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#### AN01231_Bear Pause

***Please pause to catch up with school news!***

**Volume 16 Issue 11 June 2018**

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## CALENDAR and Things to Know and Do:

Tues., June 5 Grade 4 picnic 12-1pm

Wed., June 6 Grade 5 party

 AM PK Graduation 9-10 am

 PM PK Graduation 2:30-3:00 pm

Thurs., June 7 Rain Date, Grade 5 party

Fri., June 8 Gr 5 ELA Event 1:40-2:10

Mon. June 11 Talent Show 9:30-11:00

Wed., June 13 **Recognition Assembly K-4 9:15**

Thurs. June 14 **Recognition Gr 5 9:00, 3 hr early dismissal**

Fri., June 15 **3 hr early dismissal, Last day of school**

Dear Bear Creek Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been an honor to serve you as the Principal for 16 years. In our 16 years, our community changed significantly and in some ways, we have remained the same. We became a Title I school as a result of increasing poverty within our community. This brought challenges to the families and our children but it also brought federal funding which purchased technology, materials, and additional staffing to support the growing needs of our students. It also brought universal breakfast, extended day opportunities, clubs, and summer programs to our students.

We became a PBIS school and School Of Character which means that we meet the standards and criteria for implementing a strong, positive discipline program, and a strong character development program. We continue our positive efforts through restorative practices and virtues language.

We became a healthy school and with that distinction, we improved our eating habits and increased our students’ opportunities for movement and activity during the school week.

We became a National Honor Society School and with that distinction we inducted a decade of students who have earned the high distinction of not only a school award, but a nationally recognized award for academics, citizenship, leadership, and discipline. Some of these students have earned scholarships and are heading to college next semester. We are so proud of them and you!

We earned the Green Schools distinction, which means that our students and future generation of students can lead the way to a greener, more sustainable future for our earth and community.

We applied for and received the distinction of the first ten schools in BCPS to bring Spanish instruction to the elementary school level. We have students who are able to enter Spanish II during the 6th grade!

As a PDS school we have trained, prepared, and even hired countless teacher candidates through Towson University.

We have had four Assistant Principals in sixteenyears and we have twelve faculty and staff members who have been here for my full tenure.

I am so proud of our many accomplishments and proud of the students who have come through Bear Creek. I look forward to attending the graduation of one of our former students on June 4th. I am thankful and grateful to so many families who have supported us in our efforts to provide a high quality, caring, and SAFE school for our/your children. Your support has made our important work meaningful and I know your students will be successful because you care deeply about a valuable, purposeful education and you truly believe that our primary mission should focus on education.

I appreciate your support and I urge you to remain active and supportive of the new Principal. Education is an increasingly challenging and daunting task and our teachers and staff need your support for our children. For those who just couldn’t support our efforts, I wish you all peace, health and happiness in the future of Bear Creek Elementary School.

With much gratitude and love, have a wonderful summer.

Cheryl D. Thim

**Please see the Virtues on page 2 that we have discussed in the past month.**

**Please visit our website to view the entire Bear Paus**





## What’s New with You….

### Kindergarten

Kindergarteners are getting ready for first grade.  Our last units include, Problem Solvers where we see what can happen when we work together, Sort It Out where we see what ways things are alike and how are they different, and Protect Our Earth and talk about how to protect the environment.   Books include What’s the Big Idea, Molly?, All Kinds of Families, and Panda Kindergarten.  We finished our Science unit Pushes and Pulls. The children participated in some really fun experiments.  Ask your child about using the fan in class.  In Math, we are finishing up with Sorting and Surveys.   We will count things all around us including body parts.  We will collect data and talk about things we are comparing.  The Kindergarten teachers would like to wish all of our students well and hope everyone has a wonderful , safe summer.  Please keep reading, writing, and counting over the summer.    Keeping skills fresh is very critical for success in the beginning of the school year!  Enjoy!

### Grade One

The school year has come to an end and we are sad to see our students go, but so happy to see them move onto the next grade! All of our students have made so much progress throughout the year. They have gained so many reading and math skills that they can use in their future endeavors. First grade picnic is June 8th and families are invited to attend the fun festivities! Throughout the summer, remember to read with your child to help them maintain their reading skills and are ready for when school begins again next year. There are many fun games and activities that can be incorporated outside to continue the learning process. Have a fantastic summer and enjoy your time with your kiddos!

### Grade Two

It is hard to believe that this school year is almost over! We are so proud of how much progress our second graders have made since September. As the end of the year approaches, please be on the lookout for information regarding important end of the year events.

The last reading unit we will explore non-fiction texts that teach about careers that involve curiosity and learning about our world. We’ll learn more about what astronauts and dive teams do and how they learn about the world we live in. Students will then choose a topic to research on their own. Ask your student about their research topic!

In math, we are working on introducing concepts of measuring length and time. At home, you can talk about the length of objects you see when you are together, compare the height of family members, and practice measuring objects with a ruler or measuring tape.

It is important for our second graders to remain respectful, responsible, and ready for the remainder of the year. Please continue to encourage the 3Rs at home. Thank you for all of your support this year!

**Grade Three**

We cannot believe we are rounding the corner to the end of the school year! In ELA we are completing our Roald Dahl unit. Your student has been reading James and the Giant Peach as well as either Fantastic Mr. Fox or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We plan to continue reading chapter books throughout the remainder of the school year in whole and small group. Challenge your child this summer by checking out some on-level chapter books for them from Mrs. Sheppard or the North Point Library! Ask your child’s teacher for some suggestions. The third grade picnic is on June 11th and 12:45. We hope to see you there!

**Grade Four**

As the school year dwindles and our fourth grade students are preparing to become fifth graders, we’d like to take a few moments to emphasize the importance of reading during your summer break.

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially when it comes to reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read actually gain skills. During the summer parents can help children sustain (and even bolster) reading skills, strengthen their vocabulary and reinforce the benefits of reading for enjoyment.

Remember that children need free time, away from structured academic learning, and the summer is the perfect time to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. The following are a few tips to make summer reading enjoyable for your children:

**Read aloud together with your child every day.** Make it fun by reading outdoors - on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you.

**Set a good example!**  Turn off the TV and have family reading time (including mom and dad).

**Let kids choose what they want to read**, and every so often, read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.

**Buy books on tape or check them out at the library**

**As you go through the day** - cooking, gardening, grocery shopping, playing games - utilize this time as an opportunity to engage in verbal word play, vocabulary building, recognizing new and familiar words or attaching meaning to words and sentences.

**Take your children to the library regularly**. Baltimore County Public Libraries have the Sneaks reading program that is a great incentive for summer reading.

**Subscribe, in your child's name**, to magazines like Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children, or National Geographic World. Encourage older children to read the newspaper as a way of keeping up the reading habit over the summer and enhancing a growing vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

**Grade Five**

As your child ends his/her elementary school career, we have some fun events in the next couple weeks. We look forward to culminating a great year with these fun events!

\*\*\*\*\*Mark Your Calendars\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday, June 1st:** JuneFest

**Wednesday, June 6th:**  5th Grade Party (this is STUDENTS ONLY- Rain date – June 7th)

**Monday, June 11th:** Talent Show

**Thursday June 14th, 9:00-11:00:** 5th Grade Farewell and Awards Ceremony

Parents are welcome to attend this celebration of 4th Quarter accomplishments! 5th graders will all receive a “Moving On” certificate and a few additional recognitions will be made. Attendees must present tickets at the door.

Have a wonderful summer and best of luck in middle school next year!

**Ms. Boller**

Students in room 16 are finishing the year out strong. We have been practicing skills to help us become more independent next school year. For example, walking independently in the hallway with adult supervision. In mathematics, students are learning to skip count and identify various number patterns. In reading, students are practicing placing story cards in sequential order from beginning to end. We have enjoyed spirit day and environmental day with our friends in other classes.

**Mrs. Winkler**

The students in room 24 have been studying about a variety of zoo animals. They have read about Zoo Babies in News 2 You. They went to the zoo to see the animals they have been studying.  The students had an up close and personal experience with some penguins!

**Ms. Otterbein**

As the year comes to end, we reflect on everything we have accomplished this year. We have worked hard on increasing our reading comprehension and fluency skills through fiction and non-fiction texts. In math, we have learned various strategies for adding and subtraction and applying those to real world situations. Over the summer, take time to practice these skills in different environments to help generalize skills. Have a fun and safe summer!