

THE PANTHER PRESS

Pleasant Plains Elementary School
8300 Pleasant Plains Road
Towson, MD 21286
410-887-3549

June 2018
Mrs. Joyce Albert, Principal
Mrs. Karen Looney, Assistant Principal
<https://pleasantplainses.bcps.org>

Dear Pleasant Plains Families,

Thank you for recognizing the hard work and dedication of our Pleasant Plains staff during Teacher Appreciation Week! Many kind messages, cards, and gifts were sent to our staff in celebration of their efforts and support of our children. We are grateful and appreciative of all that they do!

Our Kiwanis Teacher of the Year for 2018 is Mrs. Carol Marquess. She was recognized at the Kiwanis recognition dinner on Wednesday, May 16th. Mrs. Marquess has taught for 33 years and serves as a special educator. Congratulations Mrs. Marquess!

End of the Year

As we come into the homestretch of the 2017-2018 school year, we have just a few reminders:

All Baltimore County elementary and middle schools will dismiss three hours early on Thursday, June 14th, and on Friday, June 15th. **June 15th will be the last day of classes for our K-5 students.**

Pre-kindergarten The final day for all students in the pre-kindergarten program will be Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

The Fifth Grade Farewell Assembly will take place on Wednesday, June 13th at 6:30 pm in the Loch Raven High School auditorium. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration

It's time to register pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. If you or someone you know has a child who is ready to register for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, there will be additional registration dates at the end of June. Please contact Mr. Planter to schedule an appointment for registration at 410-887-3549.

Will Your Child Return to Pleasant Plains Elementary Next Year???

If your child will be entering grades 1-5 next year and will **not** be returning to Pleasant Plains Elementary, please contact Mrs. Hamlett or Mr. Planter in the office at 410-887-3549 as soon as possible. Paperwork will need to be completed before the last day of school.

Sincerely, Mrs. Albert and Mrs. Looney

JUNE

- 13 Last Day of School for Prekindergarten Students
- 13 5th Grade Farewell Ceremony, Loch Raven High School, 6:30 pm
- 14 Half Day, 12:15 Dismissal
- 15 Last Day of School, Half Day, 12:15 Dismissal



Reminder from the Health Suite

If your child has been taking prescription medicine or using an inhaler at school this year, please make arrangements with Ms. Schaefer to pick up items at the end of the school year.

COMING AUGUST 13, 2018!

You gave us
feedback,
and we listened.



Next year's Learning Management System – which is where you check grades, schedules, and assignments – will be **Schoology**.

Schoology makes it easier to find the information you need and communicate with teachers!

- Minimal clicks and intuitive design, similar to Facebook
- Easier navigation
- Efficient ways to communicate and collaborate
- Personalized experience including your groups and your saved resources

What Should You Do?

Look for the Learn About Schoology section coming to BCPS One.

Wait for instructions about logging into Schoology through BCPS One or the Schoology mobile app. Log in will be available on August 13.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? <https://tinyurl.com/schoologyonbcpsone>



BCPL Loch Raven Branch

Our local Baltimore County Public Library, the Loch Raven Branch has some exciting events scheduled for May. Visit the library at 1046 Taylor Avenue to participate in the fun!

- **Loch Raven Chess Club for Kids**, June 7th & 21st, 4:30-6:00 pm. Drop in to play chess and practice your beginner to intermediate chess skills with others. Children under 8 must come with an adult.
- **Summer Kickoff: Dance Party**, June 24th, 2:00-4:00 pm. Start summer off by dancing the afternoon away! Visit the branch for dancing, music, and fun.
- **Summer Cinema: Wreck-It Ralph**, June 25th, 1:30-3:00 pm. Join the BCPL staff for a fun family movie! (PG)
- **Rhythm, Groove and Move**, June 26th, 10:00-10:45 am. Clap, sing and stomp along to this fun-filled story time for all ages. Storyteller Diane Macklin weaves tales with rhythmic songs and audience participation. Children under 8 must come with an adult.
- **Board in the Branch**, June 26th, 1:30-2:30 pm. Work with others to compete in tabletop games. Choose from one in the library collection or bring your own!
- **Wednesday in the Woods: Cardboard Cardinals**, June 27th, 1:30-2:30 pm. A fun new craft or hands-on learning opportunity each week! This week we make cardboard cardinals with yarn.
- **Kids Art Studio**, June 28th, 1:30-2:30 pm. Use your imagination to design and construct your very own masterpiece. Explore a new idea each week at the Loch Raven branch.
- **LEGO Fun**, June 29th, 1:30-2:30 pm. Create with LEGO blocks! All supplies provided. Children under 8 must come with an adult.



For information about BCPL events all summer, please check <https://www.bcpl.info/locations/loch-raven/>.

Ey on Sports

Thank you to everyone for their support of the physical education program here at Pleasant Plains. We had a wonderful year and saw our students grow and develop their skills! It has been an amazing experience to be part of the Pleasant Plains community for the past 10 years of my career. Next school year I will be moving to Honeygo Elementary to start their PE program. I have spent my entire life in the Pleasant Plains community as a former student and most currently as an employee. I cherish all of the memories that have been made while here at Pleasant Plains. Thank you again for your support over these past 10 years!

Have a safe and relaxing summer. Do not forget to continue being active for 60 minutes every day!

Steve Ey, sey@bcps.org

I think everyone can agree we had an awesome year at Pleasant Plains, especially in the gymnasium! Everyone learned so much and had a lot of fun! I'd like to thank ALL of my students, coworkers, and parents for making this such a great year. With that said, I've had a wonderful time at Pleasant Plains since my wife and I moved to Baltimore in 2014. However, we have been back down the shore for a year now, and after this year I will be staying down there with my family. I will greatly miss this school and all my students and coworkers. You guys set the bar high and I just hope I enjoy whatever is next as much as I have enjoyed my time here! Have a fun, safe summer!

Lamont Smith, lsmith3@bcps.org





BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY



BCPS Students: Join us this summer for LUNCH IN THE LIBRARY!

Come in to a BCPL branch for a FREE nutritious lunch, and participate in a program or use your Student Account to check out some great books and materials while you are here!

Lunch will be available from June 20 to August 24, 2018 (except on June 26, 2018, Election Day and July 4, 2018, Independence Day) at the following BCPL branches/times:

Arbutus 12:00 PM	Randallstown 12:00 PM
Essex 12:00 PM	Reisterstown 12:00 PM
Lansdowne 12:30 PM	Rosedale 12:30 PM
Loch Raven 1:00 PM	White Marsh 12:00 PM
North Point 12:15 PM	Woodlawn 12:30 PM

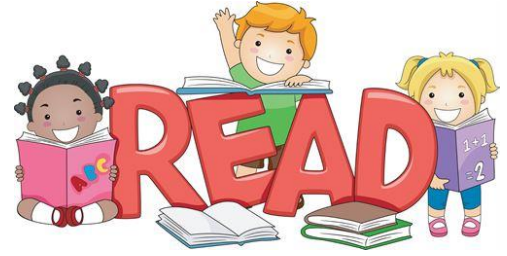
*The Summer Food Service Program provides, free, nutritious meals to youngsters 18 years of age and younger.

*Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

*The Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers the Summer Food Program at the federal level. Locally – the Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Food and Nutrition Services sponsors this free program.

What is Mrs. Schoen Reading?

I am currently reading *Zane and the Hurricane* by Rodman Philbrick. I love to read realistic fiction and this story is about a 12 year old boy and his dog who gets trapped in New Orleans during the disaster of Hurricane Katrina. Although I have just started the book, I find it hard to put down and can't wait to finish it. I plan to read much more over the summer and can't wait to hear what you read! If you have any book suggestions, please email me at aschoen@bcps.org.



Summer Hours at the PPES Library

During the summer, Mrs. Schoen will provide several opportunities for students and their families to enjoy time at the library. There will be a story and craft for students to complete from 10 am to 12 pm on the following dates below. Students attending the library during the summer should have a responsible older sibling or parent with them. Don't forget this could count towards your Summer Reading for the Baltimore County Public Library!

- June 19 – *Ada's Violin* by Susan Hood – Come listen to the story of the recycled orchestra of Paraguay and create your own musical instrument from recycled materials.
- June 26 – *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell – Come and hear how art transformed a neighborhood. Students will have the opportunity to paint in the library and have their artwork hung in the school when they return in the fall.
- July 3 – *Only One You* and *You Be You* by Linda Kranz – Two beautiful books with inspiring messages about being who you are and accepting yourself. Students will get to paint rocks to leave in the garden here at PPES.
- August 14 – *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia* by Miranda Pau tells the inspiring story of five women who creatively dealt with their village's plastic trash problem. Students will learn about the Women in Gambia and how to make something of their own out of recycled plastic bags!

¡Saludos desde la clase de español! Junio 2018

It is hard to believe that it is already the end of the school year. As we reflect on the past school year, we are amazed by the progress that the fourth and fifth grade students have made with their ability to communicate in Spanish. Not only can they speak in Spanish, but they are starting to read the language, interpret what they hear, and write as well! *¡Es increíble!*

In fourth grade, the students explored information about themselves and their communities. They learned how to describe their own personal biographical information, discuss their preferences and hold informal conversations. They participated in a variety of activities that allowed them to talk to one another in Spanish, as well as compete against one another! In fifth grade, the students explored information about themselves, their food preferences, their school and their homes. They learned how to add details to conversations, how to acquire a language through authentic Spanish materials, and how to use their imaginations in a new language. They even created a lyric music video for a popular song played on the radio in Spain! It has been incredible to see all the students expressing themselves in Spanish, and we cannot wait to see what the future brings from them!

¡Todos adelante! Moving forward together!
Señorita Reier & Señora Gallardo

Notes from the Music Department

The lazy days of summer pose a special challenge for music parents. With school and regular music lessons on hiatus until the fall, it can be hard to persuade youngsters to continue to practice their instruments without the prod of needing to prepare for a lesson or a school ensemble rehearsal. If there isn't a certain amount of vacation practicing, however, some of the musical gains children made during the school year may begin to melt away.

Many music parents solve this problem by enrolling their youngsters in summer music programs. These can include music day camps and workshops sponsored by local music schools, arts organizations, Suzuki associations, or recreation and education departments. For older youngsters, there are sleep-away camps that include music-making in their activity line-up. Advanced students could try out for some of the more high-powered audition-only summer music festivals. Making music with other kids is one of the best ways to encourage practicing at any time of year, giving youngsters a chance to make musical friends and let positive peer pressure work its motivational magic. Summertime music programs have a special advantage of letting kids be "on their own . . . learning from kids—not from a parent—how important practice is," says Ohio music mom Ann Turner, whose daughter attended music camps as a youngster and is now a professional French horn player.

If signing up youngsters for a summer music program isn't possible this year, there are other ways to inspire summertime music-making. Below are a few ideas from veteran music parents:

- **Concert Going.** "What I say to any parent that wants to know the best approach to get kids interested in music: There's nothing better than exposure," says Ellis Marsalis, father to a quartet's worth of jazz musicians, including trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. The power of attending a live performance can spark kids' interest in making music themselves when they get home. Summertime concerts have the added attraction of frequently being cost-free, such as the performances that local bands and orchestras present in public parks, as well as outdoor drumming circles that take place in some areas.
- **Fun Music.** "Music should be fun for kids. That is the key," says Marin Alsop, a music mom and conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Lesson-free summers offer a chance to explore new ways to have fun with music. Without the pressure of preparing a particular piece for a lesson, kids can branch out a bit and download different kinds of music that they might want to experiment with on their instruments. "We got music for pieces they could play on their own for fun, like *Star Wars* music and the *Pink Panther* theme," says Oregon music mom, Diane Cornelius. Other families added elements of fun to whatever pieces youngsters were practicing by encouraging them to make up stories to go with the music, as if the music were a movie's soundtrack. For young children, scavenger hunts can add fun to practicing. A parent can hide index cards around the house (or in a basket) for a child to find with the names of songs or exercises to practice. Youngsters could also do some improvising to make up their own tunes, and then learn how to write them down, using the free introductory versions that are available for such music notation software programs as Sibelius or Finale.
- **Rewards.** When her son was young, Marin Alsop used "reward minutes" that he could cash in on weekends to play Wii video games, as a way to reward him for the time he spent practicing. Many parents have used various kinds of reward systems when their children were young. Annette Radoff placed a cotton ball in a jar each time her daughter Elena Urioste (now a professional violinist) did a good job practicing. "When it was full, Elena would choose an activity as a reward, like watching a movie, going on an outing, or baking things together," says this Philadelphia-area music parent. Education experts say that rewards can be effective motivators.
- **Role Models.** Parents who play an instrument can model good practice behavior by fitting in some practice time themselves, even during the dog days of summer. Baltimorean Thanh Huynh, inspired by her daughter's musical interests, started playing piano again after a multi-year gap. "My daughter could see that I practice what I preach with regards to practicing," says Thanh Huynh. "Music should enrich everybody's life"—even a busy music parent's.




Have a fantastic summer vacation,
Ms. Ciaccio, sciaccio2@bcps.org & Ms. Seymour, kseymour@bcps.org





Outrun Cancer 5K & Festival

Join Us for a 5K Run & 1 Mile Family Fun loop

-  Come together to honor cancer survivors
-  Raise awareness about reducing cancer risk
-  Raise money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease

Date: Sunday, August 5

Time: Registration 8 a.m. | Event 9 a.m.– Noon

Place: Goucher College– Dorsey Center
1021 Dulaney Valley Rd.

Registration Cost

Before June 30th- \$35

After June 30th- \$40



Scan code to join today!

Are you a survivor? Join us for a VIP area after the race!

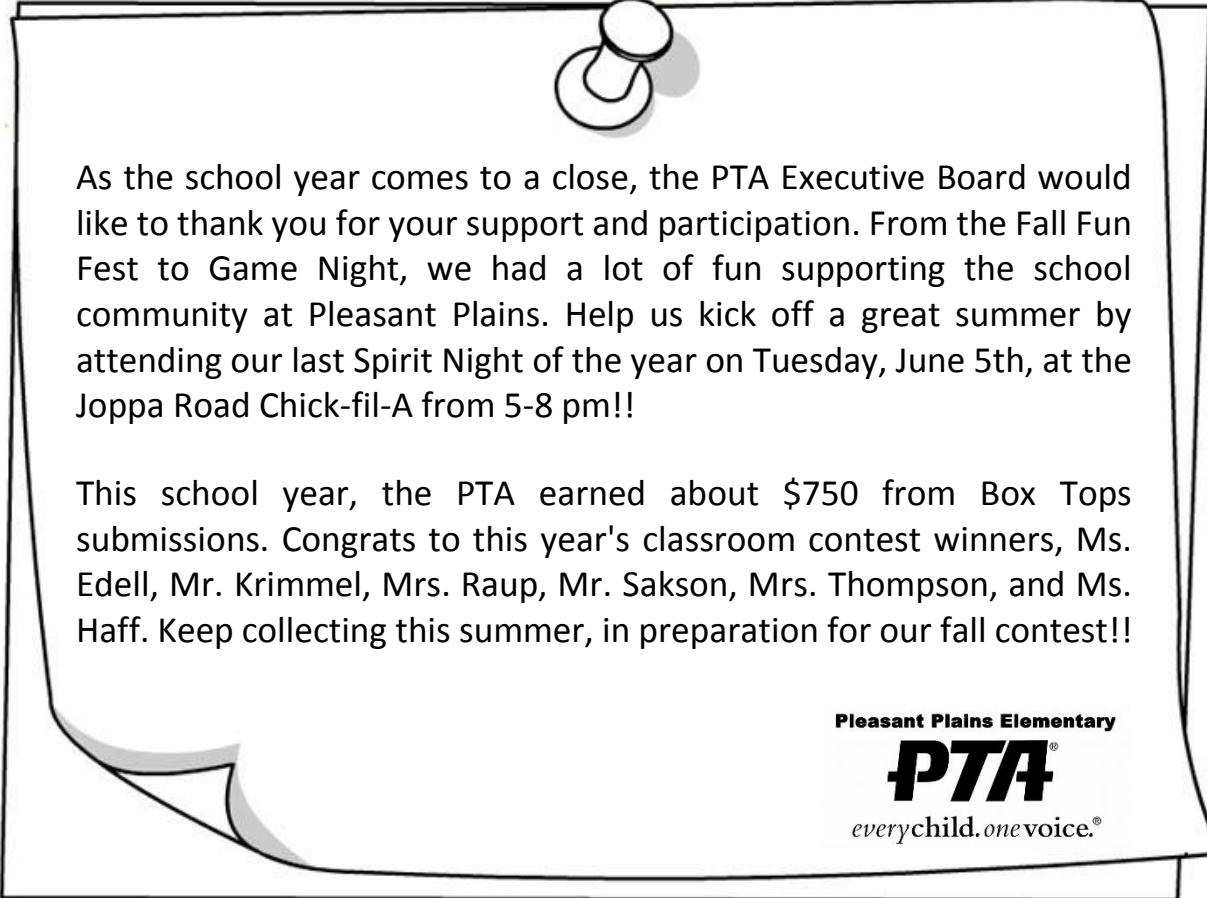
Any questions, please call Chrissy Schiffkovitz | 410.933.5183

Or visit www.main.acsevents.org/outruncancer



Attacking from every angle.™

This event is neither sponsored by nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Baltimore County, the Superintendent, or this school or office.



As the school year comes to a close, the PTA Executive Board would like to thank you for your support and participation. From the Fall Fun Fest to Game Night, we had a lot of fun supporting the school community at Pleasant Plains. Help us kick off a great summer by attending our last Spirit Night of the year on Tuesday, June 5th, at the Joppa Road Chick-fil-A from 5-8 pm!!

This school year, the PTA earned about \$750 from Box Tops submissions. Congrats to this year's classroom contest winners, Ms. Edell, Mr. Krimmel, Mrs. Raup, Mr. Sakson, Mrs. Thompson, and Ms. Haff. Keep collecting this summer, in preparation for our fall contest!!

Pleasant Plains Elementary

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Our 4th grade teachers wish all families a wonderful and enjoyable summer! Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts as well as read over the summer. If you are in need of triangle multiplication and division flash cards, please let your child's teacher know. We would love to see our fourth graders enter fifth grade successfully.

The second grade teachers hope their students enjoy a fun filled summer! We also want to remind them that i-Ready, Dreambox, Tumblebooks and other digital resources will remain available to them through BCPS One. Please take advantage of these things during the summer months, and as always, KEEP READING! 😊

PLEASANT PLAINS VISION

The Pleasant Plains Elementary School community is focused on preparing students to be highly competitive in an ever-changing global society.

PLEASANT PLAINS MISSION

The Pleasant Plains Elementary School community is committed to creating a supportive, safe, and student-centered learning environment that provides rigorous and relevant instruction to prepare diverse learners for success in a globally competitive, ever-changing digital society.

SCHOOL PROGRESS GOALS

Climate: Decrease the stakeholders' negative perception in regards to bullying being a problem at our school.

Math: The percentage of students meeting growth projections will increase from 50.4% to 60% or higher.

Reading: The percentage of students meeting growth projections will increase from 63.4% to 70% or higher.