

November 6, 2008



THE CENTERVILLE CONNECTION

Principal's Constellation Comments

We hope your family was able to get out and vote on Tuesday and that your child was able to go with you to see democracy in action! Tomorrow will be our Fall Festival Party in classrooms. We're looking forward to giving the students a chance to reflect and celebrate their, and CES', accomplishments.

Someone recently asked what teachers did on Monday when the students had off. What a productive day we had! The day was started with a morning session of staff development. The topic involved aligning curriculum objectives with assessments of equal rigor. The conversation was fruitful, engaging and showed once again the high caliber of professionalism we have here at CES. Other parts of the day included teachers reviewing student work, grading, report card processing, grade level meetings, instructional planning, a School Improvement Team meeting and a chili/soup cook off!

Dismissal Reminders

Dismissal procedures were created to help keep students safe. Part of what hinges on safety are parents helping by following these procedures. Please bring your attention to two concerns:

1. Recently, parents have been entering the bus loop parking lot and using it to pick up walkers. **This area is for CES and YMCA staff parking only until 4pm.** Due to large pedestrian traffic during this time and to get student bus riders home as quickly as possible, this area is restricted to other vehicle traffic.
2. In the front parking lot, parents have been entering the exit portion of the driveway to park and pick up their walkers. **All road signs must be honored on CES property, including Wrong Way signs,** as is posted in this area of the driveway.

Walker parents who wish to walk their child to a vehicle for further transportation must park on the street. If you would like to bring your vehicle onto the CES campus during your child's dismissal, you must assign your child as a car rider and pick your child up in the car rider area. Thank you for your attention to this and helping keep our CES students safe.

Lost and Found

If your child has lost any clothing items at school, please remember to look in the "lost and found" located in our cafeteria. **The last day to look through the items that are currently in the lost and found will be Tuesday, November 25th.** After that day, all current lost and found items will be donated to a local charity.

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 22nd through November 9th. If you have any questions, please contact April Miller, School Counselor at 240-566-0112.

more

Media Gift Fund

Thank you to the following students and their families who made contributions to the Media Gift Fund during the months of September and October. November birthday letters have been sent out.

Carolina Osorio	Jordan Hoy	Evan Tsai	Lydia Zabroske	Molly Clark
Matthew Clark	Camryn Jones	Joshua DiGiorgio	Justin Hartz	Jackson Meade
Alexa Tarzy	Kevin West	Josh Rousculp	Vincent Galliani	Braeden Reyes
Bradley Bolyard	Ben Hicks	Alex Brown	Brandon Radinsky	Maya Clark
Ashley Trang	Adam Martin	Taina Fussa		

NASCAR Reading Incentive

In January, CES will sponsor its annual reading incentive. This year we will be having a racing/NASCAR theme. Mrs. Lyons is looking for anyone who might have connections to NASCAR, who might be able to have a driver and race car visit our school. You can contact Mrs. Lyons directly at 240-566-0130.

28th Annual Frederick County Elementary Science and Engineering Fair

The 28th Annual Frederick County Elementary Science and Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6th 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 (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 for more information.

'Tis the Season for Dry, Chapped Lips!

A good idea would be to tuck a chap stick or lip balm in your child's backpack with a reminder that chap stick 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.

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.

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.

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.

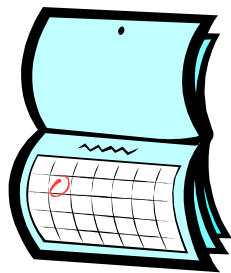
Cafeteria Guidelines

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

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. (note time change)

3 – 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

4 – 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

5 – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

11/17/08 – Report Cards go home

11/26/08-11/28/08 – Thanksgiving Break – **School Closed**