



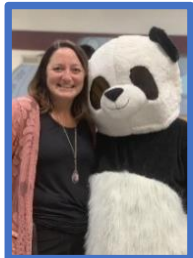
# January Newsletter

## Essex Elementary School

Main Number: 443-809-0117 School Fax: 443-809-0118

Volume 23 Issue 4

Updates from your Proud Principal...



HAPPY NEW YEAR, Essex Pandas!

First, I wanted to thank you everyone for an excellent month of December. Our students worked hard to demonstrate our Code of Conduct and to exhibit the behaviors of Proud Pandas! I was overwhelmed to see the compassion demonstrated by our students, staff, and community with the generous donations

for those families that were in need this holiday season. Thank you to all that donated! SHOUT OUT to Mrs. Raut, Mrs. Jenkins, and Mrs. Ferguson for coordinating the holiday assistance!

The second quarter ends on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. We will dismiss at 12:45. Students in grades 1-5 will receive report cards on January 29<sup>th</sup>. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report card, students will also receive special area grades and there will be comments from their homeroom teacher providing progress updates. PS/PK and Kindergarten will also receive progress reports. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact their teacher to set up a conference. Below are the grade descriptors:



### Grades 1-3:

CD – **Consistently Demonstrating** – Demonstrating a Strong Command of grade level standards.

P – **Progressing** – Demonstrating a Developing Command of grade level standards.

N – **Needs Development** – Demonstrating a Beginning Command of grade level standards.

NA – **Not Applicable**– Grade level standards were neither taught nor evaluated.

### Grades 4- 5:

A – **Outstanding** – Meeting or Extending the grade level standards.

B – **Above Average** – Approaching the grade level standards.

C – **Average** – Demonstrating a Developing Command of grade level standards.

D – **Below Average** – Demonstrating a Beginning Command of grade level standards.

E – **Failing** – No evidence of development of grade level standards.



As a school, we encourage students to do their very best in school each day. We will continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our students with The Proud Panda Award. Students will be acknowledged for:

**Principal's Honor Roll** – All A's

**Academic Honor Roll** – All A's and B's

**Outstanding Skills and Conduct** – All 3's in the "Skills and Conduct" Section

### Calendar Reminders

#### January

- 1/2 Welcome Back! Schools Reopen
- 1/8 Virtual PTA Meeting 6:30 P
- 1/9 STEAM Family Night 6P
- 1/11 Team BCPS Day / Wear Blue
- 1/15 MLK Day / Schools Closed
- 1/19 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter/  
Schools Close 3 Hours Early
- 1/25 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip to Aquarium
- 1/29 Report Cards Distributed
- 1/31 PTA Skateland Family Night 6-8P

#### February

- 2/5 – 23 Gr. 5 Chocolate Bar Fundraiser
- 2/9 Professional Development/  
Schools Closed for Students
- 2/19 Presidents Day/Schools Closed
- 2/26 Kids Heart Challenge Kickoff

#### March

- 3/19 Literacy Night 6:00 – 7:30P
- 3/22 Gr. 3 Science Center Field Trip
- 3/25 – 4/1 Spring Break/Schools Closed

#### April

- 4/2 Welcome Back/Schools Reopen
- 4/5 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter/  
Schools Close 3 Hours Early
- 4/10 Professional Development/  
Schools Closed for Students
- 4/26 Schools/Offices Close 3 Hrs Early
- 4/29 Pre-School/Pre-K/KG Conference Day  
No Pre-School/Pre-K/KG Classes
- 4/30 Pre-School/Pe-K K Conference Day  
No Pre-School/Pre-K

#### May

- 5/2 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Zoo Field Trip
- 5/3 Kindergarten Zoo Field Trip
- 5/10 Gr. 3 National Museum of  
American History Field Trip
- 5/14 Election Day  
Schools & Offices Closed
- 5/17 Virtual Learning Day/  
Schools Close 3 Hours early for Staff.
- 5/21 Field Day
- 5/23 Rain Date for Field Day
- 5/27 Memorial Day  
Schools & Offices Closed

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We look forward to a wonderful 2024 and I want to express how thankful I am for our incredible teaching staff, our hardworking students, and our parents and families for their engagement and support of our school. We have such an AMAZING School community!! #ProudPrincipal

Brooke Wagner, Principal

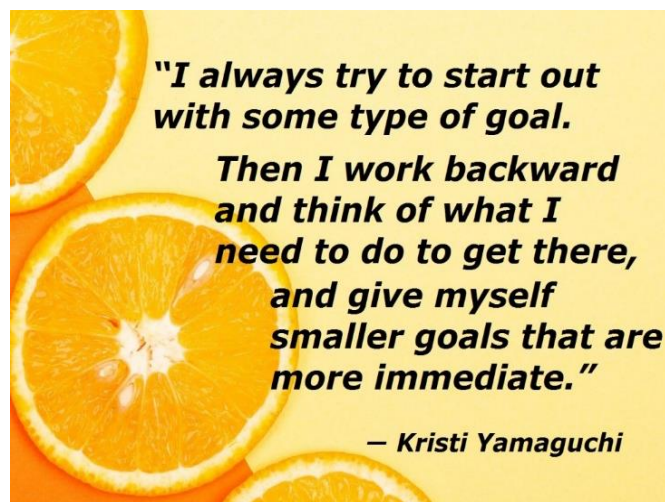
## School Counselor Corner

*A message from Mrs. Jenkins*

And just like that- we're already into 2024! Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to have an easy and peaceful winter break.

The new year gives us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and re-evaluate what we want from ourselves going forward. Goal setting is an important habit to help us stay focused and provide reminders that we're capable in our tasks. Try setting small, achievable goals on your way to the larger plan, and help your child learn this habit as well! For example, if your child wants to become better at math, set small goals for additional practice that can help build confidence over time. Don't forget to acknowledge the little victories! A simple checkmark next to a written goal provides a visual that we accomplished something, even if it seems tiny.

Counseling lessons for December included discussions about personal safety including what a safe and trusted adult looks like, and how to ask for help if they feel uncomfortable. In January, we will be discussing various character traits that are appropriate for each grade level, including listening skills, digital citizenship, and positive friendship qualities. Be sure to keep an eye out for lesson materials in your student's take-home folder when I visit their classroom!



## BCPS Corner News

*A message from the Office of Technology*

Families needing assistance with paying for or obtaining internet access for their children while at home should be directed to the Maryland Emergency Broadband Benefit (MEBB) service. The State of Maryland has partnered with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which provides eligible families access to free or reduced internet access for their homes. This internet access can be used for virtual learning, and access to online resources such as job postings, health resources, and other benefits for adult family members and children.

Maryland Emergency Broadband Benefit can be accessed through the MEBB website by going to a Baltimore County Public Library and using the available internet access.

Baltimore County Public Libraries also has a 'Long Term Device Lending Program' where patrons of the library can sign out either a ChromeBook and/or a cellular hotspot for up to six months. More information is available on the Baltimore County Public Library website <https://www.bcpl.info/services/longterm-lending.html>

An alternative method is to contact the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program directly by calling (877) 384-2575. Services are available in multiple languages. Families must qualify for the service. A family can also contact one of the internet access/broadband providers on the website to find out more about the application process.

Links to these resources are available on the BCPS Office of Network Support Services webpage.



# Essex El PTA Corner News

Happy New Year Pandas! We are looking forward to 2024. We have lots of ideas for the new year and would love for our parents and caregivers be part of the family nights and school events. We always need support. We are looking volunteers to help chair programs, fundraisers and activities. We need your help to continue making our PTA successful. We pride ourselves on supporting the students and faculty at Essex. One of our goals is to make sure students have the opportunity to attend field trips during the school year. Funds that we raise cut the costs of field trips considerably.

It's never too late to be a part of your child's school PTA. Mark your calendar and attend a meeting to see what's new in your child's school. Your voice matters.

We are looking for Panda Families who own small businesses, in hopes that your organization can help sponsor upcoming events. Contact the PTA to learn more about this opportunity.

Please email us at [EssexPTA@gmail.com](mailto:EssexPTA@gmail.com) for questions.



## Important dates to remember:

**1/8: Virtual PTA Meeting- 6:30 pm**

### 1/31: Skateland Night 6pm-8pm

### Upcoming Events:

**-Pingo**

**-Teacher Appreciation Week**

**-May Day Carnival**

## Nurse's Corner

A message from Nurse Brittany



Tis the season for sniffles, sneezes, coughs and more! Many viruses circulate during the winter months. Holiday gatherings

and being indoors add to the spread of viral illnesses. To protect yourself and your family, keep up to date on vaccines.

- *Stay home when sick. Staff who have a fever of 100°F or higher should stay home until the fever is gone (without fever reducing medicine) for 24 hours. Consult with your healthcare provider about whether you should be tested for flu, COVID or other illnesses.*
- *Practice good habits – cover your coughs and sneezes, wash your hands regularly, consider wearing a high filtration mask if you or your family members are at high risk of complications from flu or COVID.*
- *Follow CDC guidelines on COVID testing. Free COVID test kits are can be ordered online. If you are sick consult with your healthcare provider, regardless of the results of your COVID test. Persons with COVID may need medicine to protect them from complications; persons with negative COVID tests may need testing or evaluation for other illnesses, like flu, that can cause significant illness.*



Winter break can also be a time when many children are exposed to head lice visiting friends or relatives. This information may give you the information you need to treat head lice in your child. Anyone can get head lice; it is not a sign of being dirty and should not be considered a sign

of an unclean house. Although head lice do not jump, they can spread from one person to another. School-age children and their families are likely candidates for head lice because it spreads through close contact. Tell your child that he/she should not share personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, pillows or bike helmets, because these items can transmit lice.

If you suspect head lice, check your child's head closely. Head lice are small, light to dark brown insects no larger than the size of sesame seeds. The female lice lay eggs, called nits, on the hair shaft close to the scalp. These nits, which look like tiny whitish ovals, are firmly glued to the hair shaft and usually hatch within two weeks. Nits are most often found in the hair behind the ears and at the back of the head and neck. Nits should not be confused with dandruff, as dandruff can be easily flicked off the hair and nits cannot. Head lice may be hard to locate because they move to avoid light. Nits may be easier to find. If left untreated, head lice will quickly increase in number, so you have to be sure to treat it as soon as it is detected.

If your child is found to have head lice in school, they will need to be picked up as soon as possible, a treatment at home will need to be performed on the child before their return to school the next day. The student will come see the nurse for 14 days to ensure that no nits hatch in that time frame.



# Staff Emails



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Show responsibility by bringing our charged Chromebook and charger to school each day!



## SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS

... Don't forget to update our contact information in your phone.

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443-809-0118 Fax  
443-809-6060 Nurse

