

LYONS MILL ELEMENTARY

January 2020

Volume 5
Issue 4

Dear Lyons Mill Families,
Happy 2020 Lyons Mill Families! We are ready for a very exciting and successful second half of the school year. We ask that you listen to media sources for information during emergencies. Lyons Mill is a Baltimore County school, so when BCPS is delayed, closed, or dismissing early, Lyons Mill is participating too. Please remember to download the free BCPS Now app or check the school system's website www.bcps.org for up-to-date information.

It is a perfect time of year to check your child's school supplies. Donations of items such as pencils, glue sticks, dry erase markers, crayons and tissues are always greatly appreciated! As part of our school supply list, we asked for sturdy headphones stored in a bag, clearly labeled with your child's name. Since testing season is starting, we have noticed that many students do not have headphones. Our tests have audio portions that require headphones. Please check the status of your child's headphones. If your child needs headphones, please purchase an inexpensive pair.

Team BCPS Day is almost here! On Thursday, January 9th, all of Team BCPS - students, families, staff of the school system - are encouraged to wear blue. Photos and videos featuring blue pride can be shared with BCPS via social media using hashtag #BCPSblue. Please include @LyonsMill when posting your family photos so we can show everyone our Team BCPS pride.

Please check out our school website:

<http://lyonsmilles.bcps.org/>

I look forward to hearing your ideas so we can kick off 2020 together - **Explorers Believe, Explorers Achieve!**
Mrs. Maralee Clark, Principal

Upcoming Events

January 14th: Winter Concert - 6:30 pm

January 20th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

January 21st: MAP testing window opens

January 22nd-January 31st: STAR Lab comes to LMES

January 24th: 3 hours early dismissal 12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

Maralee Clark
Principal
Samantha Maile
Stacey Enty
Assistant Principals

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443-809-1719 main office
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Follow us on Twitter @LyonsMill
Like us on Facebook: Lyons Mill

Counselor's Corner

In the month of January, the School Counselors will deliver their 170th classroom lesson to students. January's lesson focus will be on character. All activities will center on the various areas that help shape the unique qualities about us that collectively define who we are. From being good listeners, to respecting people's personal space, our young learners will learn how these basic school expectations inform our character. Additionally, older students will engage in discussions that illustrate how collectively all our verbal and nonverbal actions create a perception to others about who we are and what they can expect from us. There are a lot of different character traits that go into the definition of character. Please take some time at home with your student to explore these different traits. Ask your student what type of character they wish to portray to others. Remember to remind your student that people perceive things differently. It is not what someone else thinks about us that defines who we are, but rather what we think about ourselves. It is our personal actions and our personal beliefs that create who we are, not those held by someone else. If you need any follow up discussion activities to help guide the home-school connection related to this topic, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Menikheim or Ms. Arrington for suggestions.

If you ever need to speak with a counselor, please call us at (443)-809-1719 and specify which counselor you need to speak with. We are split up by grades:

Mr. Menikheim has grades First, Third, and Fifth

Ms. Arrington has grades Kindergarten, Second, and Fourth

Volunteer Information:

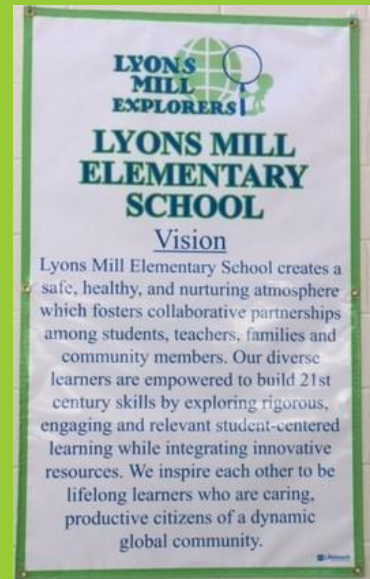
It is time to get in those volunteer applications! Even if you completed the training last year, it is required that a new volunteer application and training certificate be submitted each school year. If you are interested in chaperoning field trips, helping out at Sports Day, or assisting teachers in the classroom, please complete both mentioned items at your earliest convenience. All training is completed electronically. If you do not have access to the internet, arrangements can be made to utilize a computer at Lyons Mill in order to complete the training. Please contact the school to make arrangements, if needed.

School Hours

- School hours 8:30 a.m.- 3:30p.m. Students may enter the building at 8:30 a.m.
- Arrival 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
- There is no supervision for any child dropped off before 8:30 a.m. Unsupervised students are not permitted on school grounds prior to 8:30 a.m. Students must arrive in their classrooms before the 8:45 a.m. bell.
- Homeroom begins at 8:45 a.m.
- Dismissal 3:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

- Office hours 8:15 a.m.- 4:15 p.m.
- If your child arrives to school late or leaves school early for any reason, please report to the main office to meet him/her and not to the classroom. Parents are required to sign students in/out in the main office.
- If your child forgets materials necessary for the school day, these should be dropped off in the office. Please make sure items are clearly marked with your child's name.



The volunteer application and training module can be accessed at

http://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info/. Once you complete your application and the SafeSchools Training, send your application and your certificate to bmenikheim@bcps.org.

Career Day Planning

Career Day planning is now in full swing! We need your help to make this a successful event! In an effort to supply Career based lessons to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students, we are looking for interested presenters. Career Day will be on Friday, March 27, 2020. If you are interested in being a presenter or would like to provide a contact that would be interested in presenting, please contact Mr. Menikheim at 443-809-1719 or bmenikheim@bcps.org. We are hopeful that we will secure a diverse, engaging roster of careers for our young learners to explore!

Before and After Child Care Program Selection Process

Baltimore County Public Schools has adopted a new procedure which requires schools to evaluate the before and after child care programs at least every five (5) years. As part of this process, pre-qualified child care providers are offered an opportunity to submit proposals for a fair and equitable opportunity to obtain the contract with an individual school. As part of the selection process, a panel of Lyons Mill Elementary School parents will be selected to review the proposals submitted by the child care programs. The panel will meet after school to review the submitted proposals. (Date to be determined). If you would like to volunteer, please email Ms. Enty at senty@bcps.org by January 17, 2020.

STAR LAB

Lyons Mill will be hosting Captain Tim and the STAR LAB this winter! Star Lab is a traveling planetarium that will be set up in the gym from January 21 - January 31, 2020. Students will experience a 45-60 minute grade-specific lesson in a dome. Students will be required to remove their shoes and sit on carpet squares during the Star Lab lesson.

Nurses Corner:

Hearing/Vision Screening will be testing children in K that were not tested in PreK, 1st grade and 4th grade along with any children that have an identified hearing/vision concern. Testing dates at LMES are January 10, January 13-17 and January 21-23 with a retest on 2/7/20

Clubs:

- The Junior Navigators and Navigators dance team have been working hard preparing for our first performance. Come watch us perform our first routine at the Winter Concert on January 14th at 6:30 pm!
- The ASL club is hard at work preparing their performance in the winter concert. The club will be signing the song "Winter Wonderland" by Michael Buble.



SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES:

- Schools and offices are closed on Tuesday, February 4th and open on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17th.
- This closure will shift the last day of classes for students from Friday, June 19th to Monday, June 22nd.

Are you moving?

- If you have moved, please make sure you notify us immediately.
- If you do not notify us within 15 days of moving then you are considered to be fraudulently enrolled.
- It is important for the school to have the most up-to-date information concerning your children in the event of an emergency. Even if you switch apartments in the same development, you must re-register. Any changes to email addresses or phone numbers need to be reported to the main office. Please contact our Lyons Mill main office at 443-809-1719 with any questions.

Replacement of student ID badges

- During the school day, as long as it is safe, student identification (ID) badges need to be worn visibly by lanyard or clip. All students MUST HAVE ID badges.
- If a student identification badge is lost or stolen, there is a replacement fee. Fees for replacement badges are \$5.00 per badge.
- Please submit \$5.00 in cash in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with your child's name addressed to Ms. Stacey Enty, Assistant Principal. The new badge will be printed and given to your child's teacher.

EXPLORERS	BELIEVE
EXPLORERS	ACHIEVE

Music

The winter concert is this month! Come join us on January 14th at 6:30 pm to hear the fifth-grade band, orchestra, chorus as well as the A' Cappella Club, the Sign Language Club, and the Dance Team!

In vocal music this month, we will be focusing on music from East Asian countries, like China and Japan. Kindergarten students are working on distinguishing quiet and loud and will continue to practice the rhythmic and melodic concepts they have already learned this year. First grade is labelling quiet as piano and loud as forte. These students will also begin decoding rhythms including ta and ta-ti and learn to distinguish the elements of a lullaby from the marches we studied in December. Second grade will finish up their rondo projects and investigate dynamics, as well. They will distinguish between all the dynamic levels in the spectrum as well as identifying and performing crescendos and decrescendos. Additionally, they will identify, and sing do, increasing their musical vocabulary to do, mi, sol, and la. Third grade will name the dotted quarter note eighth note rhythm that they have been singing throughout the year. Fourth grade will focus on ta-ka-ti to complete their knowledge of two sixteenth note, eighth note combinations. Finally, fifth grade is preparing for their concert and will then finish up work with the C major scale and move on to work songs and code songs. We look forward to seeing you at the concert and you can get more information about each individual class via email esafford@bcps.org and dalleman@bcps.org, or by following @SaffordMusic and @DebbieAlleman2 on Twitter.

In instrumental music, fourth grade has moved on to the brass family, with a focus on the trumpet and good embouchure technique. They are working in small groups learning the basics of how the instrument functions and is played. Other students work on small projects in their station rotations. Mr. Poissant is preparing the fifth-grade instrumental students for the concert on January 14th at 6:30. They will be showcasing their skill and knowledge through a performance based on the book *The Remarkable Farkle McBride* by John Lithgow. A notice was sent home on Wednesday, December 11 with important information about the Winter Concert. Band and String students have Winter Concert rehearsals during the school day on Monday 1/6 and Monday 1/13. Please make sure your child has his/her instrument and music on those days for our rehearsals. If you have questions about the Band and Strings Winter Concert performance or rehearsals please email Mr. Poissant, mpoissant@bcps.org.

The A' Cappella Club is also preparing for the concert on January 14 at 6:30. They are working on multi-part harmonies, which is truly impressive for this age group. Come out and see what they can do! The Musical Theater Club has cast the show, Disney's *The Aristocats* Kids. The cast list went out at the end of December. In January, students will be learning, songs, lines, blocking, and choreography in preparation for the show. We have a talented cast who are working diligently to put the show together.

Queridos estudiantes, familias y amigos del cuarto grado (**4th grade**) y del quinto grado (**5th grade**),

¡HOLA! Es el invierno y hace frío.

Some important things to know and keep in mind for Spanish class:



1. Mission 1 was graded and sent home before the break. There are 2 grades for each Mission. One is based on completion and accuracy. The other is based on effort, content, logistics, and how well I can understand your child's Spanish communication. Both grades are in Schoology and will also appear on the Spanish progress report card that you will receive in the 2nd quarter report card envelope. These "Missions" are end-of-the-unit projects that are completed **IN SCHOOL**. Students are given a minimum of 6 weeks plus a full class period to complete them. In addition, students are allowed to and encouraged to use their class notes as they complete them. I was VERY impressed with many of the Mission 1 projects that I saw for Unit 1. **We'll be starting Mission 2 in January.**

2. ALL CLASS NOTES are glued into students' cuadernos (notebooks) at the end of class. These do not ever come home, so please **go on BCPS One in Schoology in the link for Spanish class to find all class notes in a marked folder.** I add these class notes WEEKLY to the folder online.

*When you view the class notes in the folder, you need to click on the button with the down arrow to download it. Otherwise you cannot view the class notes page fully or correctly.

3. Please remember to check your child's take-home folder and Schoology gradebook weekly to track your child's progress in Spanish. **YOU SHOULD BE SEEING THESE GRADED PAPERS ALMOST EVERY WEEK!** Please let me know if you don't (my e-mail is below).

4. Your child was trained (finally!) on the VLM's (Virtual Literacy Modules). These are completed in school for 40+ minutes a week as a supplemental blended learning opportunity. Please ask your child about it!

5. Below is a preview for some and an update for others depending on where we are in the schedule:

In 4th grade, we now know how to:

- * describe ourselves physically.
- * describe our personality.

We will soon learn how to:

- * identify & introduce our family members
- * describe our family members

In 5th grade, we now know how to:

- * identify and express the foods we like to eat and drink for: breakfast, & lunch. (Dinner and desserts/snacks are the next lessons after that.)

There are a lot of ways you can help your child at home to prepare your child to be as successful as possible throughout the year and even into next year.

- * Ask each week what they learned in class & look on **Schoology** to review the skill.
- * Ask what book they are working on in the **VLM's**, and ask them to tell you 2 things they learned from that book.
- * Get some Spanish books out of the library and look for words you know and/or recognize.
- * Remind your child to **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE** in class at all times. (This includes **repeating** the words/phrases, **acting out** the vocabulary, staying **focused**, and **following directions while being RESPECTFUL.**)

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns! Please also check Twitter often to see all the fun things we do in Spanish class! I thank you for all your support & involvement in your child's education!

Señora Chupnick
ichupnick@bcps.org
Twitter: @SraChupnick

INCLEMENT WEATHER

We ask that you listen to media sources for information during emergencies. During even small events like snow, callers often jam the phone lines seeking information that is readily available on the radio and television. Lyons Mill is a Baltimore County school, so when Baltimore County Schools are delayed, closed, or dismissing early, Lyons Mill is as well. Please remember the school system's website (www.bcps.org), the BCPS information line (443) 809-5555 and Comcast Cable Channel 73 are excellent sources of information.

What time will school start? Simply add the number of hours to the official start of school which is 8:30 a.m. If we are two hours late, school will begin at 10:30 a.m. and if we are one hour late school will begin at 9:30 a.m.

What time will the bus come? Simply add the number of hours we are late to the time the bus normally comes. If we are two hours late and your child's bus comes at 8:20 a.m. then the bus will come at approximately 10:20 a.m.

I see the weather is getting bad outside. Are schools going to close?

We do not make that decision here at the school. There are several factors involved. Transportation has to be arranged and every effort has to be made to serve lunch. If a decision to close has been made, this information is communicated via local radio and television stations.

How does BCPS decide whether to close or delay the opening of schools for inclement weather?

Keeping children and staff safe is the main factor in any decision to close or delay the opening of schools. Information about the weather is gathered and considered from many sources before a decision is made:

- BCPS receives hourly updates from weather information sources about current local weather conditions and forecasted conditions.
- As early as 2:30 a.m. on a school day, a team of school transportation personnel patrols county roads, bus stops, and known problem areas and reports on road conditions. In addition, reports are collected and considered from the Maryland State Police and Baltimore County highways department.
- School personnel consider the safety of walking routes, sidewalks, school driveways, bus loops, and school parking lots.
- BCPS confers with county transportation officials as well as neighboring school systems to confirm weather reports, track the progress of a storm, and determine the condition of streets and sidewalks.

Delayed Openings & Early Dismissal

All busses will run during delayed openings and early dismissals. Arrive at your bus stop the appropriate number of hours.

One Hour Delay	Students may enter the building at 9:30 a.m. Instruction will begin at 9:45 a.m. Breakfast is served.
Two Hour Delay	Students may enter the building at 10:30 a.m. Instruction will begin at 10:45 a.m. No breakfast is served.
One Hour Early Dismissal	We will begin dismissal at 2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Breakfast & Lunch is served.
Two Hour Early Dismissal	We will begin dismissal at 1:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Breakfast & Lunch is served.
Three Hour Early Dismissal	We will begin dismissal at 12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Breakfast & Lunch is served.

Please check the following for weather related closings and delays:

Please listen or watch the media for any updates. Information about school operations are announced publicly.

- Download the free BCPS Now app on your mobile phone
- BCPS Web Home Page www.bcps.org and links to page displaying emergency announcements
- BCPS TV, Comcast Cable Channel 73 & Verizon Fios Channel 34
- BCPS Telephone Information 443-809-5555