



Principal's Message

December 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I can hardly believe it is the holiday season! As we focus on kindness on our Equity Day December 5th, I challenge you and our students to find ways to help others who may be in need or show kindness to others by paying it forward.

Arnold students in band, strings, and chorus are working hard to prepare for the Winter Concert on **Tuesday, December 17th** at 6:30pm in our own building! There will be an assembly for students during the day so our performers can showcase their talent.

The PTA is hosting the Annual Holiday Breakfast on **Saturday, December 7th**. If you have not attended before, this is a wonderful community event. Breakfast is served, and children can shop for family and friends in a store just for them. We hope you can join us for this seasonal celebration.

As we wrap up the calendar year, remember our last day of school for December will be **Friday, December 20th**. We will return to school **Thursday, January 2nd, 2020**.

Wishing you and your family Happy Holidays!

Shauna Kauffman

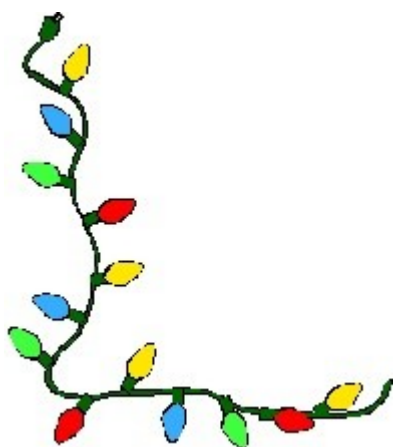
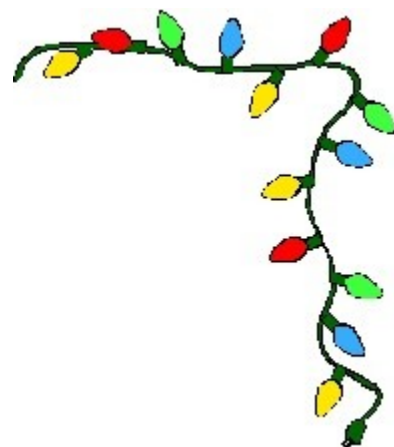
Principal



Mark Your Calendar

December

- 4th Picture Retakes
- 5th 2 Hour Early Dismissal
- 6th Kindergarten Trip to Downs Park
- 7th Holiday Breakfast 9am-1pm
- 13th Interims Go Home
- 16th Principal's Council
- 17th Winter Concert 6:30pm
- 23rd-Jan 1st Holiday Break



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Beginning on December 9, I will be delivering classroom lessons about substance abuse in all third, fourth and fifth grade classes. You can preview the lessons and discuss any concerns about them with me. Parents can opt out of having their child(ren) participate in the lessons, and an alternative activity will be provided. Follow up materials will be sent home, so that you can support what your child has learned.

Students will receive lessons from me, in collaboration with the school nurse, focusing on:

Third grade: Recognizing prescription vs. non-prescription drugs – safe use, choices and problem-solving, and an introduction to what opioid drugs are. They will be using a book: *Charlie and the Curious Club: Candy or Medicine*.

Fourth grade: Learning about the physical effects of drugs, understanding why substance abuse is a problem and what addiction is, and identifying how they can contribute to solving the problem of substance abuse on a community level. They will be working with materials from KidsHealth.com and recent news clips to define the problem and design a PSA, video clip, poster, etc. to address the problem.

Fifth grade: Learning and practicing strategies to deal with peer pressure, using refusal skills to build confidence to deal with situations when they might be asked to do drugs, recognizing the effects opioids can have on the brain. Students develop strategies and receive a pocket card with strategies and resources on it.

These lessons are important because school provides a safe place where children can learn what to do in unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations. Trusted adults provide students with an opportunity to practice handling situations related to substance abuse, so that the first time a young person is faced with an unsafe situation, he or she knows what to do and has practiced doing it. Students will identify trusted adults, both inside and outside of the school, who they can go for help.

You can make arrangements to preview the lessons with your child's school counselor, or you can preview them on the Anne Arundel County Public Schools website. Go to aacps.org>Students>Find a School Counselor>Elementary Core Curriculum. If you have questions about these lessons, please don't hesitate to contact me at dlsmith@aacps.org.

Thank you for your support

Dana L. Smith, M.S.
School Counselor
Arnold Elementary School





Enhancing Elementary Excellence

December Update

We have been busy working on teambuilding through a variety of activities that reinforce the 21st Century skills of **Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking**. December finds us finishing our kickoff projects that have exposed students to the processes and protocols of Project Based Learning (PBL). Our exploration of Totems and Backpacks for Clients has been so much fun and extremely informational! Thank you to all who volunteered to come in to support these awesome projects!

In the new year, we will begin our next set of projects, with each grade level focusing on a different PBL Module. Please find a brief summary of each project below.

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Not a Stick The class will work together to create their own version of the book, <i>Not a Stick</i> by Antoinette Portis. Students will be asked to reimage a tree twig in such a way that can it be used to help tell their story. Individual students will produce one page of the book.	Circles Students will explore a variety of artforms through the circle. Gaining understanding of their part of a group/circle, students will identify with the "Ubuntu" philosophy meaning, "I am because we are."	Mindfulness Matters Students will learn the meaning of mindfulness and participate in mindful practices such as mindful body movements and mindful breathing. Students will choose one pose, breathe, or routine they can connect to and create a sculpture for a mindful museum.	Artist Typeface Students will explore artists Miro and Kandinsky to create reproduce a piece of art, as well as create their own typeface in the style of the chosen artist.	Radio Drama Students will learn the unique history of radio drama of the 1920's to 1950's. This exploration in storytelling will allow students to use their minds and writing skills in creative ways and, in the end, students will record and share a Podcast of their Radio Drama.	Personal Logos Students will research modern advertising techniques to create a personal logo to represent themselves. Using multiple iterations, students will create a digital version of their logo.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities or have any donations to support any of the above projects, please contact Mrs. Pfaff at hpfafe@aacps.org or Mrs. Kochanski at jkochanski@aacps.org.

ART ROOM HAPPENINGS

What's Happening in the Art Room?

Artsonia Help- After Thanksgiving, I will be looking for more help with Artsonia. If you would like to volunteer to help photograph artwork please email me at zhilpl@aacps.org.

Kindergarten- Students will be creating winter trees and learning about foreground, middle ground and background.

1st- Students are making pinch pots with Native American symbols carved into them.

2nd- Students are learning about how to create movement in their art and are creating dancing animals.

3rd- (Sowells, Hartman, McMahon)- Students are finishing their winter silhouette pictures where they are creating a nighttime sky using tints and shades of blue.

3rd- (Smith)- Students are making collaborative interiors. We are drawing our favorite room in our house and gluing them to a rectangular surface to look like we created an apartment building, making our drawings the windows looking in.

4th- Students are working on creating a favorite hot cocoa mug using mixed paint colors and will be adding details and patterns in oil pastel.

5th- Students are finishing up their made-up sea creatures and backgrounds and will be starting their winter key-hole projects after the break.



P.E. Updates

Our soccer unit was a huge success! Students demonstrated impressive teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship while working on dribbling, passing, and striking foot skills.

For the month of December, students will be working on underhand and overhand throwing skills in various drills, exercises, and games.

Students - please remember to dress appropriately on your P.E. day.

Thank you,
Mr. Vandegrift



MUSIC NEWS

Wow! The year is flying by!

Here's what students can expect during December:

Grade Level	Music Vocabulary & Concepts	Featured Songs & Music
Kindergarten	Steady beat; walking v. galloping rhythms; one or two sounds on the beat; form; higher & lower pitches	Jack Be Nimble; Winter is Cold; Dreidel Song; Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star; Jingle Bells
1 st	Steady beat; ABA form; SOL, LA, and MI	24 Robbers; Granny
2 nd	Melodic direction; form	The Nutcracker; Troika; Old King Glory
3 rd	Melodic form; Introduction (cinquain poems); Woodwind instruments; Tempo	Frosty the Snowman; Draw Me a Bucket of Water; The Chicken Dance
4 th	Music, movement, & poetry inspired by water and the wind; Rondo Form; 16 th -note combinations	December Winds; Linus & Lucy; S'vivon
5 th	Fanfares; 2-part singing; dramatizing a story using music	Welcome to This House; Winter Wonderland
Chorus: Santa Breakfast (optional): Saturday, December 7 Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 17, 1:30pm and 6:30pm (Student arrive at 6pm)		

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email me at dsala@aacps.org.

-Mrs. Sala



NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER



“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

News from the Media Center

4th and 5th grade have begun reading this year’s Black-Eyed Susan Novels and the race is on. We have quite a number of very enthusiastic readers who have already plowed through 3 or 4 of the novels.

3rd graders have begun a semester-long genre reading challenge. While voluntary the third-grade teachers and I hope that you will encourage your student to participate. Our goal is to help students explore a variety of genres (just like you might encourage them to expand their eating choices!)

2nd grade has become interested in writing haiku and we have ended several classes writing haikus together. Here is one that Mrs. Gassen’s class wrote in honor of Thanksgiving

Grateful Citizens,
Connecting with family
Parade, pie, sports, feast

Thank you to those who have sent in books- I continue to collect books and 50-piece puzzles if you have any to send our way.

Holiday shopping: if you need any ideas for books for your student this holiday season here is a list of the best Children’s Books published in 2019. I hope your holiday break is peaceful one with time to read and relax together.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/2019/11/20/46168862-01b2-11ea-8501-2a7123a38c58_story.html