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#### AN01231_Bear Pause

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

**Volume 16 Issue 2 September 2017**

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## CALENDAR and Things to Know and Do:

Mon., Sept. 11 Joe Corbi’s Fundraiser begins

 PTA Meeting 5:30 pm

Fri., Sept. 15 Lifetouch Picture Day

Wed., Sept. 20 Chick Fil A Night 4-8 pm

Thurs., Sept. 21 Rosh Hashanah – Schools & Offices Closed

Wed., Sept. 27 Joe Corbi’s Fundraiser Ends

Mon., Oct. 2 PTA Meeting 5:30 pm

M-F, Oct. 2-6 Box Top Contest

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Dear Parents and Bear Creek Students,

Welcome back to school. We were excited to see so many parents and students at our 8/28 Open House and during our First Day of School visit.  We encourage you to review the information provided by teachers, and Title I documents.  These are the Parent-School-Student Compact and the Family Engagement documents. All of these documents are working drafts.   As a Title I school we actively pursue parent feedback and engagement in the school and we look forward to your input, suggestions and recommendations.

Please review carefully the Parent Handbook as this outlines school procedures relative to the county policies and procedures.  There is important information about our school that parents need to be informed such as birthday celebrations, dismissal procedures, etc…Please read this handbook thoroughly and support our school in staying focused on our mission to engage students in learning every day at Bear Creek.

We are excited to be back in our school with air-conditioning.  Please send students with a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket.

Our first weeks of school require great attention to detail during dismissal in order to ensure that every child gets home safely.  Please make sure you have given us YOUR dismissal plan.  We will make sure we have all students on appropriate buses before dismissing walkers.  You can expect slight delays in the first couple weeks of school until we are certain students have mastered their dismissal procedures. Due to the large number of students meeting siblings, we ask parents to be extra patient during pick-up at the cafeteria doors.

On behalf of the teachers and staff, we look forward to a great 2017-18 school year!

## BCPS ONE-CARD

All students in Baltimore County Public Schools are required to wear a One-Card Identification badge. A classroom teacher may temporarily waive the requirement if the teacher believes that wearing the badge presents a safety risk during identified classroom or other activities. One-cards for students in PreK – grade 5 will remain in school. Students may use their own school lanyard or clips of their choosing, however, the lanyard must be a safety lanyard with a break-away feature. **Parents will be required to pay a $5.00 replacement fee for all damaged or lost badges.**

## Magnet Programs

The Magnet Program brochures and applications for the 2018-2019 school year will be posted and available for download on the Office of Magnet Programs’ Web site [Office of Magnet Programs](http://www.bcps.org/offices/omp/) beginning at 12 noon on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 through 1 PM Friday, November 17, 2017.

The Magnet Application deadline for the 2018-2019 school year is Friday, November 17, 2017. Magnet applications may be submitted online until 1 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2017. Applications may also me mailed to the Office of Magnet Programs, postmarked by Friday, November 17, 2017.

**Magnet Application meetings** will be held September 19, 2017 at Milford Mill Academy Auditorium at 6:30 pm and September 28, 2017 at Kenwood High School Auditorium at 6:30 pm.

**BCPS Magnet EXPO** will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 10 am – 2 pm at the Radisson North Baltimore Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093. Please visit the web at [Office of Magnet Programs](http://www.bcps.org/offices/omp) or call 443-809-4127 for more information on Magnet School open houses.

## Counselor Corner, Caitlin McGing

Hello and welcome back to our returning students and a special welcome to our families new to Bear Creek! We are so excited to see and meet everyone! My name is Caitlin McGing and I am your school counselor. I help students with their social/emotional, academic and career needs here at Bear Creek. We have resources for parents and caregivers for outside agencies for many different situations. I am pleased to introduce my intern this semester, Mrs. Borucki, from Loyola University Maryland who will be helping our students through December! Please contact me with any questions or concerns about your student at 410-887-7237 throughout the school year! It’s going to be a great year!

**The Young Parent Support Center (YPSC)**

The Baltimore county Department of Social Services Young Parent Support Center supports parents with comprehensive services as they pursue opportunities for education and healthy parenting, while their children participate in a nurturing child care environment. For more information, contact Susan Zimmerman, LCSW-C at 410-853-3858 or Susan.zimmerman@mayland.gov.

**Back to School Immunization Clinics**

Baltimore County Department of Health Back-to-School Immunization Clinics are available through September 28, 2017. Students with private insurance will not be able to obtain vaccines at health department clinics and should be referred to their health care provider.

**Dundalk Health Center**, 7700 Dunmanway, 21222

First Friday of the month 1-4:30 pm

Second Friday of the month 8:30-4:30 pm

**Eastern Family Resource Center**, 9100 Franklin Square Drive

First & Third Wednesday of the month 8:30-12:00

Second Wednesday of the month 8:30-4:30

Fourth Wednesday of the month 1-4:30 pm

**Essex Health Center**, 201 Back Rive Neck Road

First & Fourth Tuesday of the month 8:30-12:00

Second Tuesday of the month 8:30-4:30 pm

Third Tuesday of the month 1-4:30 pm

**Food Distribution**

Perry Hall United Methodist Church is hosting a food distribution event on Saturday, September 30th from 11-2 pm rain or shine or until all food is distributed for anyone in need of food assistance. No appointment or documentation is necessary.



## What’s New with You….

### PreKindergarten

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year in Pre-K! During September, we will make new friends, learn our classroom routines and connect as a school family! Our new friend Shubert (a stuffed lightning bug) will be a frequent visitor in our classroom during the month and all year long! We will learn about helpful behaviors, ways to show kindness to our school family (The Pre-K Pals), and ways to stay safe in our classroom! We will have a busy and fun month! Please look for our Pre-K Pals Weekly Newsletters in your child’s folder to stay informed of what’s happening in our classroom. Welcome!

### Kindergarten

Kindergarten is excited for a fun year of learning.  We are making new friends in our school family. Ask your child to tell you all about our friend Shubert.  Have you started your 100 Book Challenge?  Please remember to check the blue folder each night.  Don’t forget to complete the Volunteer Application online.   We are looking forward to an awesome Kindergarten year!

### Grade One

Welcome to 1st Grade, we are off to a great start so far learning all of the rules and routines! Please be sure that your child has all of the supplies that he/she needs; including a change of weather appropriate clothes to keep in your child’s locker in case of an accident or spill. Homework and 100 Book Challenge will be starting soon so please keep an eye out for that to come home. Your child should also be bringing his/her green take home folder home every night. Please check it for papers that need to be sent back. We look forward to a great year!

### Grade Two

Welcome to second grade! We are excited to help your child grow as a learner this year. We are working to establish classroom routines, and the students are doing a fantastic job showing their respectful, responsible, and ready behavior. As we begin homework, please work with your child to complete math problems, and 100 Book Challenge each night. It is very important to read with your child each day to assist them with becoming a better reader. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a great year!

### Grade Three

Welcome to Third Grade! We are so excited to have you in our classes for the 2017-2018 school year. Your teachers are Ms. Hershey, Mrs. Lugenbeel, and Ms. Duckett. We are ready for an exciting year and cannot wait to get started. Our first unit of ELA is about learning reading routines during our ELA block and animal research. Our first unit of math is diving into multiplication and division, so start practicing those math facts!

The Third Grade Team

**Grade Four**

Welcome back! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2017-2018 school year. Our fourth grade friends will be learning the rules and expectations of fourth grade, as well as their daily routines this month. Please read nightly with your child and sign their 100 Book challenge log, as well as their homework sheet. Thanks for your support! We are looking forward to an excellent year!

**Grade Five**

Fifth grade is off to a great start! We’ve enjoyed getting to know each student. If you haven’t already signed up for the Remind text messages, we URGE you do to so in order to get important reminders from us throughout the year. Remind is a safe and simple messaging tool that lets us share important updates and reminders with parents. All personal information, including your phone number, is kept private. You need a code that is specific to your child’s class, so if you need new directions in order to sign up, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher.

In language arts, we have been learning and practicing class structures and routines. I am conferencing with every student individually to help me know exactly where each child is in their reading ability in order to differentiate small groups and independent learning to meet each student’s needs.

We’ve been off to a great start in math. Students are settling into their routines. Students will be workingin Unit 1: Whole Number and Decimal Place Value, Addition and Subtraction. Students are workingwith whole numbers to the billions place and decimals to the thousandths place. Advanced math students will be working in Unit 1: Whole Number and Decimal Operations. This includes dividing whole numbers, and add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals.

In health, we are working on developing strategies to form positive self-concepts of ourselves. We are also reviewing the steps for goal setting and conflict resolution. We will soon be transitioning to social studies to learn about the original thirteen colonies.

**Ms. Boller**

Welcome back!!! Ms. Bollers' class is learning to follow routines and make good choices in school. This month we will also practice the alphabet and numbers.

**Mrs. Winkler**

The students in Room 24 are happy to be back in school!  We are working on learning our routines and expectations.  We are excited about meeting new friends!

**Ms. Otterbein**

Room 17 is excited to welcome you to a wonderful year with a lot of fun things planned! We have a great team in our room this year, Ms. Diane, our IA and returning AAA’s are Ms. Amanda, Ms. Cathy, and Ms. Audrey. We hope to have students become more independent and build their communication this year as well as becoming the best they can be! I’m excited to start our year together and see all the students’ accomplishments!

**Library News**

Something new in the library world! Parents are now able to visit the school library and borrow library materials to read at home.  Please look for the application with your child’s library “Meet the Teacher” and BCPS passwords sheet.