



October 23, 2008

## THE CENTERVILLE CONNECTION

### Principal's Constellation Comments

*Having had conferences last week, it was great to know so many of our families took advantage of this important communication opportunity. Your child's teacher is the best information source for knowing details about their academic progress. The next conference time will be offered in*

*the Spring, but stay in contact with any questions or updates you may need about your child. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who made our Book Fair a continued success!*

*Also, from the bottom of our bellies, the staff thanks the volunteers who helped make our annual Staff Thanksgiving Dinner during conferences a dining treat!*

### Student Photos

Student photo day is **Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you plan to order photos, please send the completed order form with payment on Thursday.

### Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals

Recently we have encountered a high occurrence of late arrivals. Please help us and your child by ensuring that they arrive and are in the classroom **before the morning bell at 8:55 a.m.** Also, if you know that your child needs to be dismissed early on a specific day, please remember to send a note to the teacher in the morning. This advance notice enables both the student and the teacher to be prepared for the early dismissal. We would also ask that, unless an emergency situation arises, please refrain from coming into the office immediately prior to our dismissal to get your child early. Unannounced dismissals slow down our dismissal process, as we have to take care of all early dismissals before beginning our normal daily dismissal. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### Red Ribbon Week

We will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week at Centerville Elementary from October 27<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. This year's theme is "*Don't Monkey Around with Drugs.*" National Red Ribbon Week is a drug awareness week that was begun by the National Family Partnership in 1986, in honor of Enrique (Kiki) Camarena, an American Drug Enforcement Agent, who was brutally killed in Mexico. In our commitment to educate our students regarding the hazards of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, we will be sponsoring fun and educational activities at our school during Red Ribbon Week. Students will be encouraged to write essays or poems related to making healthy choices and living drug free. Students who turn in an essay, poem, or drawing will receive a Star Ticket from Mrs. Miller, School Counselor. We will have students read their poems and essays during morning announcements. Exceptional essays, poems, or drawings will receive a Don't Monkey Around with Drugs stuffed monkey or water bottle. The schedule for the fun activities are as follows: **Monday, 10/27** – "Put a Cap on Drugs" – wear your favorite cap; **Tuesday, 10/28** – "Turn Your Back on Drugs" – wear your clothes backwards; **Wednesday, 10/29** – "Shoot for the Stars, Not Drugs" – wear Centerville spirit wear or Centerville colors (burgundy and yellow); **Thursday, 10/30** – "Tie Down Drugs" – wear the craziest tie you have; and **Friday, 10/31** – "Elect to be Drug Free" – wear red, white, and blue! (\***Changed since publication**)

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### **Food Drive**

Harvest for the Hungry's Kids Helping Kids campaign is a three-week, non-perishable food drive that benefits Maryland food banks. The program provides an opportunity for children to learn about hunger and collect food for the less fortunate. Kids Helping Kids is an official program of the Maryland State Department of Education. At Centerville, we will be collecting non-perishable food from October 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact April Miller, School Counselor at 240-566-0112.

### **'Tis the Season for Dry, Chapped Lips!**

A good idea would be to tuck a chapstick or lip balm in your child's backpack with a reminder that chapstick should not be shared. Like the cold outside air, the school air is very dry and we are seeing a lot of chapped lips. Students are missing instruction time to come to the health room for Vaseline and risk being exposed to whatever illness happens to be in the health room at the time. Our goal is to keep kids healthy and in the classroom.

### **Attendance News**

FCPS has new attendance guidelines: A student is counted present for a full day if they are in attendance for 4 hours or more. A student is counted present for a half day if they are in attendance for at least 2 hours, but less than 4 hours.

### **Field Trip Payments**

We need your assistance! When sending payments with your child to cover the cost of an upcoming field trip, please send either a check made payable to CES for the exact amount of the trip, or cash in the exact amount of the trip. We have no mechanism in place to be able to make change and/or return cash to a student. Only exact amounts can be accepted by the teacher.

### **Elect to Read/Vote for Books Campaign**

CES students are getting into the election excitement by participating in their own book election campaigns until the end of October. Classes have voted on a favorite book and are using September and October to campaign for that title in anticipation of the big election day on Friday, October 31 - (RED, WHITE & BLUE day at CES). Help your child be an informed voter by encouraging them to read all the book selections from their grade level. A list of the titles was sent home in September. This list may also be viewed on our [website](#) and at the [Urbana Public Library](#), where they are graciously holding copies of these titles for our students. READ – IT'S YOUR RIGHT!!

### **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick County Elementary Science and Engineering Fair**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick County Elementary Science and Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at Ballenger Creek Elementary School. Students interested in participating in this event should notify their teacher for an official entry form and complete it by the end of October. All forms will need to be returned and reviewed at school. Entries will then be sent to the Science Curriculum Office the first week of November. If interested, please review the guidelines and suggestions posted on [fspsteach.org](http://fspsteach.org) (under science/elementary/science fair 2008-2009) or contact Mrs. VanDeusen (240-566-0157) if you have any further questions. Please note that this is the county fair and that Centerville students will also have an opportunity to participate in the school-sponsored science fair in the spring.

### **2008-2009 Elementary Young Authors' Contest**

The State of Maryland International Reading Association Council (SoMIRAC) has announced the opening of the 2008-2009 Elementary Young Authors' Contest. Students in grades two through five are eligible to enter a previously unsubmitted short story/essay or poem to Mrs. Verdi (CES Reading Specialist) by **December 19, 2008**. Each entry may have only one author, and one entry per author may be submitted for each category. A

committee of teachers will select one short story/essay and one poem per grade level to represent CES at the county level. In January, the Frederick County Reading Council will select one short story/essay and one poem per grade level to submit to the state contest. Please contact Mrs. Verdi at [susan.verdi@fcps.org](mailto:susan.verdi@fcps.org) for more information.

### **Students Returning after Dismissal to Retrieve Forgotten Items in Classrooms**

Recently, many students have been returning to Centerville to retrieve forgotten items and homework. After 3:55 it becomes very difficult to have staff members available to escort visitors in the building. At this time, and through the evening, our custodians work on a tight schedule to make sure classrooms are clean and ready for students the next day, so their time is limited as well. If you become a parent in this situation, simply write the teacher a note. Often, students learn from making mistakes and forgetting an item can be a learning opportunity too. Thank you for your help.

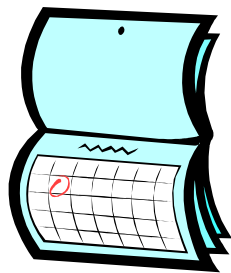
### **Cafeteria Guidelines**

As a safety precaution for our students, we require that no glass containers be sent with students in packed lunches. We request that all containers sent with students be made of plastic to avoid any breakage or possible cuts or injuries to our students.

### **To the Parents of Middle School Students**

Please keep in mind that any middle school students who wish to visit teachers in our school, including the portable classrooms, must contact the teacher and set up an appointment to visit after 4:00 p.m. The afternoon dismissal is a time that staff is focused on making sure current CES students get dismissed quickly and safely. Thanks for your cooperation in helping us maintain order during our dismissal time.

Yours in education,  
Steve Raff & Gina Keefer  
Administrative Team



### **Dates to Remember**

10/23/08 – **Student Photo Day**

10/24/08 – Box Tops Contest ends

10/31/08 – End of Term I

11/3/08 – **School Closed**

11/4/08 – **School Closed – Election Day**

11/7/08 – Fall Festival Parties

K – 1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

1 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

2 – **1:45 – 2:45** p.m. (\*Change since publication)

3 – 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

4 – 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

5 – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.