

TEAM DUNDALK



School Promise

We are peaceful with our words and our actions.

We are responsible for one another and ourselves.

We are respectful of people and things.

We are enthusiastic and always work with excellence.

DUNDALK
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

2717 PLAYFIELD STREET
DUNDALK, MD 21222
PHONE: 410-887-7013
FAX: 410-887-7015

PRINCIPAL:
Mr. MICHAEL A. PARKER

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:
Mrs. HOPE L. MCGUIRE
Ms. JENNIFER SZYMAN-
SKI

PTA EXECUTIVE
BOARD
MEMBERS

Mrs. Lilli — PRES.
jessicalilli@yahoo.com

Mrs. Notaro — SECY.
michelenotaro4@gmail.com

Mrs. Kenney — TREASURER
jenn.kenney89@gmail.com

PTA Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/DundalkESPTA>

The Dundalk Owl

Principal's Message

November, 2016

Parents, working along with teachers and students, are critical partners in helping their child or children achieve academic success. One important part of this commitment is elementary conference day on November 11th. If your child's teacher has not done so already, they will be sending a letter home to schedule a time for you to discuss your child's progress. I cannot overemphasize the importance of meeting with your child's teacher. Research has shown that when the home school connection is strong, students' chances of success increase dramatically. In our desire to build a strong, positive school and community relationship, Dundalk Elementary School is delighted to join together with our families in order to celebrate American Education Week, November 14-18. Please mark your calendar for the evening of November 15th as this will be our PE/Book Fair Family Night.

Again, the three A's of Attitude, Attendance and Achievement cannot just be a slogan but has to be a widely held belief put into practice by everyone—students, teachers, parents, and the community of Dundalk.

Thanks,
Mr. Parker

Our virtue of the month:

Kindness

**EVERYONE
CAN EARN
STRAIGHT A's**

- **ATTITUDE**
- **ATTENDANCE**
- **ACHIEVEMENT**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November

Thursday, 11/10 – Report Cards Distributed
Friday, 11/11— Elementary Conference Day, no classes
Monday-Friday, 11/14-18 — American Education Week

Tuesday, 11/15—PE/Bookfair Family Night, 6 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, 11/24-25 — Thanksgiving Holiday, schools closed

December

Friday, 12/9—Professional Development Day, school closes at 12:10 p.m.

Friday-Monday, 12/23-1/2—Winter Break, schools closed

January

Friday, 1/13— 2nd Marking Period Ends, school closes at 12:10 p.m.

Monday, 1/16—Martin Luther King Day, schools closed

Tuesday, 1/17—Professional Development Day, no classes

BCPS One Communication Center for Parents

After Friday, November 4th when parents log into BCPS One, a *Communication Center* will appear in the upper right corner of the landing page.

The Communication Center will be used by BCPS to share BCPS One related announcements with parents.



ATTENTION:
2ND AND 3RD GRADE
PARENTS
**CAVITIES ARE THE PITS:
SEAL THEM OUT**

Baltimore County Department of Health, Dentistry will be coming to our school to offer the Dental Sealant Program. Dental sealants help prevent tooth decay on the chewing surfaces of molar teeth, where most cavities form. Dental sealants protect these areas by sealing out plaque and food that causes tooth decay. This service will be offered to our 2nd and 3rd graders free of charge. Parental consent forms will be coming home several weeks before the Dental Sealant Program is to start. Students will not be able to participate without a signed parental consent form. If you have any questions, call the Baltimore County Department of Health at 410-887-2780 for more information, or contact Ms. Williams, School Nurse, Dundalk School nurse, at 410-284-2204.

Raptor

The safety of all students and staff in Baltimore County Public Schools is of utmost importance to all of us. Our school, as well as all Baltimore County schools, is utilizing a visitor check-in system. The system is called V-soft by Raptor, otherwise known as Raptor. The information collected will not be shared outside of the school and is stored on a secure server. Registration of all visitors is necessary so that in the event of an emergency in the school, a record of all people currently in the building will be available.

When you visit our school for the first time, you will be asked to present government issued photo identification (ID) or a driver's license to a staff member in our main office. The ID will be scanned and your photo, name, and date of birth will be extracted. This information will be used to log you in and compare your information against the national sex offender database. Once your ID is scanned and you are cleared, a visitor pass will be printed for you. The visitor pass you receive must be worn on your outer garment. You will need only to show your ID on future visits. You will be asked to log out with office staff upon completion of your business so that we know you are no longer in the building.

If you refuse to have your ID scanned, you will be denied access to the school. The only alternative to this process is to allow staff to see your ID to verify your name and date of birth so that this information can be manually entered into the system. This method does not store information. Therefore, you must go through this process each time you visit the school.

If you are matched to the sex offender database, you will be denied access to the school. Only the principal can override this decision and identify conditions under which you may visit.

School Safety Plans, Drills, and Emergency Preparedness

The Baltimore County Public School system has given a charge to every school to create an Emergency/Crisis Plan to be used if a serious situation arises during the school day.

Members of our School Progress Team have written guidelines to assist the school administration, teachers and students to respond with effective action to an emergency. The administrative staff will make an early judgment regarding the

seriousness of the situation that is developing. In the event of a fire, bomb threat or other similar situation, the students will evacuate the building and assemble in an open area away from the building. Students will wait for a signal that it is safe to return to the building.

In the case of a natural disaster, a weapon on school property or unauthorized school visitors, students will be asked to "stay

put" in what we call a "lockdown" in their classroom. If such an emergency develops, children will be asked to remain in their classroom with their teacher and the classroom door will be locked. Attendance will be taken to account for all students. At the end of the crisis, an announcement to resume normal activities will be made. Please talk with your child about the importance of these drills.

We continue to practice **fire drills, bus evacuation drills, severe weather drills and lock-down drills** to ensure the safety of our children and faculty in order to be prepared for a school emergency.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The front school doors open at 8:25 a.m. To help us with a smooth, organized start of the school day, please follow these guidelines:

- 1. Children may line up outside starting at 8:25 a.m. Grades 1-5 will line up at the front steps. Kindergarten and Prekindergarten will enter on the Dunmanway side of the building.
- 2. Children need to be in class by 8:40 a.m. Children will need to get a late pass from the office if they arrive after 8:40 a.m.

- 3. For children's safety, parents should say good-bye outside. If parents want to meet with a teacher, please set up an appointment as teachers are involved with their students from the start of the school day and not able to conference with parents at this time. Teachers will gladly talk to parents at a scheduled time.
- 4. Walkers will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m. Grades 1-5 will dismiss from the front entrance, Kindergarten and Prekindergarten will dismiss from the Dunmanway side of the building.



We understand that emergency situations arise, and in those cases we certainly will do whatever is necessary to assist parents in picking up the child.

5. There are no separate after-noon dismissal procedures for inclement weather. Please make sure your child is prepared whether it is an umbrella or heavy coat.

Students who are regularly meeting parents on the front lawn, and whose parents have previously advised the teacher in writing of this pick-up procedure, should have a pre-arranged spot to meet the parent.

Any changes in normal dismissal procedures should be handled by a written note by the parent to the teacher first thing in the morning.



VOCAL MUSIC NEWS



Musically yours,

Mr. Hardesty, Mr. Kelsey, and Ms. Mordente

No Check Policy at Dundalk

As has been instituted at other Baltimore County Public Schools, Dundalk Elementary School has instituted a no-check policy. Due to the additional charges incurred as a result of checks returned for insufficient funds, and the additional paperwork resulting from returned checks, any payments made to Dundalk Elementary School must be in the form of cash or money order. Anyone wishing to receive a receipt for their payments should direct a note to the office with their payment and a receipt will be issued to you. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding in this matter.



Update Information

At anytime during the school year you have a phone number or address change please notify the school office. It is imperative that the office, school nurse and classroom teacher be kept updated in the event of an emergency or illness of your child(ren). If daycare situations change please notify your child(ren's) teacher in writing so we can continue to keep them safe as dismissal.

Attendance

I want to take the opportunity to talk about attendance. This Thursday, Report Cards will come home. On the first page you will see the number of days absent, days tardy, early dismissals and the attendance rate for your child. Last year we set a school goal of 95%. Unfortunately, we had an attendance rate of 92.8%. This was well below our goal of 95% and the mandated goal of 94% set by the State of Maryland. We all have to work together to make sure our kids come to school every day and are here on time. Our doors open at 8:25 a.m. and the late bell rings at 8:40 a.m. Our dismissal begins at 3:10 pm. We are having parents come in early to pick up their children for early dismissal. Please refrain from doing this unless it is an absolute emergency. When a child is removed from school early, even 10 minutes, it is noted in the attendance record and is counted the same as a late arrival in the morning. More importantly, you're child's educational program is disrupted as teachers are expected to conduct instruction up until a few minutes before the students are dismissed. In addition, it also disrupts your child's afternoon routine of regular dismissal and can create confusion and sometimes anxiety for your child. Team Dundalk is here to educate and support your child and family. If you are having difficulty, please let us know and we can help.

Lastly, you may have heard your child come home and talk about the "Language of Virtues". Starting last spring, we introduced the Virtues Project with Dara Feldman, author of the book, [The Heart of Education](#), to our teachers and parents. Over the summer, our teachers continued their professional development with a three day workshop led by Ms. Feldman around building character within our classrooms, school and community. Specifically, we talked about the power of language. We discussed how language has the power to inspire or discourage. We are now continuing on our journey started last spring to use this power of language to acknowledge, guide and correct one another. One way you can support this initiative is to review our school promise with your child. It was developed this summer and replaces our code of conduct.

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Library News

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING! THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Don't forget that the Book Fair is coming November 14-18. Students can shop during their scheduled library class. Because this is also American Education week, parents are encouraged and invited to come to the library hallway to shop! With the holiday season approaching, books make wonderful presents! On Tuesday evening, November 15, we will also be a part of the PE night -so bring the whole family to enjoy and shop!

E-Books

Library is not just printed books! Our library also has "e-books". "E-books" are electronic books that can be read on a laptop, computer, tablet or even your phone! Students will be finding out how to access our growing collection of e-books. They need to log in to our online catalog-Destiny Quest-with their BCPS login credentials to check these books out. Look for further information coming to you about how to access and read e-books from our library.

Happy Reading,
Ms. Brown



Learning, Laughing, Listening! An awesome Social Event! is hosted by BCPS's Parent University, BCPS school social workers, and the special education resource center at White Oak School. The event will focus on effective and positive emotional and behavioral strategies aimed at providing a solid, healthy family support system for children in BCPS. Students, parents and caregivers are invited to attend the event. The keynote speaker is Joseph Van Deuren, who will talk about "Bringing Out the Best in Your Family."

The event will take place:

- Wednesday, November 16, 2016, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.
General John Stricker Middle School, 7855 Trappe Road, Dundalk

Reservations are required. Interested participants may register for the event by contacting Lisa Diffenderfer by email at ldiffenderfer@bcps.org or by phone to the resource center at 410-887-5443.

DES Parents and Families,

Thank you to all the families that participated and made our Cherrydale Candy Bar sale a success! We will be ordering prizes for participants soon, so any outstanding money needs to be turned in as soon as possible in order to receive your prize.

Congratulations to Mrs. Washingtons 4th grade class for winning the Box Top Contest and receiving a pizza party!!

Congratulations to Mrs. Blake and Mrs. VanCamp's Pre-K classes for winning the Membership Drive Contest and having a fun pajama day and pizza party!!

Upcoming Events:

- The Book Fair & American Education Week - November 14-18
- Pinland Bowling Family Event – Sunday, December 11th *time to be announced*
- General PTA meeting – Tuesday, December 13th @ 6:30

Please remember that joining the PTA does not mean you have to volunteer, though any help would be much appreciated!!!

Please feel free to contact us through our email: Dundalkespta@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DundalkESPTA>

Thank you,
Jessica Lilli, Jennifer Kenney and Michele Notaro

DIRECTIONS FOR ACCESSING DUNDALK ELEMENTARY'S WEBSITE

For directions accessing Dundalk's website, see attached snapshot for step-by-step instructions, or,

1. go to <http://www.bcps.org>
2. Click on **OUR SCHOOLS**
3. Select **DUNDALK ELEMENTARY** from the list and click on **GO**
4. Click on **Website link**
5. Click on **NEWSLETTER** or other links to get information about our school.

Sept., 2015 P.6

Counselor's Corner

Hello Dundalk Elementary School! It's Ms. Johnson & Mrs. Bosworth here, your school counselors! We are so excited to start a new school year. Here is some important counseling news:

Art News

Hi Dundalk Families and Friends,

Thank you,
Mrs. Thompson
Ms. Corbett

Please do not hesitate to contact the school counseling department if you have any questions or concerns about your student, about counseling programs, school policies or procedures, or if you may be in need of any other information.

~Ms. Johnson & Mrs. Bosworth

Nurse's Notes

Jenna Williams, RN

