Timber Talk

Principal’s Message

Happy New Year Timber Grove Families!

I hope that everyone had a restful winter break and had an opportunity to spend some quality time with family and loved ones. As we look towards the start of the second half of the school year, we should take a moment to reflect upon the successes of the first semester. Our students have shown great growth from the outset of the school year. It is exciting to visit classrooms and see students solving complex problems, effectively communicating their reasoning, and working collaboratively with their peers. The focused work of our students and staff promises great things as we enter the New Year and the second half of the 2019 – 2020 school year.

The month of December was filled with energy, excitement and school spirit for students and staff alike. The culminating event for the month was spirit week, where every day students, teachers, and staff dressed up to different themes. The participation of the students and staff was not only fun but also reflected the sense of community that we enjoy at Timber Grove.

Best regards,
Scott Audlin, Principal
@saudlin1
@timbergroveES
#RestoreTheRoar
News from the Office

Timber Grove Parent Handbook

Please visit the Timber Grove Elementary Website to access the Timber Grove Elementary Parent Handbook. The parent handbook has helpful information as well as teacher email addresses.

https://timbergrovees.bcps.org

Important

Crosswalks

For the safety of everyone, please use crosswalks. Walking across the carpool lane is unsafe. If observed, staff will direct you to the crosswalk. Drivers are asked not to block crosswalks with their cars.

Carpool

If you utilize the carpool lane, please:

- Follow the directives of staff and signage, which includes pulling down as far as possible. Stopping at the steps or main entrance (when there is room to pull down) backs up the carpool line unnecessarily.
- Do not exit your vehicle. Park on Academy Avenue or in the parking lot if you need additional time getting your child(ren) ready for school.
- Adhere to posted traffic signs. Right turns only out of the school property are required until 8:20 a.m. (in the morning) and 3:00 p.m. (in the afternoon).

Please share this information with anyone who may help transport your child.

Classroom Visits

In accordance to BCPS Rule 1240, any visitor to the school building requesting a classroom visit must adhere to the following:

A. Classroom visits and conferences by parents and other authorized individuals are encouraged. Such visits and conferences must be arranged in advance with the school principal or with the classroom teacher.

B. Such visits and conferences are at the discretion of the principal.

C. Classroom visits and conferences must be conducted in such a manner that the visits and/or conferences do not interfere with the classroom activities of any student in the class.

We also request that non-school aged children not accompany parents for classroom visits.
**BCPS One Parent Account**

Sign up at [https://bcpsone.bcps.org/](https://bcpsone.bcps.org/).

- With a BCPS One Parent Account, parents can:
  - Pay for school lunches in MySchoolBucks
  - View assignments and grades in Schoology
  - Read report cards in Student info
  - Access student attendance in Student info

---

**Morning Arrivals/Afternoon Dismissals**

Please do not drop your student(s) off prior to 8:00 am. Staff are not on duty until 8:00 am. With colder mornings, we do not want student(s) waiting in the cold unsupervised. If your student(s) walk to school, please make sure they are dressed appropriately. Staff is not on duty after 3:05 pm, so please make sure your student(s) are picked up on time.

---

**Dismissal Changes and Early Dismissal**

Please put all dismissal changes in writing to the homeroom teacher (signed and dated by a parent). If you are emailing the change please cc the office at ehier@bcps.org and plindenbaum@bcps.org.

If you need to pick up a student early, please try to do so prior to 2:30 PM. Students will not be dismissed early to anyone other than the legal guardians without written notification stating who will be picking them up. Please make sure they bring photo identification for verification.
News from Kindergarten

As we begin the new year, we are working to make progress in reading. We are quickly learning the sounds associated with letters. Have your child practice letters and sounds at home. Vowels are particularly tricky, so try to work on them at home by noticing words in books with the short vowel sounds. Our reading focus is on neighborhoods and communities. In math, Number Corner is asking us to think about different ways to make five. We are learning to recognize that five is made from one and four more or two and three more. If you have not completed your volunteer training, please go to BCPS.org and complete the online training. Our field trip will be in the Spring, and your training must be completed.

**Please remember to send your child to school with cold weather gear. We will be going outside to play most days.**

School doors open at 8:05am. Students arriving after 8:20am are missing important and valuable time in school. Please be sure to send students to school on time!

News from 3rd Grade

Third graders are continuing to learn about inventions and innovations in their third ELA unit. The students are currently collecting materials for their experiment in the Safe Racer science unit. In math, classes are starting unit 3 where they will revisit the skills of multiplication and division. Please remember to sign and return permission slip forms and money ASAP for the Museum of Industry.

News from 4th Grade

In Mathematics, students will use various place value strategies to solve division problems as we dive into Unit 3. In reading, we have continued Unit 2 which is an author study of Kate DiCamillo. During our small group experiences, our students will closely read novels written by Kate DiCamillo as we dive into a character study including traits, transformation, and development. Students will be comparing the theme in multiple texts as we come to the end of our unit. Please make sure students are coming to school with their coats, gloves, and scarves as we enter the Winter season.

**As a reminder, please ensure that your child is in school on time each day as our instruction begins promptly at 8:30! Please also ensure that your child has the necessary supplies needed daily and that the supplies are replenished when needed. Lastly, if there is a dismissal change, please be sure to send in a “signed” note to your child’s teacher! Thank you for your continued support!**
News from 5th Grade

Reading: We are currently in Unit 2B. In this unit, students are expected to read a historical fiction novel of their choosing for the culminating book talk presentation. We will also be working on theme in this unit. Please continue to encourage your child to read nightly as this helps build fluency. You could also ask your child questions to practice comprehension. One skill we continually work on is referencing the text, so having your child point to their answer, or finding a sentence that backs up their answers is the best.

Math: We are currently working on Unit 3, which is our division unit. Students will be taught differing strategies for division. Please remind your child to practice their facts/skip counts as this is a necessary skill for division. We will practice 3-and-4 digit dividends divided by 1-and-2 digit divisors. Students will also practice dividing with decimals in the dividend.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

The WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment will be administered in January and February. This assessment is given annually to all English Language Learners in Grades K-5 to measure growth in Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. BCPS requires that all ESOL students participate in this assessment. This includes students whose families have waived ESOL services. WIDA scores will be reported in May. Students who receive an overall score of 4.5 or higher will exit the ESOL program at the end of this school year. Good luck to all our ESOL students!

News from the Library

Please help your child look around for extra library books he or she might have out. Students were able to check out extra books over Winter break, which means they are all due back the first week. Thank you very much!
News from Instrumental Music

Timber Grove's instrumentalists have been practicing hard to perform for their Winter Concert that will occur on January 7, 2020 at 6 pm. Instrumental students are asked to wear any combination of white and black and to return to Timber Grove at 5:30 pm. After their Winter concert, students will prepare for their Spring Concert on May 19th. Practicing at home is key for student success. Students should practice at least 15 minutes per day for at least 5 days a week to maintain skills and reinforce skills learned in class. Hope to see you at our concerts!

News from Vocal Music

Throughout January, we will be learning about Mozart- my favorite composer. If we have any snow days, families can check out the digital content section of BCPSOne and look for music videos. Brain Pop has some excellent information about instrument families, Tumble Books has songs to sing along with, and Safari Montage has many wonderful videos about music. In kindergarten, students are learning about their different voices: speaking, singing, calling, and whispering. First graders are learning about marches and lullabies. Second graders are finishing the four instrument families. Third and fourth graders are continuing recorder assignments and are working on music vocabulary. Fifth graders are finishing projects about different styles of music.

News from Physical Education

All grades will be participating in the Kids Heart Challenge. They will be receiving a flyer from the American Heart Association asking them to Join the Heart Heroes Jump Rope for Heart Challenge.

When students join the Kids Heart Challenge, they will raise funds to help kids with special hearts. They will learn about taking care of their own hearts through fun challenges and activities in physical, social, and emotional health. Plus, participating schools will earn money for PE equipment while your child earns fun Thank You Gifts.

To register: Download our app or visit: heart.org/KidsHeartChallenge
**Attendance**

Congratulations to the following classes on their attendance rates for the month of December:

- Mr. Sallow: 97.1%
- Mrs. Hoke: 95.8%
- Mrs. Creevy: 95.5%

**An automated message is sent at 10:00 am if your child (ren) is/are absent.**

Please send in a note when they return.

**All absent notes must have a parent/guardian’s signature.**

---

**From the School Counselor**

Save the date: The Parent Fair will be Tuesday, March 10th. Additional information will be sent home soon.

---

**Volunteering**


---

**Lost and Found**

Please make sure to label your child (ren)’s items i.e. sweaters, jackets, coats, and hats so they do not end up in the Lost and Found.

---

**From the Cafeteria**

**Track Balances & Purchases**

View your student's meal purchases and current account balance at a glance. We'll even send you a reminder when their balance gets low.

Download the MySchoolBucks app and get convenient access to meal balances, purchases, and make payments right from your phone. Schedule automatic payments, make payments anytime, anywhere from the mobile app. Pay with your credit/debit card or electronic check.

Visit [https://www.myschoolbucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com) to sign up.

Check and cash payments are also welcomed. Please put your check or cash in a sealed envelope with the student’s name, grade, and teacher’s name. Students may also bring money directly to the cafeteria during their lunch time.
From the Nurse’s Office

Welcome back to school and the beginning of 2020. I hope everyone had a restful holiday.

A reminder as we enter the Winter months that the flu is “highly” contagious. Symptoms may include a high fever, headache, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. Please remember to keep your child home until their temperature is under 100 degrees for 24 hours without Tylenol or Advil. Please remember the importance of good hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs.

Timber Grove will be having Hearing and Vision Screening starting on March 9-13, 2020 and make up days March 16th and 20th. All students in grades Pre-K, Kindergarten not previously screened in Pre-K, 1st and 4th will be screened. All students who are new to Baltimore County Public Schools will also be screened. Letters will be sent home for all students who fail either screening regarding follow up with their healthcare provider. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 410-581-0549.

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL SAFETY

Safety and Security – Visitor Access to Our Schools

The safety of our students, staff, and visitors is a top priority for all of us at Timber Grove Elementary. You can help us!

Please be sure to follow these important steps when entering and exiting our school:

- Each visitor to schools must be screened at the entry door individually.
- Do not open or hold open a door for anyone else. You are not being rude! You are keeping us safe
- Pull/Push the front door closed upon entry or exit.
- Report directly to the main office upon entry and show your identification.
- Check out in the main office before exiting the building.
- Please remind your children not to open the door for anyone.

As always, the safety of our students is our number one concern. Thank you for your continued support of your student and of Timber Grove Elementary.

Sincerely,
Mr. Scott Audlin
Principal
Early Dismissal/Late Openings/Closed Schools

If schools close early, open late, or are closed please do not call the school. We need to keep our phone lines available for emergencies. Call the BCPS information line at 443-809-5555, listen to WBAL Radio or the local news. You can also access the information on the internet: www.bcps.org, www.schoolsout.com, BCPSNow or on twitter Baltimore Co Schools@BaltCoPs

Early Dismissals:

If weather conditions require an early dismissal of one or two hours, the closures will affect programs as follows:
- Afternoon Pre-kindergarten classes are cancelled.
- All after school child care programs are cancelled.
- All BCPS activities scheduled in schools are cancelled.

Closed School:

If weather conditions require that all schools be closed, the closures will affect programs as follows:
- All before and after school activities and school sponsored events are cancelled.
- All before and after school child care programs are cancelled.
- All BCPS activities scheduled in schools are cancelled.

Delayed School Opening:

All before school child care programs are cancelled. After school activities will not be affected by a delayed opening.
- Morning Pre-kindergarten classes are cancelled.

When school opening is delayed 1 hour, our school day will begin at 9:20 a.m.
When school opening is delayed 2 hours, our school day will begin at 10:20 a.m.

Whenever possible, morning decision to close or delay school will be made by 5:30 a.m. and communicated to media outlets.

If schools are closing 1 or 2 hours early, whenever possible, the announcement will be made by 10:30 a.m.
If schools must close three hours early, whenever possible, the announcement will be made at 10:00 a.m.

Please make sure you and your child/children have a plan if school should close early. Also, please check with your daycare provider(s) for their policies.
News from PTO

The next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, January 21st at 6:15 pm in the library. Hot Spots will be available for childcare. Visit the Timber Grove PTO Facebook page for additional information.

Don’t forget to order your yearbook.

The cost of the yearbook varies. The standard yearbook is $20.50. You may also select optional add-ons.

➢ Go to the website: ybpay.lifetouch.com/order. Put in the school code 1301020, the child’s name and grade, complete the billing and payment information then submit.

➢ You can write a check for your amount to Timber Grove Elementary School PTO. Be sure to put your child’s name, grade and teacher’s name in the memo.

➢ Or if you prefer, log on to PayPal, send your amount to PTA/O PayPal Account: TimberGrovePTA@gmail.com. Be sure to put your child’s name, grade and teacher in the memo.

➢ We had great turnouts at each of our restaurant nights this fall. The PTO earned $165.00 from Panera Bread and $500.00 from Reter’s Crab House.

➢ Our next restaurant night is Tuesday, January 14th at Chick Fil-A in Reisterstown located across the street from Franklin High School 5:00-8:00 pm.

➢ Book Fair was a great success. We raised $1600.00 for the PTO and library. Look for our Spring Book Fair in March.

➢ Box Tops: Congratulations to the 5th grade, as they won the Fall Box Tops competition! The school raided $127.00 total in Box Tops. Keep scanning those receipts and clipping those box tops on participation items.

➢ Save the Date!! Announcing Timber Grove’s PTO 1st annual “Family Prom”. Join us on Friday, February 21st at Franklin High School for dinner, music, and fun family time. Dress up, take pictures, dance the night away. More details to come.

Every Tuesday is Timber Grove Tuesday…..wear your spirit wear or Timber Grove Green.

Every Friday is Football Friday…wear your favorite football team swag.
January 2020

- Thursday, January 2\textsuperscript{nd}- School Re-opens
- Tuesday, January 7\textsuperscript{th}- Winter Concert
- Tuesday, January 14\textsuperscript{th}- Restaurant Night at Chick Fil-A Reisterstown (across from Franklin High School)
- Monday, January 20\textsuperscript{th}- All schools closed for MLK Day
- Friday, January 24\textsuperscript{th}- End of the second marking period. Schools close 3 hours early. Timber Grove Elementary will close at 11:50 am.
- Complete the BCPS Stakeholder Survey. The survey will be available online at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) from January 27\textsuperscript{th}-March 1\textsuperscript{st} for Team BCPS stakeholders: students in grades 3-12, parents, caregivers, community members. It takes five minutes or less to complete and is anonymous.

February 2020

- Tuesday, February 4\textsuperscript{th}- Schools closed for election of the 7\textsuperscript{th} Congressional District special primary.
- Thursday, February 6\textsuperscript{th}- Report cards distributed
- Wednesday, February 12\textsuperscript{th}- Kids Heart Challenge (during the students’ specials time)
- Monday, February 17\textsuperscript{th}- President’s Day is now a scheduled school day.
- Friday, February 21\textsuperscript{st}- PTO 1\textsuperscript{st} Annual “Family Prom”

Important BCPS Calendar Changes!!!!!!

Schools were originally closed on February 17\textsuperscript{th} for President’s Day. This day is now a scheduled school day.

Schools were originally open on February 4\textsuperscript{th}. This is now a non-school day due to the special election being held for the 7\textsuperscript{th} Congressional District primary.