following letters:A, M, N and V. In math we explore the numbers 8 and 9, rote count to 20, and add and subtract within 5.

## KINDERGARTEN

Welcome Spring! We are so excited for the fresh season and all the blooming that is taking place outside and within the classroom!



**Phonics: Vowel Power:** Scholars will explore the five vowels and learn to read and write lots of new SNAP words!

**Reading:** Scholars will continue to strengthen their comprehension skills (summarizing and questioning).

**Writing:** How-To Unit: Scholars will write step-by-step how to do something!

**Mathematics: Topic 11: Count Numbers to 100:** Mathematicians will count numbers to 100 by using a hundred chart. **Topic 12: Identify and Describe Shapes:** Mathematicians will identify and describe two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.

**TUB: K Engineers:** We will identify how engineers solve problems.

Please encourage your scholar to show **Penguin PRIDE** in all that they do! **Prepared. Respectful. Integrity. Determined. Engaged.**

## 1ST GRADE

Spring is in the air and we are blooming with excitement in first grade! As writers, we will be wrapping up our opinion unit, where we learned to write to express our opinion about things we like and dislike and added reasons to support our opinion. As readers, we are continuing to explore how proficient readers tackle several big jobs at once (decoding & thinking) to bring text to life and to create meaning from what we've read. In math, we will move into Topic 11, subtracting tens and ones. We will use the place value strategies that we've learned and apply them to subtracting two digit numbers. In science, we will continue to explore ways to communicate over long distances that involve transmitting light and sound in solids, liquid and gases. As we enter the fourth quarter of school, we would like to remind parents of the importance of practicing snap words at home so that your child can more readily identify them within text as they read. This will help them become more fluent readers and will boost their interest in reading!



## 2ND GRADE

- Look for information about our spring field trip to the zoo in the Wednesday folders on April 12.
- Learn With Me will be on April 20 from 2-2:45 to celebrate our poetry unit.

- Even as the weather gets nicer, please make sure your child continues to read for 20 minutes every night!



## 3RD GRADE

- We are looking forward to our “Learn With Me” day on Tuesday, 3/7 from 12:50-1:50. If you have not returned the signed registration form, please send it in ASAP!
- We are excited to welcome up to two adult guests per student. Please note, as stated on the registration form, siblings are not able to attend. Thank you for understanding.
- We are running low on tissues. If you can donate a box or two to your child’s homeroom, it would be greatly appreciated.



Thank you for your support!!

## 4TH GRADE

- Students are so excited about our upcoming field trip to Steppingstone Museum on Thursday, April 13th. We will be leaving about 9:15 and returning to school at 2:45. If you chose to send a packed lunch with your son/daughter the day of the trip, be sure all food is packaged/wrapped in throw-away bags.
- Also, this month we will continue our study of the American Revolution in reading and writing. In math we will be multiplying and dividing fractions. We started our Physical Science Unit last week. We are studying energy, waves, and motion.
- Fourth grade will begin MCAP at the end of the month. Fourth graders will take the reading portion April 24th - 27th. Be sure your scholar gets a good night's sleep and arrives to school on time.



Happy Spring!

Fourth Grade Teachers ↑ ☸ ↓

## 5TH GRADE

- 5th grade did an amazing job on their MISA testing! We hope that they can keep up that motivation and determination for MCAP testing.
- We are looking forward to having middle school students visit us and perform some of

- Please continue to sign your child's agenda nightly for communication purposes, this is a school practice.
- As the temperatures will begin to warm up, we are encouraging your child to come to school with a filled water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. Please be sure that they are only putting water in those bottles.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. Please be on the lookout for important paperwork that will be coming home regarding Extended School Year (ESY) services, if your child is eligible for these services. This would have been discussed at your child's annual review IEP meeting. Extended School Year is from July 5 to August 3, 2023 (Monday-Thursday). This summer, students will receive services at Deerfield Elementary School.
2. The third quarter ended on March 31, 2023. IEP progress reports will be emailed to parents/guardians on or before Friday April 21, 2023. We look forward to sharing your child's growth with you!
3. Each year the Maryland State Department of Education surveys parents of children receiving special education services in the State. The purpose of the survey – *The Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey* – is to hear from parents about how well they think their child's school is partnering with them and promoting parent involvement in their child's education. Parents received the survey in the mail and have until May 19, 2023 to complete and return via mail or online. Please complete the Survey online <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com> - Thank You!
4. See the information below regarding the upcoming IN-PERSON SECAC meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity for our families!

As always, reach out to your child's case manager if you have any questions or concerns!

## Harford County SECAC Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023

**6:30 - 6:50pm Meet/Greet (network)**  
**6:50 - 7:00pm SECAC Welcome/Share**  
**7:00 - 8:00pm Presentation**  
**8:00 - 8:30pm Q&A**



Join Us  
In  
Person!

McFaul Activities Center  
525 West MacPhail Rd  
Bel Air, MD 21014

## Transitions throughout the Stages

How to Prepare  
your Child  
for the next  
Transition.

Learn strategies  
to support your  
child's next transition.



Infants/Toddlers to  
Kindergarten

Elementary to Middle  
School

Middle to High School

High School & Onward



Connect with SECAC ...

Email: [harfordcountyseccac@gmail.com](mailto:harfordcountyseccac@gmail.com)

Facebook: -----> Scan me

Website: <http://www.hcps.org/boe/cac.aspx>

Call: HCPS Special Ed Dept at 410-588-5246



Scan me

## SPECIAL AREAS- PRIMARY

- **Media** - Students will be starting their coding unit.
- **Music** - Students will continue going through the instrument family.
- **P.E.** - Students are preparing for field day.
- **Art** - Students are preparing their artwork for the art show.



## SPECIAL AREAS- INTERMEDIATE

Welcome to Spring! The Special Area team is so happy to see Spring is here. During this month we will be working on the following: In **Art**—we will be completing our art projects/work for the art show which is on Friday, May 5, 2023 in the primary building. In **Media**—we are working researching various topics. In



**Music**—we will be working with the musical staff including lines and spaces and their note names. In **Physical Education**—we will be working on playground safety and soccer.



## OLD POST ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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