

March Tiger News



Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Janet Mahoney, Principal

DATE: March 9, 2017

Phone: (410) 887-0158
Fax: (410) 391-7266
<http://martines.bcps.org>
Twitter: [@MartinBlvdES](https://twitter.com/MartinBlvdES)

Mission Statement: Martin Boulevard Elementary will provide a quality education for every student in a safe and secure learner centered environment that develops the essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable all students to be college and career ready in the 21st century.

A Message from the Principal . . .

Attendance Report

Here is the report of attendance year-to-date through February. The overall attendance rate for the school through February was 94.7%. Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring your children are here and on time every day.

Homeroom	Rate	Homeroom	Rate
Whitmore – AM	92.5	Montalvo	96.1
Whitmore – PM	90.3	Sutherland	95.2
Hilyard	93.2	Dubiago	96.1
Domonkos	92.2	Baksh	96.4
Wright	95.9	Krulock	96.4
Antonopoulos	95.0	Kraus	96.1
Comegys	95.7	Cooke	92.0
Miller	95.3	Hopkins	91.3

Stakeholder’s Survey

Thank you to all parents and guardians that completed the BCPS Stakeholders Survey this year. We had over 140 parents/guardians who took the survey!

New Victory Villa Elementary School – Stay Informed

The planning process has begun for the opening of the new Victory Villa Elementary School in August of 2018. The new Victory Villa School will increase in student capacity. The capacity of the new school will increase to 735 students. Some of the surrounding schools are overcrowded beyond the intended capacity of their schools. As a result, representatives from surrounding schools, have begun to meet to review the current zoning and review different options to redo the zoning for each of the surrounding schools to relieve the overcrowding of the surrounding schools once the new school is open.

The planning meetings are held twice a month on Wednesdays at Middle River Middle from 6:00 – 7:30. The public is invited to observe the committees at work and review the different zoning options. The remaining dates for the committee work are: March 8 and April 5. On March 15th, there will be a public information session held at Middle River Middle. BCPS bus transportation will be made available from our school so parents without transportation can attend.

March

- 3/9 PTA Meeting 6 pm. Library at Martin Blvd.
- 3/9 PTA Fundraiser IHOP Golden Ring 5-9 pm.
- 3/15 2016-2017 Northeast Boundary Change Process Public Information Session Middle River MS Cafeteria 7 – 8 p.m.
- 3/16 PTA Spirit Day Crazy Hair Day
- 3/20 PTA Fundraiser Sweet Frog @ Golden Ring 12 - 9 pm.
- 3/24 PTA Sock Hop Dance 6-8 pm.
- 3/30 4th & 5th grade STEM Fair/Safe Racer Projects due to MBES by 3 pm.
- 3/31 End of 3rd quarter School closes 3 hrs. early @ 12:30 pm.
- 3/31 Judging of STEM projects begins; ends on April 5th.

April

- 4/6 PTA Fundraiser Sonic Golden Ring 4-8 pm.
- 4/6 STEM Fair “Math Matters”& IMATHINATION assembly
Winners of 4th and 5th grade STEM Fair announced @ 6.p.m.
- 4/7 Spring Break begins at the end of the day.
- 4/8 & 4/9 PTA Fundraiser Five Below Golden Ring & White Marsh 9 am. - 9 pm.
- 4/18 Schools reopens from Spring Break

Message from the Principal continued...

See the attached flyer about the public meeting on March 15th. A separate flyer regarding the availability of translated documents and interpreters for the meeting on March 15th is also attached. The bus is scheduled to be at Martin Boulevard ES at 6:35PM. Information regarding the committee work thus far is available at www.bcps.org/construction/victoryvilla. All members of the public are invited to participate in an online survey which will be available March 15th through March 27th. You can access the survey at www.bpc.org/construction/victoryvilla. Proposed zoning maps as well as recorded committee work and other resources can be found there. You are encouraged to stay informed.

Janet Mahoney, Principal



Do not forget to set your clocks forward this Sunday March 12, 2017

Pre Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration Round-up

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child or children who will be five (5) years old by September 1, 2017, they will need to be enrolled in Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Please call the school at 410-887-0158 to be placed on the enrollment list for the 2017-2018 school year. We will mail you a registration packet with an appointment time. Our registration day is Thursday May 4th for new Kindergarten students only.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child who will be four (4) years old by September 1, 2017 and is interested in enrolling in Pre-Kindergarten? Please call the school at 410-887-0158 to be placed on the list for consideration for the 2017-2018 school year. We will mail you a packet with an appointment time. We will be conducting screening on Wednesday May 3, 2017. (PLEASE NOTE: The screening process does not guarantee placement in the program.)

Amorita McClam, Office Secretary

Parent Involvement Feedback Form

We want to hear from you. How can we improve the parent involvement at Martin Boulevard Elementary? Do you have any thoughts or ideas? Please write them below and return the form to your child's teacher.

Thank you.

Mrs. Mahoney

Nurses Corner...

a note from Nurse Gordon

Parents and Guardians,

Poison Prevention Week is March 19th -25th.

Your children will learn a poison prevention safety tip each day during this week.

In this newsletter is a Home Poison Safety Checklist.

Please use it to make your home a safe place for children.

A magnet with the poison emergency number will be sent home with each student.

The poison control number is **1-800-222-1222**. Keep the number visible to anyone in your home.

Please take a moment and program the number into your phone.

See Attached Flyer



Ballard Gardens Civic Meeting

On March 28th Ballard Gardens will hold their Civic Association meeting in our school library at 7:00pm. If you have any concerns about the neighborhood or questions please feel free to attend this meeting.

BCPS Parent University

BCPS Parent University will be hosting a parent workshop for Elementary School Parents on helping the elementary student learn Math. This workshop will help parents learn the strategies that their students are using in school. The workshop will be held at the Essex Library on Tuesday, March 29, 2017 from 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Please RSVP by calling 443-809-3489 or by contacting lmeyers3@bcps.org

PTA News

Our next PTA meeting will be held on 3/9 at 6pm in the school library.

The MBE PTA would like to thank everyone who participated and helped with our Family Movie Night. We hope everyone had a wonderful time!

We are excited for our Sock Hop Dance on March 24th from 6:00-8:00pm in the Gymnasium! Come dressed up in your best Sock Hop attire or come as you are. All are welcomed for a great evening of fun, food, dancing and friends! Tickets will be \$2.00 per person to be purchased in advance. **No tickets will be sold at the door.** Food will be available for purchase. Elementary school age children must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. It would be great if you could donate a case of water. WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DANCE! PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP. Call the school office and they will pass on your information to the PTA.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Family Food Nights:

3/9- IHOP at Golden Ring from 5:00-9:00m

3/20- Golden Ring Sweet Frog all day

4/8 & 9 be sure to shop at the 5 Below on Campbell Blvd or the Golden Ring location. You won't need the flyer but you need to mention it before the check-out starts. Please share this with family and friends.

Our school spirit days have been a great success so far! We are looking forward to Crazy Hair Day on March 16th and School Pride Day on April 20th.

We are currently collecting Box Tops. The class with the highest amount collected will enjoy a pizza and ice cream party!

If you have any pictures from field trips, school events, or assemblies, you can send them to Martinbpta@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook: Martin Boulevard Elementary PTA

Please join us at the next monthly PTA meeting on Thursday, March 9th at 6pm!

GRADE LEVEL NEWS...

Pre-Kindergarten:

English Language Arts:

This month, we will continue learning letter sounds. We will be working on the sounds for the letters Q, H and Y. We will continue working on rhyming, segmenting words and listening for beginning and ending sounds. Please help your child rhyme to real and made up words. Also, please continue to reread the predecodable books, as well as have your child look for their sight words in other books and literature. Please have your child practice writing their name at home.

During Shared Reading we will be reading and discussing books about animals. We will be discussing different farm animals, ocean animals and wild animals. We will read and discuss animals that hatch from eggs as well.

Math:

During Math, we will continue working on counting and making equal groups of objects. We will begin focusing on measurement, such as length, height and weight.

During the month of March, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday and St. Patrick's Day. We begin talking about Spring as well!

Thank you for your support .

Mrs. Whitmore & Mrs. Lopez

Kindergarten

English Language Arts:

This month we'll be focusing on the following skills:

Phonics: We will identify, segment, blend, and write words that have the initial /j/, /kw/, /y/, and /z/ sounds.

New Sight Words: *here, me, this, what.*

Reading: We will be asking and answering questions while reading, working on comprehension, and identifying problems and solutions in a story. The students will also be reading informational texts about transportation and what they see in the sky.

Our theme for unit 8: Where can you go that is near and far?

Math:

Students begin to think about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes as they look for shapes in their environment. They will use geoboards, pattern blocks, and clay to create and analyze shapes.

Science:

We will be discussing the seasonal changes that happen in spring. We will continue to discuss weather.

Writing:

Students will continue to work on writing sentences using writing strategies. We encourage the children to start a sentence with a capital letter, use spaces in-between words, and end with a period.

We will identify and discuss the verbs in our sentences.

Reminders:

*Please check your child's behavior calendar daily.

*Continue reading to your child each night. This is a great way to reinforce sounds, sight words, and comprehension.

***Book-It-** Please color in **each day** you read with your child. The calendar is not meant to color a square for each book that was read.

*Please make sure your child is completing their weekly homework and returning it every Friday.

Thank you for your continued support.

First Grade:

English Language Arts:

Unit 5-Figure It Out! (Exploring the World Around Us)

Unit Overview:

Over the course of Unit 5, students will read and explore two genres of informational text: biographies and "How-To" texts. The first half of the unit focuses on biographies in order to give students an opportunity to figure out how items in their worlds have been created.

Students will learn about famous inventors and examine how their inventions improved our daily lives. Additionally, as students are exploring the biography genre, they will simultaneously work on writing their own autobiography in the writing workshop. During the second half of the unit, students will participate in a shared research experience of "How-To" text in order to identify the structure and use of text features within the genre. The shared research portion of the unit prepares students for the culminating event where students will write their own "How-To" book on personal area of expertise.

Essential Questions:

How do people "figure things out"?

How can we learn from others?

Math:

Unit 06-Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System

Unit Overview:

Students will work on composing numbers with two and three addends, and in a variety of contexts, they will work with combinations that equal 10 and explore relationships among those combinations. The addition and subtraction work of this unit will continue to focus on making sense of the operations of addition and subtraction, practicing adding and subtracting single-digit numbers, and solving addition and subtraction story problems. There will be a focus on naming and comparing different strategies used for solving problems such as counting all, counting on or back, and using known-number combinations. Students will also discuss how different tools such as objects, the number line, and 100 Chart can be used to model and solve problems.

The following skills and concepts are the “big ideas” that are developed in this unit:

The following skills and concepts are the “big ideas” that are developed in this unit:

Counting and Quantity

Connect number names and written numbers to the quantities they represent

Determine and describe number sequences

Whole Number Operations/Computation

Make sense of and develop strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with totals up to 20

Use manipulatives, drawings, tools, and notation to show strategies and solutions

Computational fluency with addition combinations to 10

Tell time to the hour and half-hour

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

How are numbers represented?

What are efficient ways to count?

How does the base ten number system work?

How do mathematical operations relate to each other?

What are flexible, effective, and efficient methods of computation?

What are units of measurement for time and how are they used?

What are efficient strategies to represent and solve word problems involving addition and subtraction?

How are graphs used?

What do good problem solvers do?

Homework

Homework is an important time to practice and reinforce skills that your child has learned during the school day. Please help your child complete his/her homework every evening. Please stress neatness and correct letter formation. Bonus assignments are a great way to review skills and concepts over the weekend and holidays. They are optional.

HEART WORDS AND SPELLING WORDS

Each week two sets of words will be placed in a plastic sleeve inside your child's binder.

Please help your child practice reading both sets of words and learn how to spell the spelling words.

An assessment will be given at the end of each week for each set of words:

Heart Words – students will be expected to correctly read each word.

Spelling Words – students will be expected to correctly write each word

TAKE HOME FOLDER

Please review and **remove** the papers that are in your child's Take Home Folder every evening.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Antonopoulos & Mrs. Wright

Second Grade:

English/Language Arts:

The students have begun a new and exciting ELA unit. The common theme will center on uniqueness. The second graders will be given numerous opportunities to compare and contrast characters, settings, and events in literary texts. It is interesting to note that the texts that will be utilized are multicultural, so our young readers will be able to develop a deeper appreciation of the cultural diversity that exists in our classrooms and in the world. A variety of genres will be introduced and used to address the following skills: Compare and contrast across two texts with regards to the stories' settings, characters, and events; creating *good* questions and determining whether or not the text has provided the answers; and recounting what has occurred in the passages. Folktales, poetry, myths, and fables will be incorporated into the literacy lessons.

Math:

Unit 5: Number Patterns

The following skills and concepts have been developed during this unit:

Finding the sum of multiple addends by using addition and skip-counting strategies.

Finding the value of one quantity, given the value of another, by using addition and skip-counting strategies.

Constructing, describing, and extending number patterns.

Creating a repeating pattern.

Relating the concept of even and odd numbers to skip-counting by identifying and describing the number sequence in the unit of a repeating pattern.

Skip-counting by 3s.

Constructing four element patterns.

Telling time to the nearest five minutes.

The students are continuing to collaborate and communicate their ideas while attending to precision.

Reminders:

Please remember that we, the second grade teachers, are in partnership with you. It has been and always will be our intent to work closely with you to help promote successful learning experiences for your child. As always, if there are any concerns, please let us know.

Thank you for your support,

Ms. Comegys pcomegys@bcps.org

Mrs. Miller jmiller3@bcps.org

Third Grade:

English Language Arts:

Third grade students have begun English Language Arts (ELA) Unit 4, titled Historical Perspectives. Students will be reading literary and expository text, with a focus on biographies. Students will be asked the following essential questions:

How do individuals make contributions to our country?

How do their actions make a difference for other Americans?

Math:

In Math, students are developing fraction concepts. Students will be asked to represent fractions as a part of a whole as well as on a number line. We will also relate fractions to measurement, by measuring objects to the nearest half and quarter inches. You can help students by showing examples of when you use fractions in the “real world,” such as when measuring ingredients for a recipe or measuring with a ruler. Students have math homework most nights Monday – Thursday to review important concepts taught in school. Please encourage your child to read all directions carefully. If they are struggling, remind them to look at examples provided on the worksheet or on completed class-work.

How can you help your child have a successful start each day? Work with your child to do the following things each night before bed:

Remove any papers on the “keep at home” side of the take home folder

Read for 20 minutes.

Sign the agenda.

Make sure all homework is completed and in the book bag .

Check school supplies. Do you have what you need so that you can be ready to learn?

Thank you for your continued support! Our students are noticing that journals are nearly full, folders are torn, pencils are getting small, and glue sticks are drying up. Please talk to your child about what supplies they need refreshed.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Montalvo & Mrs. Sutherland

Fourth Grade

English/Language Arts:

The fourth grade students are beginning the Culminating Event in their current unit of study entitled *Taking a Stand*. In fact, the students are researching a social issue in order to “take a stand”, and share their knowledge, original work, and opinions with others by means of a screencast. A screencast uses images as well as narration to provide information or to express an idea or opinion.

The students are absolutely excited about being given the opportunity to share their opinions in a rather innovative way. The students are learning to express their opinions about a selected topic and supporting their positions with evidence from multiple texts. These young writers are beginning to realize that being a researcher can be challenging, but at the same time, can be quite rewarding.

Mathematics- Unit 4: Fractions

The students will be exploring and practicing the following topics of study in this unit:

Name the same amount on a number line using equivalent fractions.

Recognize and generate equivalent fractions.

Use multiplication and division to find equivalent fractions.

Explain why two fractions are equivalent and support the explanation using an area model and a number line model.

Apply the understanding of addition as joining parts of the same whole to add fractions with like denominators.

Using a various representations to solve problems.

Interpreting a fraction as division of a numerator by denominator.

Solving a problem involving division of whole numbers leading to answers in the form of fractions or mixed numbers.

Identifying simplest forms of fractions

The advanced academic math students will explore and practice all of the above skills including the following:

Using drawings, area models, repeated addition, or number lines to multiply fractions by whole numbers

Using area models, drawings, and equations to represent and solve problems involving multiplying a whole number and a mixed number.

Using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve problems involving time

Compare two fractions with different numerators and denominators by finding a common numerator.

Compare two fractions with different numerators and denominators by finding a common denominator.

Explain how to compare fractions by reasoning about benchmark fractions.

Compare fractions using the symbols $<$, $>$, and $=$.

Use a number line and benchmark fractions to estimate sums and differences.

Use a number line to add and subtract fractions.

Social Studies:

The students have embarked on a new adventure in social studies. In fact, they have been addressing an overarching question, that is, “How did geography impact the cultures of Native American groups?” The fourth graders are exploring such terms as *culture*, *heritage*, and *geography* and how those words are connected in some way.

Science:

Currently, the students are continuing their collaborative conversations about the components of the research and investigations that they will conduct for their STEM Fair projects. The young scientists are learning how to compose precise procedures, so that their investigations will yield accurate data that will be analyzed.

Please remember that all STEM FAIR Projects are due on March 30th, 2017.

Finally, we would like to emphasize the importance of the students completing their homework assignments on a daily basis. The purpose is two-fold. First of all, it allots the students the opportunity to practice what they have been taught in class. Secondly, it allows you, the parent(s)/guardian(s), to become informed as to the skills and concepts that are being taught. Please monitor your child’s daily homework assignments for completion as these tasks are both meaningful and pertinent to your child’s academic growth.

In conclusion, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding any aspect of your child’s instructional program or academic progress. We believe in keeping our lines of communication “open.” Together, we can help to make a difference in your child’s education.

Wishing you all the best.

Mrs. Polikandriotis

Mrs. Baksh

Ms. Dubiago

Fifth Grade

We are excited to announce our field trip to Philadelphia, PA on May 10, 2017. Students’ fees will be paid for by the school through a Title One grant. Letters were sent home to all parents/guardians in order to inform them of the trip and to get an idea of how many chaperones would like to attend. As of now, we have 10 chaperones interested in attending. The chaperones have been notified and have been given the information to complete regarding volunteer training and the application. The deadline to complete the volunteer requirements is March 31, 2017. The final payment for chaperones of \$41.00 is due NO LATER than May 1, 2017. Cash is the only form of allowed payment, and please send in the exact amount, as we do not have change. As of now, the bus is at 100% capacity.

English Language Arts:

During ELA, students in fifth grade have written spring Haikus and entered them in the BCPS Haiku Poetry Contest. A haiku is a traditional Japanese poem that consists of three lines, each with a certain number of syllables. An elementary, middle, and high school winner will be announced on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. Unit 3, Historical Transformation, is coming to a close. Students will have completed reading their historical fiction novel and will be writing an opinion essay related to the effectiveness of their novel based on point of view, characters, setting, plot, and events. Students will also take the BCPS Unit 3, Part 1 assessment on their devices. Students are encouraged when taking these on-line tests to read carefully, reread when necessary, and take their time to best answer the question being asked.

Math:

During math, the fractions operations unit is coming to a close. Students again will take Part 1 of the BCPS assessment on-line and Part 2 of the assessment, which includes more application and explanation, using paper-pencil. The next unit, Measurement, Data, and Geometry will include skills involving volume, metric and customary unit conversions, locating and graphing points on a coordinate grid, as well as constructing and interpreting line plots.

STEM Fair final projects are due no later than March 30, 2017. Tri-fold boards have been sent home with students. By this point, your student should be ready to complete their investigation at home and record results in their log book. This information can come to school to be analyzed, interpreted, and displayed in graph form. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Krulock at ekrulock@bcps.org

As we head into spring, we will remind students of the Code of Conduct and appropriate fifth grade behavior. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. Kraus, kkraus@bcps.org

Mrs. Krulock, ekrulock@bcps.org

Ms. Cooke's Class**English Language Arts:**

We are currently working on Unit 3 in reading which is all about invention and innovation. Our essential question is "How does solving problems lead to new ideas?" The students are learning about Elijah McCoy and how his invention changed the way that people traveled on trains. Discuss with your child the various forms of transportation and how it has changed over the years. You can also discuss the forms of transportation that your family uses on a daily basis. Have you ever been on a trip? How did you get there? You can even make a game out of it by showing your child a map and have them choose a location. Then, discuss what would be the best transportation to use in order to get there.

Math:

In Math we are finishing up with working on adding and subtracting money and money identification. See if your child can identify the coins and their values. Or, give them some change and see if they can determine the value of the coins

Social Studies:

Last month we learned about various African Americans and their contributions to the world. This month is Women in History month. We are currently learning about Ruby Bridges. See if your child can tell you how Ruby Bridges helped change our school system.

Thank you for your continued support,

Ms. Cooke & Mrs. Ballman

Ms. Hopkins Class

We have been enjoying the Spring weather in winter and getting outside a lot more lately. Please make sure that your child has a light jacket or sweatshirt when needed. In Attainment Math we will be focusing on measurement with standard and nonstandard units. We recently celebrated Dr. Seuss day and read The Foot Book. The children enjoyed tracing their feet and comparing the sizes of their feet with classmates and staff. We are also working with the inch measurement on large rulers. You can help at home by comparing lengths of objects such as cooking utensils, blocks, etc. We are also working on patterns. Your student can make patterns using simple objects such as spoon, fork, spoon, fork, etc. We have learned to add to 5 by combining sets and are working on identifying groups of objects that have more and less.

Our reading adventures with Mo the frog will continue. We have focused on new vocabulary words friend, is, and me. We also worked on emotion words happy, sad, and mad. Future words will include what, he, boy, excited, and scared. The students learned poems about Allie alligator and Sam the seal to focus on beginning, middle, and ending “a” and “s” sounds. The students are practicing answering story questions about characters and events in our Mo the Frog stories.

Our science unit will focus on Senses. We will start by discussing sight and sound. We will compare loud and soft sounds and use observation skills to look at light and color changes in experiments. We will also do some work with magnets. We will find out what things stick to the magnet.

In Social Studies we will finish talking about maps and use maps to find our Leprechaun friends on Saint Patrick’s Day. We will also be making a map of our classroom, finding Maryland on the map, and using a treasure map. Our recipe this month is Shamrock shakes. We will practice pouring and scooping as we cook a special treat.

Please return the recent ESY letter that came home, if you haven’t done so.

Thank you for your support.

Ms. Cooke

Mrs. Nolder



Special Area News:

In honor of Art and Music... MARCH is designated as YOUTH ART MONTH.

To celebrate the accomplishments of Baltimore County artists, there is an exhibit of student art at the WALTERS ART MUSEUM from MARCH 1- MARCH 12, open daily except Mondays; 10am-5pm.

We are proud to say that, two of our students have their work currently on display at the Walters Art Museum.

Congratulations our two resident artists who have work displayed at the Walters Art Museum. Thank you for representing Martin Boulevard Elementary!

Paetyn A. - Grade 1, Mrs. Wright’s Class for her painting titled Autumn Landscape.

Shaquinah S. – Grade 5, Mrs. Krulock ’s Class for her painting titled Stacked Doughnuts.

The Walters Art Museum offers free admission every day.