



*Centreville Elementary*  
**Bulldog Bark**

Visit our website at [www.cpschools.org](http://www.cpschools.org) for a complete list of activities and calendar of events

**Months of  
January and  
February 2012**

**Calendar of Events**

**January**

27 No School and End of First Semester

30 to 2/4 Candy Gram Sale

**February**

3 Jump Rope for Heart

13 PAC Meeting at 6:00 pm

16 All Pro Dads Breakfast 6:45

17-20 No School Mid-Winter Break

29 Early Release at 1:00

Principal- Becky Stauffer      Counselor- Diana Kamphues      Elementary Office 467-5200  
Secretary- Ardell Bontrager/Lisa DeLeo      Attendance Secretary- Sally Reed      Attendance 467-5203

**News From the Principal**

There have been many changes in education in the United States and Michigan over the last few years. Some changes have hurt schools, but many have been for the good of our nation and the good of our children to prepare them for the future. I cannot begin to explain all the changes and their impact on our school and your child, but I do want to try and explain two changes that are closely impacting what we do everyday. One of these changes is the National Common Core Standards and the other is changes in scoring the state assessment (MEAP).

Two years ago Michigan, along with 44 other states, adopted the nationally recommended Common Core National Standards as our state's standards and academic expectations for all children. These standards are written to prepare students for education beyond high school and provide students with the essential skills necessary for college readiness. In 2 years, all students in the states who have adopted the standards will take a national assessment on CCNS. The long term goal is for students to demonstrate the level of knowledge needed for college readiness by the time they graduate high school. To prepare our students for these essential higher expectations, teachers at Centreville have been working hard to align our curriculum to these new standards and expectations. Because there is no reading or math basal series that addresses the standards to the extent of knowledge necessary, our teachers have built or are building units of study aligned to the CCNS standards in ELA and math. Instead of teaching the text book, teachers are teaching the standards and expectations using current materials, as well as, authentic literature, informational text, technology, hands-on activities, and many other opportunities for application. You may not see "reading books" or Everyday Math activity sheets as often as you did previously because students are being engaged in the classroom and using different materials necessary to meet the higher expectations. To learn more about the CCNS and the specific standards that your child is being expected to learn, visit CCNS website: [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

The second change is the new cut scores for the MEAP, Michigan's statewide assessment. For years, Michigan, as well as many other states, used very low cut scores to determine whether a student was proficient, or passed the MEAP assessment. For some tests, the % that a student needed to "pass" the test was as low as 30%. This was a poor representation for parents and schools to truly know if their child or students had the skills necessary to be successful. This year, Michigan decided to raise the cut scores to a much higher level resulting in less students being considered proficient. The MEAP scores are very startling, but also apparent. Though scores are much lower, I don't believe this is all bad. The scores and the data make it much clearer where we need to focus our efforts. We need to be pushing students harder, requiring them to think deeper and apply their knowledge to their world to problem solve. More information will be coming soon when MEAP scores are released that will explain the results further.

We will be working hard to meet the challenges and changes asked of us and your children. Please help us by daily reading to or listening to your child read, practicing their math facts, reminding them of the importance of homework, and celebrating their successes. Thank you for being our partner educating your child not just for academic success but for life.  
Becky Stauffer, Principal

**Other News and Information:**

- Check out our web page on [cpschools.org](http://cpschools.org) for pictures, teacher web pages, current information and our school survey.
- Student Council will again have their annual candy gram sale for Valentine's Day

**Cold Weather Reminder:** Please make sure your child dresses for the cold weather. Students will be going outside multiple times daily and need hats, boots, gloves and heavy coats. If you need help with outerwear for your child, please let us know. We have many donated items that can help.



**February 27th**

is the last day to bring in box tops this year. Centreville Elementary receives 10 cents for each box top!!

**The Counselor's Corner**

**Character Trait of the Month : Acceptance**

**Acceptance is the character trait for this month. Students know everyone is different; differences should be recognized as positive qualities and not a target for someone to be made fun of; and the importance of accepting each other. Some differences can be seen and some cannot. To truly accept other people, we must respect them and appreciate their differences. People are individuals unique and different from one another. We have different dreams, wishes, and expectations. We come from different families. We have different ethnic backgrounds and cultures. We have different personal experiences and we want different things from life.**

**Teaching our children through example and that it is okay to be different, teaches them to accept each other as unique individuals. Thank you, Mrs. K**

**\*\*\*Don't Share Hats and Coats\*\*\***

With cold weather and extra outerwear comes the opportunity for head lice to be shared amongst the children. To help avoid the "sharing", please remind your children to not share hats and coats with their friends. You can also help by checking your child's head periodically for lice or nits and washing hats and coats often. Thank you for your help and please call the office with any questions. We have information and supplies to help.