Good evening, Catonsville Middle School Families!

This is the Monday Message for Monday, October 3, 2022.

BCPS schools will be closed the following days in October:

- Wednesday, October 5, 2022
- Friday, October 21, 2022
- Monday, October 24, 2022

Congratulations!

- To Alfie A. for winning the Heads, Shoulders, Knees, Toes, & Cups competition! He is our first CMS Schoolwide Champion!
- To Ms. Casey Libertini, our first Catonsville Cool Cat of the Month for September (AKA Teacher of the Month)!

From the Nurse:

We are writing to notify you that 2022-2023 Hearing and Vision screenings will occur on Tuesday October 18, Wednesday October 19, and Thursday October 20.

All 8th grade students will be screened, as well as 6th and 7th grade students that are new to the district. If you would like to opt out of screening, parents/guardians should send written request to cboarman2@bcps.org or sent a written note with your student and instruct them to bring it to the Health Room. Please include the student’s full name and grade and specify that you would like to opt out of screening.

If your student wears glasses, for any reason, please have them wear and/or bring their glasses with them for all 3 screening days.

If you have any questions, please contact our Registered Nurse at cboarman2@bcps.org or 443-809-1087.

From our PTSA:

It was great to see everyone at Back to School Night!

If you didn’t get a chance to join the PTSA please visit our website in order to join or donate. You can also sign up for our newsletter and information about our meetings.

**Blood Drive November 4th:**

Please consider signing up to donate at the next CMS Red Cross Blood Drive Nov 4th from 2-6pm. Sign up at Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross

Also, if your child would like to get volunteer hours, consider having them sign up to help at the blood drive (Parents can help too!). Students should complete the Student Service Learning forms (found on and once they have done that they can sign up for a job at Catonsville Middle Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer Sign Up Nov 2022

If there are any questions about the drive, feel free to reach out to Paul Stysley prstysley@yahoo.com.
MAP Testing:

Seventh Grade Language Arts teachers are wrapping up MAP testing this week and then both Math and Language Arts teachers will be conducting make-up testing. Thanks to all the parents who have brought computers to school and reminded their child to charge it up the night before. It takes a village!

Volunteer Training:

All potential volunteers, whether they be family, community members, or staff, must complete the volunteer application and participate in an orientation/training session annually beginning on July 1st. All volunteer training expires on June 30th.

The attachment below – in both English and Spanish – will provide specific directions on Volunteer Training.

Volunteer Instructions Bilingual (1).pdf

Send your certificates and application to Cynthia Sewell at csewell@bcps.org

Battle of the Books:

Do your students enjoy reading and fun competition? The Baltimore County Public Library will be hosting a Battle of the Books Competition later in the school year. More information can be found at the BCPL Battle of the Books page. Students at Catonsville Middle School can sign up for a team using the Google form sent and posted in the Library Schoology Group. Students will meet with Mrs. Jeremenko and Mrs. Smith in the library to plan, practice and review the rules and books.

Chromebook Chargers:

We are seeing more students coming to school asking for a charger. Student were provided a charger when they were given their computers. The Chromebook should hold a charge for 2 to 3 days. We recommend plugging in the computer each night before bed and leaving the charger at home. This ensures that each student is prepared for school each day. It also prevents loss and misplacement of device chargers. Any defective charger can be brought to the library for an exchange but if a student has lost the charger, the replacement cost is $40. Thank you for your support in keeping our students active and engaged in learning.

7th Grade Science:

Students in seventh grade science are working on their solar s’more cookers. Any cardboard boxes, such as pizza boxed and show boxes with lids, are preferable.

Black Excellence:

Our Black Excellence club will have our first meeting Wednesday, October 12th. Our club focuses on the experience and contributions of African Americans, and we have a variety of options to engage students. We will analyze famous speeches, research an African American of interest and create a project, and study for a quiz competition. We usually end the year with a trip to the National Museum of African American history in May. Come join us! Click this link for a permission slip (they can also be found outside the office), and email rdungey@bcps.org with any questions!

Environmental Service-Learning Projects
Earn service-learning hours by helping to improve the Catonsville neighborhood and environment. Here are dates and registrations for Fall service projects:

- **Join Ms. Chang on** Saturday, October 22, 9am-12pm: Stream Cleanup and Invasive Plant Removal at Oella Trolley Trail. Register [HERE](#).
- **Sunday, October 23, 10am-1pm**; Water Quality Watchers: Stream Cleanup Event. Register [HERE](#).
- **Saturday, November 5, 9am-12pm**; Water Quality Watchers: Stream Cleanup Event. Register [HERE](#).
- **Sunday, November 6, 9am-12pm**; Free the Trees: PVSP Avalon. Register [HERE](#).
- **Saturday, November 12, 9am-12pm**; Oella Cemetery Cleanup. Register [HERE](#).
- **Sunday, November 20, 10am-1pm**; Free the Trees: Bull Branch. Register [HERE](#).

Come prepared by:

- Dressing appropriately for the weather
- Wearing shoes that you don’t mind getting wet and muddy
- Wearing pants to avoid bug bites and poison ivy
- Wearing a hat
- Using bug spray and sunscreen
- Bringing water or a snack if you need one

If you are joining an event with a teacher, we will record your service hours. If you attend an event without a teacher, submit a picture of yourself at the event to Mr. Sporik and he will take care of the hours. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Sporik at [Asporik@bcps.org](mailto:Asporik@bcps.org).

**Aluminum Can Recycling is Back!**

Aluminum is one of the most recyclable materials that we use. Infinitely recyclable and highly durable, nearly 75 percent of all aluminum ever produced is still in use today. Aluminum is 100 percent recyclable and retains its properties indefinitely. Aluminum is one of the only materials in the consumer disposal stream that more than pays for the cost of its own collection. Unfortunately, instead of recycling aluminum, people are burying it in landfills by throwing it in the trash.

Students at Catonsville Middle will have an opportunity to keep aluminum from reaching the landfill and earn service-learning hours in the process. Students can bring in **50 rinsed and crushed aluminum cans for 1 service-learning hour**. Proceeds from the aluminum can recycling program will benefit future environmental club projects. If you are interested in participating in the recycling program and earning service-learning hours, follow the directions below.

**Aluminum Recycling Procedures:**

1. Rinse empty cans
2. Shake out extra water
3. Crush the can as flat as you can (top to bottom saves space)
4. Package cans into a bag
5. Write your name on the bag
6. Bring the bag to room 22 (Mr. Sporik)