Principal’s Message

A note from Ms. Brooks

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank all of the parents and families for participating in our school events. We absolutely loved seeing so many faces at our Spring Concert! Having parents’ chaperone for field trips is so nice to see.

Our students have excelled this Spring in local competitions. Our “Black Excellence Club” was a top winner in the Countywide Elementary Competition. Our Safe Racer Car won 3rd in the BCPS Countywide Competition.

We are proud of the many before and after school clubs that students participated in this year! This helps strengthen the bonds between staff and students and keeps them meaningfully engaged in fun activities before or after school! We had 13 clubs this year! Our goal is to have more programming to address the primary aged children as well!

As you know, school safety and security are a priority for me and for BCPS. While we know the arrival and dismissal process requires patience from families because we have so many car riders now, we must do what we can to ensure that we are kind and respectful to our community neighbors as we drop off and pick up our children. Please be mindful of not blocking our neighbors’ driveways while waiting and not blocking the alley or parking in neighbors’ driveways behind the school. We have posted this on our school sign as a reminder to everyone. Continue to bring your ID to school with you when you come in to pick up your child.

We are so glad that we have completed State Testing (MCAP) for reading and math for students in grades 3, 4, 5. We are also finishing up MAP testing for students in grades 1-5.

We have our own Summer School Program at Berkshire in July including programming for PreK-5th grades and an ESOL summer program for intermediate students.

With regards,
Principal Brooks

Upcoming Events:

June 14th – Last day of classes for Prekindergarten

June 15th – All schools close 3 hours early for students

June 16th – Last day of classes, all schools close 3 hours early for students

Lost & Found

We have a collection of jackets and lunch boxes that have been found and placed on our Lost & Found table. If your child is missing an item, please call the office at 443-809-7008.
Principal’s message continued:

Please use the QR code below to complete the survey for families and community members.

Encuesta de las familias/ la comunidad de escuelas comunitarias de BCPS

Summer breakfast and lunch program
to begin on Tuesday, June 21
Free summer meals to be provided to all youth 18 years of age and under

Towson, MD – Baltimore County Public Schools will offer free breakfast and lunch meals through the Summer Food Service Program from Tuesday, June 21, through Friday, August 19.

Meals will be served Monday through Friday, but meal sites will be closed on Monday, July 4, and Tuesday, July 19. All meals must be consumed on site.

During the Summer Food Service Program, breakfast and lunch meals will be provided at the following sites and times:

- Berkshire Elementary, 7431 Poplar Ave. 21224, at 9-9:30 a.m. & 12-12:30 p.m.

Perfect Attendance for 2021-2022 School Year

Camden B.
Miranda B.
Heylin C.Z.
Connor C.
Markella K.
Mariam M.
Dylan S.
Library News

Did you know...

Last week for students to check out books is May 23 to 27!

A Note From Mrs. Nowakowski

- Please keep an eye out for late book notices and missing book notices!
- We need to collect them BEFORE THE END OF SCHOOL.

A Peek At What We Are Learning

Kindergarten
   Unit 7: See Yourself in Stories

First
   Unit 7: Clouds with a Chance of Weather

Second
   Unit 6: Pack Your Bags

Third
   Unit 7: Wicked Weather

Fourth
   Unit 11: Wordless Books

Fifth
   Unit 4: Historical Graphic Novels

Missing Books?

- Have your student check their desk at school, backpack, bedroom, etc.
Grade Level Highlights

Pre-Kindergarten
Pre-K students enjoyed the field trip to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. We have been focusing on the letters U, C, V, and X. Counting from 1 to 20 is our current goal for math. The students are most grateful for the return of warmer weather and more time outside for recess.

Kindergarten
We have almost made it to the end of the school year! We have seen such hard work and perseverance each day from our students as their thinking continues to be challenged in reading and math! A peek into academics:

In phonics, students continue building and reading words, blending sounds and extending sentences. We have introduced the long vowels and you will notice your child’s homework includes these skills to practice reading and writing to prepare for first grade. Please continue to practice reading sight words from the kindergarten sight word list and utilize the paper decodable stories that are sent home each week.

In mathematics, students are solving addition and subtraction story problems and are developing an understanding of place value. Students begin to develop robust strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems and explore the concept that numbers are composed of 10s and 1s. Continue to practice addition and subtraction math facts to 5, count to 100 by 5s, 1s and 2s. In ELA, reading strategies we will focus on are making predictions with fiction and non-fiction texts, using drawing, dictating and writing to retell and sequencing events along with making connections to the real life around us. Students will be expected to provide reasons the author gives to support points in a text and supply information about the topic by drawing and writing.

We look forward to seeing how your child grows over the summer to prepare for first grade! Have a great summer!

First Grade
We can’t believe the year is flying by so quickly and coming to a close. Your children are very busy learning lots of wonderful things. Our first grade students are great thinkers and have grown so much since the beginning of the school year! Throughout the month, please check your child’s folder and Schoology for any additional announcements or important information. Please empty the folder each night so students can better manage their papers. Thank you for making sure your child brings their device, charger, water bottle, and sneakers each day to school. Thank you for reinforcing good work habits and behavior at school as well. Happy learning!

First Grade Continued
In math, we are learning the following: Exploring change with math and science concepts. Develop a sense of time by experiencing activities that last a second, minute, hour, and day. Solve problems using addition and subtraction up to 100. Measure, order, compare, and find differences in length. Collect and analyze data by making simple charts and graphs using pictures, numbers, and tally marks. Please make sure that your child is practicing basic math facts. Flashcards, addition and subtraction apps, and First In Math and Legends of Learning on Schoology are all great ways to practice and can be practiced during the summer as well. Students will only get better with their math facts if they practice!

In phonics/reading, we are continuing to apply our phonics skills as we learn long vowel sounds and patterns. Keep being great reading coaches to our students! Keep up the hard work and reading aloud for 15 minutes each night and this is a great practice for the summer as well! We appreciate your help in asking them questions about what they read to further develop their comprehension skills. Students can write about the story they read which will also develop their writing skills. Please keep working on sight words and nonsense words too!

Second Grade
Happy Spring! We are very happy by the success of our second graders and encourage them to keep showing determination in the final term of the year. We have been working on the following things:

In math, students finished unit 7 which focused on place value to 1,000, measurement, and fractions. We started our final unit in math that focuses on measurement, data, and multi-digit computation.

In ELA, students read a variety of literary and informational texts about making a difference. Students also used text features and asked questions in order to demonstrate an understanding of key details and author’s purpose. We have been expressing our ideas by working on opinion writing. In phonics, students are building, blending, and writing words with long vowel sounds and silent letters. In addition, students are increasing word analysis skills by learning about prefixes and suffixes. Students are also practicing reading decodable texts using high frequency words. Please encourage your child to read each night.

In science, students learned about how the Earth’s surface changes over time. Students also learned about the location of water on Earth’s surface, fast and slow changes to Earth’s surface, ways that wind and water

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Check out our homepage: http://berkshirees.bcps.org
Second Grade Continued
change the land, and ways to prevent or slow down these changes.
Students should continue to access the online platforms; First in Math, Legends of Learning, and Raz-Plus Reading for additional practice. Please make sure your child is prepared for school each day by bringing their device and essential school supplies. Please remind your child to make good choices each day, complete all assignments, and keep putting forth nice effort in all subjects. As always, thank you for your support!

Third Grade
It is hard to believe we are getting ready to end the school year! As we finish up the last quarter of our school year, please take time to pat your child on the back for how far they have come! Faced with ever changing challenges on a daily basis, our third graders continued to overcome obstacles by making thoughtful decisions in order to achieve their goals. In reading we finished our author study of Roald Dahl. This author study invited students to experience the fanciful world of Roald Dahl through the reading of several of his most famous works, including James and the Giant Peach. We will be focusing on poetry for our last unit. Please continue to have your child read each night at home. This will help them with their fluency and comprehension. In math students developed their geometry skills by describing, classifying, and make generalizations about two-dimensional shapes, particularly quadrilaterals. Students also explored polygons in a variety of creative ways. They developed their measurement skills as they measured the perimeters and areas of polygons. They also applied what they have learned about quadrilaterals and area in the context of fractions. We will finish up the year with multiplication and division. Please have your child continue to study their multiplication math facts. Two good tools to use to help your child with this skill are First in Math and flashcards. It has been our pleasure to work with your children this year. We wish them the best of luck in the fourth grade. As always, thanks for all of your support. We wish you well!

Fourth Grade
We have made it to the 4th quarter of fourth grade! We have lots of exciting, but also challenging tasks ahead of us! We are doing our very best to prepare all students for the fifth grade. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are currently taking the MCAP. This is a rigorous test that students can show all they know! It is important, especially on test taking weeks that students get 8-10 hours of sleep, eat healthy dinners, and show up to school on time with their devices charged!

Fourth Grade Continued
Parent Suggestions: Remind your child to read 20-30 minutes every night and ask questions about what was read. Encourage your child to continue to take notes in all classes, whether at home or at school. Encourage your child to revisit the text to support answers when completing comprehension and writing assessments. Grade 4 math classes are now finishing up Unit 7 using the Bridges curriculum. This unit focuses on multiplication, division, fractions and decimals!

Parent Suggestions: Practice multiplication and division facts, they can use First in Math to practice. Ensure your child is correctly completing his/her homework daily. Please check your child’s grades at least once a week and ensure your child is completing his/her assignments.

Fifth Grade
It appears as if summer if finally here! The year is flying by. In math, we recently finished Unit 5, multiplying and dividing fractions. The lessons got progressively more challenging as we transitioned from multiplication to division of fractions and whole numbers. As we venture into Unit 6, students are graphing patterns and learning about geometry and volume. In the upcoming weeks we will be classifying polygons, and further exploring the volumes of prisms. In content we are transitioning from health back to science, as we learn about Maryland’s own 18th century astronomer, clockmaker, and all-around brilliant scientist, Benjamin Banneker. It’s a fun unit the students will enjoy. In language arts we are beginning our culminating event for Unit 4, Writing Worth Reading. Students will plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish an original narrative that addresses the theme of being an individual. We are also finishing up our independent reading of “Wonder.” It’s a terrific book and the kids really are enjoying it. They are able to really relate to many of the themes, making wonderful personal connections to the story. In Unit 5, we will explore our ever-transforming world. Students will delve into the essential questions; “How does information help to transform and clarify out thinking? And “How has our world changed, and how does the change impact us?” The students had a great time on the field trip to Annapolis in May. They explored the capital port city in all its glory from the historic cobblestone seaport to the U.S Naval Academy. We even had lunch on a boat! Thanks always for your support from home.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @Berkshire_BCPS
Check out our homepage: http://berkshirees.bcps.org
Ms. Roberts  (Art Teacher)
sroberts3@bcps.org

Students in the 5th grade created ceramic envelopes and decorated them to hold special messages.

Delightful desserts and favorite food made by 4th grade and 1st grade students.

Pizza Slice by Darlin G.
Crab Soup by Alaina B.

Ceramic Flowers by 3rd grade students

Crab and Shrimp Soup by Junior F.

Giraffe by Ester I.  Bear by Kimberly C.

Penguin by Madison C.

Ceramic Cupcakes by 1st grade students

Ceramic Teacups by kindergarten students

Jeff Koons Inspired Balloon Animal Sculptures by 2nd grade students.