

Happy Holidays

Burnt Mills Elementary School

~Principal's Monthly Newsletter~

December 2019

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal

Mr. Troy Clarke, assistant principal

Important Events to Remember

12/3	PTA Meeting @ 7 PM
12/5	Classic Photography - Fall Retakes
12/13	Winter Concert @ 7 PM
12/18	Marking Period 2 Progress Reports Distributed
12/19	Spanish Immersion Parent Meeting @ 6 PM
12/20	HOLIDAY SWEATER DAY - staff and students wear your favorite holiday sweater
12/23-1/1	Winter Break - Schools Closed

School News

The Maryland Report Card 2019

A Message from State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Karen Salmon about The Maryland Report Card. *“The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), passed in 2015, required states to develop long term plans to make sure schools provide a quality education for all students. Maryland’s detailed plan to implement ESSA addressed accountability and innovation. The plan, written over the course of 18 months with unprecedented input and support of stakeholders, was approved by the United States Department of Education in early 2018.*

As part of our ESSA plan, we launched the Maryland Report Card website in December 2018 to engage and inform families, educators, and other community members. The MSDE website features individual school report cards, which measure a wide range of factors. In addition to achievement on state assessments, the Maryland School Report Card looks at factors such as growth in achievement, high school graduation rates, student access to a well-rounded curriculum, progress in achieving English language proficiency, and readiness for postsecondary success.

*The information is available online, in a searchable and user-friendly format. **The 2019 Maryland School Report Card** adds valuable new information, including the results from a statewide School Survey, state science assessment results for elementary and middle school students, and indicators*

of improvement since 2018 for each school. The survey, which was taken by students, grades 5 through 11, and educators in every school, provides information about safety, community, environment, and relationships, all of which are important factors in supporting a positive learning environment for all students. There is also detailed information about the performance of student groups since schools are accountable for serving all learners. The Maryland School Report Card is designed to help families, educators, policymakers, and the public gain a better understanding of how each school is faring on ESSA accountability measures, as part of a larger conversation about the success of our education system.

The Maryland Report Card website provides information to support ongoing discussions about school performance and allows us to work towards improving those schools and students who need additional support, while recognizing those who are achieving excellence so that we can emulate their success. We will continue to improve the Maryland Report Card each year, just as we continue to improve our schools. Together, we are working to build a future that is for everyone. Thank you for being a partner on this journey. For more information, visit the site at www.mdreportcard.com

How are schools measured? Schools receive points based on their results on the Maryland School Accountability System. There are three areas to review for a brief summary of a school's performance:

- ➔ **Star Rating:** highlights the tally of a school's total earned points percent
- ➔ **Percentile Rank:** How a school performed in comparison to other schools
- ➔ **Total Earned Points Percent:** The total number of points earned by the school, divided by the total possible points

How did Burnt Mills Elementary do?

- ➔ **Star Rating: 4 out of 5 Stars**
- ➔ **Percentile Rank: 59th**
- ➔ **Total Earned Points Percent: 66% total points earned**

Staff News

Mrs. Gayle Vanderhorst, grade 3 teacher, is retiring! December 20, 2019, will be Mrs. Vanderhorst's last day at Burnt Mills Elementary School (it is also her birthday). Mrs. Vanderhorst has faithfully served as a teacher at Burnt Mills for 25 years! Over the years, she has touched the hearts and minds of so many students and families. She will truly be missed. If you would like to acknowledge Mrs. Vanderhorst before her last day, please feel free to send her a card, a small token of appreciation or whatever your heart desires. I am sure she will be beyond appreciative. Thank you Mrs. Vanderhorst for 25 years of service! Ms. Marlene Canada, a respected substitute in the county, will serve as the long term substitute until the end of the school year.

[Counselor's Corner from Ms. Bell and Mrs. Domm](#)

Classroom Guidance: For the month of December we will be visiting each classroom to deliver classroom guidance around our core value of the month, *Trustworthiness*. We will discuss what it means to be a good friend and how to have positive peer relationships.

Small Counseling Groups: We will be wrapping up the following small counseling groups this month: K- self regulation, Grade 1- self regulation, Grade 2- social skills, Grade 3- social skills, Grade 4- self regulation, and Grade 5- peer conflict.

Sign Up:

- *The Holiday Giving Project* provides Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to low income households. Please complete the referral form to participate. Referral Forms were due November 11th for the December holiday season. Please contact us directly as we can make arrangements for families past the deadline.
- You may still sign up for the *Weekend Meal Program*. Please email either counselor or send your student with a note for a sign-up form.

[Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner](#)

¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo! Reminder to all 5th grade parents: over the next 2 weeks, you will receive a Letter of Intent for you to sign and return, which will let us know if you plan for your child to continue in the Immersion Program at SSI next year. Please look out for this letter in the mail and return as soon as possible. If you don't receive it by winter break, feel free to send an email to Gloria_B_Plawner@mepsmd.org and I can track down a copy for you.

[PTA News from Mr. Miehl](#)

PTA thanks all parents for their advocacy efforts as the Board of Education approved Burnt Mills for funding towards a new school building! We will need to keep up the pressure in the spring to advocate the county council to see this project through. Please stay tuned! We hope to see you at our holiday-themed movie night this Friday, December 6th for "The Grinch." Doors open at 5:30 with the movie starting at 6 PM. Want to get more involved in your school? Please consider volunteering with PTA. We need helpers to work "behind the scenes" in many ways like helping organize our big fundraisers. We're also looking for new leaders to take over for leadership positions that will be vacant next year. Please email PTA president Mike Miehl at miehlmj@hotmail.com with "BMES Helper" in the subject line if you'd like to get more involved. Please remember Burnt Mills during your holiday shopping. Make sure to use the Amazon Smile link smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1694278 when shopping on Amazon. Not sure what to do for the holiday season? Certifikid.com has plenty of reasonably-priced family-friendly activities. Please use the promo code "BMES" when checking out.

Reminders

Home/School Communication If at any time you have a concern, problem, praise or question about your child's academic progress, please schedule an appointment with your child's teacher. The November parent-teacher conference time is not the only time parents can meet with teachers. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the teacher if there is a need.

The Lost and Found is overflowing with unclaimed items (coats, jackets, lunchboxes, shirts, etc.). Please stop by and take a look, before the items are donated. Items will be donated in January and June.