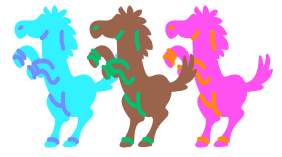




# MEADOWVALE VIEW





November, 2009

A message from Mrs. Hawley



November is here....our third month of school and the end of the first quarter of school. November is a month when we begin to think about all that we are thankful.

At Meadowvale, we have plenty!

-  Starting with 550 reasons to be thankful. Our students are the best in Havre de Grace, Harford County, Maryland, USA and even the world! Each one brings with them to school the unique personality that embodies each child. We celebrate each one and happily take on the challenge of finding the key to their potential.
-  The professionals and para-professionals in our school are among those we are thankful. Each of our staff enters our school ready and determined to educate the whole child. Our staff is individuals bringing with them their unique strengths and abilities.
-  We are thankful for our building and grounds in this beautiful community of Havre de Grace.
-  The families of our students entrust us with what is most precious and dear to us all. We take that responsibility seriously and especially honored and thankful for that opportunity.

I am blessed to be part of a wonderful school community and for that, I am thankful! Take a moment to reflect on those you are thankful. Let those people know how you feel with a note, phone call, visit or email. I just did!

## Conference Day

This week, you will meet with your child's teacher for a parent/teacher conference. Before and after the conference, spend some time talking to your child about the conference. Let your child understand what is important to you about his/her education. Listen to your child talk about school and his/her understanding of how he/she learns. Use your collective beliefs and understanding to form short term and long term goals. With these goals, create the steps necessary to achieve them. Write the steps down along with how you will support your child. This is the beginning of helping your child develop independence regarding education. Keep in touch with your child's teacher to monitor how your child is doing with achieving his/her goals. Revisit the goals and determine whether they need to be adjusted. Sometimes goals can be so lofty that they are not realistic. This is also a good lesson, however it is important that you and your child believe that your child can succeed! Enjoy this opportunity to work with your child in a way that promotes involvement and accountability in his/her education. Remember, you, your child and the school are partners in educating your child!

## American Education Week

During the month of November, schools set aside a week devoted to promoting education. The theme for this year is, "**Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility**". If your schedule permits, come visit your child's classroom. This is an opportunity to see your child interacting while part of a classroom of other students. Additionally, American Education Week is a chance to see the incredible job that our teachers and staff do on a daily basis to provide a quality educational experience for the children. A schedule has been created to balance the numbers of those attending each day. Please remember that you will be joining a 'day in progress' so we ask that siblings not attend and honor the instruction by not talking during your observation of the class.

The PTA provides refreshments in the lobby for you to enjoy before or after your classroom visits. New this year, we will be hosting an open house on Monday, November 16 to celebrate our 50 years in existence. Former staff, administrators and other important Harford county community members have been invited to join us at Meadowvale that day. If you know of former students, please let them know that we would love to see them back at Meadowvale!

The schedule for the week:

### Monday, Nov. 16

Our Meadowvale 50<sup>th</sup> birthday 'welcome back to old friends' as well as all classrooms open for visitation (this is also known as Grandparents' day. Please encourage grandparents to come visit!)

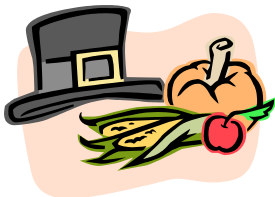
### Tuesday, Nov. 17

Grades Pre-K, K, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, & 12

### Wednesday, Nov. 18

Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, & 11

Looking forward to seeing you that week!



# Meadowvale Elementary School

2009 - 2010



# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>WEEK A</b>  *SET CLOCKS BACK	9:15 Good Assembly  2nd Quarter Begins  8:30-9AM Book Fair Last Day Returns/Pick-up		1 PM Dismissal	Conference Day Schools Closed	Schools Closed	
	<b>**Harvest for the Hungry**</b>					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>WEEK B</b>		Planetarium Brenneman  Half Day Conf. for Pre-K students  McDonald's Family Night	Planetarium Skowronski	Planetarium Wynn	Report Cards Distributed	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>WEEK A</b>  Applebee's Flapjack Family Breakfast	<b>***** AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK *****</b> <b>Monday-Grandparents / Tuesday-PreK, K, 2&amp;4 / Wednesday-1,3&amp;5</b>					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>WEEK B</b>		10-2 Picture Retakes	1:30 Dismissal	Schools & Offices Closed	Schools & Offices Closed	
29	30					
<b>WEEK A</b>						

## GRADE LEVEL NEWS. . . . .

**PREKINDERGARTEN:** In prekindergarten, we are completing our science unit **The Way I See It** with our Eyen-stein fair. We will begin our new unit called **Family Scrapbook**. During this theme, your child will learn that a family is a group of people who love, protect, and care for each other, that families differ in size and members, and that each family member has roles and responsibilities. The children will be exposed to this through books, discussions, music, and art. We will learn how to graph, tally, survey, identify, and create patterns. Our new number is 4 and we will be working on C, G, O, S, and J during our alphabetic principle lessons.



**KINDERGARTEN:** November will be filled with falling leaves and thankful moments as we begin our **Fall Trees** and **Harvest** units during **TUB**. We will be exploring seasonal changes and traditions from many cultures that relate to the harvest.



In ILA, we are starting a new theme of stories focused around **Friends at School**. We will be reading some great stories such as The Little School Bus, Jessica and I Love School. As we read, we will be using graphic organizers to identify story elements, such as beginning, middle and end.

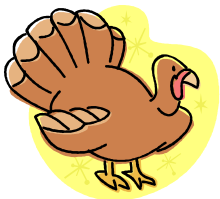
In math, we will introduce new concepts of addition and subtraction, number writing, counting by 10's, measuring weight with a scale, and probability.

Please remember to return permission slips for our field trip to Goucher to see **If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**.

**FIRST GRADE:** November is busy, busy! Students will learn about turning corners in our next ILA unit, **Zoom Along!** Short vowels e and u will be introduced. We will also learn the digraphs th and sh. Many new sight words will be learned. Students will learn how to compare and contrast, as well as identify details, the plot, and the setting of a story.

In math we will explore visual patterns, number patterns and practice counting. We will use tools such as pattern blocks and dominoes. Please continue the practice of counting numbers, this time counting forward from 48 to 63 and back from 32 to 18. Also review counting by tens, fives and twos.

In November we have many fun activities planned to learn the significance of Thanksgiving in the past and the present! We will understand the "real" meaning of a "feast". Details will follow.



As we watch the weather change, children will become aware of the seasons and the effect they have on our way of life. Please emphasize the importance of following school rules and being polite and courteous to everyone around us. By now first graders are well aware of expectations and the consequences.

We wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, a time for us to express gratitude for all our blessings!

**SECOND GRADE:** There is much excitement in store for second graders during the month of November. During ILA, we will continue our theme entitled **Changing Times**. Students will read literature to discover things change along with time. We will compare and learn leisure activities families enjoyed long ago to those of today. We will identify elements of a fiction story and distinguish fiction from non-fiction and identify an author's purpose for writing. During writing, we will continue learning the writing process during our first **Writing Workshop Independent Choice Session**.

At math time, we will begin with the unit, **Place Value, Time and Money**. This is a relatively short unit and very challenging. It may be necessary to spend some additional time practicing with analog clocks and counting combinations of coins. Remember to refer to the Family Letter and use the Home Link sheets as resources. The test is scheduled for November 13th. Additionally, students will have to demonstrate proficiency adding facts with ten and five as addends. It may be helpful to make flashcards for this task.



Finally, in social studies, we will conclude our **Where We Live** unit and begin learning about **We the People**.

We all look forward to the new challenges November holds for us. Please continue to monitor your child's homework and read often at home.

**THIRD GRADE:** As we move into November we will continue to utilize our good mustang manners.



In ILA we are reading many types of text and learning and using strategies to help us be better readers. We work to improve comprehension as we ask questions, make inferences, identify fact and opinions and develop our vocabulary. Thanks to the PTA, we are receiving the **Time For Kids** magazine each week to enable us to read and discuss current events. We are privileged to have a published award winning author coming to speak with our children. Irene Kelly will be in for an assembly and workshop November 9<sup>th</sup>.

In math we have just begun our new unit on **Linear Measurement**. Please work with your child at home to reinforce skills taught in class and identify items at home where we would use measurement skills. Coming on November 13th we have the school wide family Math Night. Come and learn about the EDM math and games that will improve your student's math skills. Please take the time each night to work on basic facts with your child.

Some of us are coming to the end of the **Mystery Powders** science unit while others have begun social studies. Our first unit is called **People Together**. We will identify the components of a community as well as the economic concepts needed in each community.

**FOURTH GRADE:** Outside the weather is cooler and the leaves are changing colors, but inside the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade classrooms, learning continues to happen each and every day!

Fourth graders will read from the anthology, trade books, and various non-fiction texts that are related to our content area subjects. Thanks to the PTA, each student will be reading the news magazine **Time for Kids** each week, using the strategies taught to help understand the world around them. Our writing theme for November is **Writing to Inform**.



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In math, students will learn about decimals and their uses. Please continue to practice the basic multiplication facts with your child on a daily basis. Social studies classes will focus on people in Maryland prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and in science we will learn about our ecosystems and the part we play in preserving our “Natural Resources”. To provide practice at home with the weekly spelling list words you can use a wonderful website, [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com).

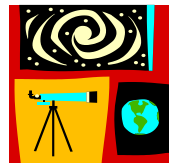
Please consider taking a little time to visit our classrooms during American Education Week (November 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>st</sup>). The children look forward to your visit and the teaching team welcomes your interest and support as well.

Please check the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade website, [www.hcps.org/meadowvale/](http://www.hcps.org/meadowvale/) each night for homework postings and announcements.

**FIFTH GRADE:** November begins with Parent – Teacher Conferences on November 5<sup>th</sup> and winds up with time for families to celebrate Thanksgiving. In between, the fifth grade students will welcome parents and grandparents to their classrooms for American Education Week (November 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>).

Visitors to our classrooms will see a wide variety of instruction and activities taking place. During reading, classes will read a variety of texts and genres using trade books and the Harcourt anthology with a focus on sequencing, using graphic organizers, comparing and contrasting, as well as reading orally using proper phrasing and expression. Reading non-fiction articles and books tied to our content area learning in social studies and science will be on-going as well. Additionally, reading for pleasure continues to be a daily focus for students during SSR time. During writing, students will write about topics of their choice using the writing process as they strive to incorporate strategies learned during the **Touchstones** unit. During the latter part of the month, we will focus our efforts on writing to inform.

In social studies, students will learn about how Native American, European, and West African cultures collided in history. We'll then begin the unit entitled, **Progression**, and explore early settlements in America. Science classes will continue their unit of study focusing on **Astronomy and Weather**. In connection with this unit of study, students will have the opportunity to visit the planetarium at Aberdeen High School. Please watch for permission slips that will be coming home.



Unit 4 of our math series, **Everyday Math**, focuses on **Division**. Some of the skills the students will develop are:

- Using a “friendly number” strategy for division;
- Making magnitude estimates;
- Solving division problems presented in “input/output” format;
- Solving number sentences to represent number stories;
- Mastery of basic division facts.

The fifth grade team hopes you will find time to visit our classrooms during American Education Week. For reminders about homework assignments, test dates, and other important information access the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade website through the Meadowvale School website.

**THE ART ROOM . . . . .MRS. DONOVAN**

In art class, the students will explore the visual arts through aesthetics, history, production, and critique. November is Native American month. We will be exploring and celebrating this artistically rich culture as we create works of art.



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**Kindergarten:** The students will explore the use of materials and techniques as we discover the American Indian culture.

**First Grade:** The students will create a Hopi Kachina doll sculpture out of paper mache as they explore three-dimensional art.

**Second Grade:** The students will create a symbolic necklace out of clay and beads.

**Third Grade:** The students will create a Navajo weaving.

**Fourth Grade:** The students will create a multi-media three-dimensional mask.

**Fifth Grade:** The students will create a dream catcher following the same traditional procedure as the Native Americans.

**Look for the wonderful art your children bring home and ask them to tell you about it.**

**MUSIC . . . . . MR. JAVORSKY & MRS. MILLER**

Students have been very busy learners in music class this month! The children have been experiencing music through singing, listening, moving, reading, notating and creating music as well as performing on classroom percussion instruments. Below is a brief overview of what each grade level is learning.



**Kindergarten:** Students will perform and respond to the elements of music. Students will perform songs about daily routines, numbers and letters.

**First Grade:** Students will identify and perform rhythmic patterns containing quarter and eighth notes. Students will also perform and respond to the expressive qualities of music (dynamics, tempo, vocal and instrumental timbres.)

**Second Grade:** Students will identify and perform rhythmic and melodic elements of music through formal notation. Students will identify components of the music staff that include time signature, barline and final barline.

**Third Grade:** Students will identify and perform rhythmic and melodic elements of music through formal notation. Students will continue to learn new note values such as the sixteenth note, dotted half note and dotted half rest in preparation for the recorder unit.

**Fourth Grade:** Students will identify and perform music containing melodic elements of the extended Pentatonic Scale. Students will also perform and respond to dynamic nuances.

**Fifth Grade:** Students will identify and notate songs with the eighth rest and the single eighth note. Students will also identify the life and music of American composer Aaron Copland, and how he used traditional folk melodies in his compositions.

Our Winter Concerts are scheduled for Thursday, December 10th. The fourth grade chorus and Meadowvale Singers will perform at 6:30 p.m. The fifth grade chorus, Meadowvale Singers, advanced orchestra and advanced band will perform at 7:30 p.m. All participating students will need to wear concert dress – a white shirt/blouse and black pants/skirt. Please mark this date on your calendar!

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION . . . . . MRS. HUNSINGER & MR. MARKEL**

In the beginning of the month students will participate in Invasion games/tag games as we focus on chasing, fleeing, dodging; safe use of space; reviewing locomotor movements; and changing speed and direction.

Our next unit is bowling. During this unit students will learn bowling terminology, etiquette, and how to keep score. We are once again inviting parents and other family members to compete with their students during American Education Week. Parents will be receiving a flyer reminding them of their child's PE schedule.

