

Central Elementary School Newsletter



December 2023

"Diving into Learning"

From the Principal:

Hello Central Elementary School Families-

Working with children is a joy. But there's no season that provides more reminders of this than the fall and winter holidays. The combination of seasonal events, music, decorations and, yes, the anticipation of gifts, produces a sense of wonder in an elementary school that I doubt you can find anywhere north of Orlando. This time of year, those of us who spend time with kids are privileged to be a part of a unique kind of magic.

But it's also a stressful season, isn't it? Whether it's the planning or the cleanup, the excitement of the season produces a lot of additional demands, and we often find ourselves struggling to keep up.

At times like this, it's worth remembering something we are consistently reminded of here: childhood is messy. We do our best to prepare and organize, all in an attempt to give them the experiences we can give them, but we can't forget that magic is what they do best. They'll find the joy all around them, regardless of- or sometimes in spite of- our best efforts to keep things controlled. The best thing we can do is let them be who they are.

This is why our priority here at school is building independence. As much as they grow accustomed to being led by adults, we know that the best way to prepare them to interact with the world is to give them the skills they need and get out of their way. Whether it's math instruction, language arts, or social-emotional learning, once we provide them with the tools, it's our job to give them the space- and the confidence- to use them.

As we navigate this season- and the coming year- with our children, let's remember how fortunate we are to be a part of their world. Let's work together to find the ways we can equip them for it, and then let's step back and watch the magic.

All the Best,
Mr. Thompson

Important Dates:

December 1st- School Picture Retakes

December 5th- Unity Day- 2 Hr. Early Dismissal

Central Elementary School Communication

Website:

<https://www.aacps.org/Page/4193>

Connect ED: Phone/email
parent notification system

Paper Flyers: Backpack mail
for students (taken home in
folders)

School Agenda Books:
Provided for each student

Email: Staff emails can be
found at
<https://www.aacps.org/Page/4200>

Twitter: (No account
required) Information about
late buses in the afternoon,
photos from school events,
flyers.

<https://twitter.com/CentralESaacs>

CES PTO centralespto.org

December 25th-January 1st- Winter Break

January 9th- 6:30 pm Strings Concert

January 10th- Chorus/Band Concert (6:00/6:45)

January 15th- Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Schools and Offices Closed for Students and Staff

January 17th- 2-Hr Early Dismissal- End of Marking Period

January 18th- 2-Hr Early Dismissal- End of Marking Period

January 19th- Schools Closed for Students- Semester Break

January 26th- Mo Gaba Day

December 18-22 is Spirit Week!

Monday- Pajama Day - Wear your PJs to school.

Twin Tuesday - Dress to match your friends or your teacher.

Wellness Wednesday - Dress like the rainbow (and make your plate a rainbow too)!

(K- Red, 1st- Orange, 2nd- Yellow, 3rd- Green, 4th- Blue, 5th- Purple)

Twas the Week before Winter Break Thursday - Wear festive clothing.

Frosty Friday - Dress like a snowman or wear white



Congratulations to the Girls on the Run for completing their 5k this Sunday, December 3rd!
Way to go Girls!



iReady Expectations

YES! AACPS is still doing iReady!

If you're unsure how to supplement your child's instruction, remember that all students should be engaging in 30-50 minutes of iReady Reading every week, and many should be doing 30-50 minutes of math per week as well. [Click here for more information](#) about AACPS's expectations for students' work on iReady!

Congratulations to the South River Varsity Boys Soccer Team, who won the State 3A Soccer Championship last month! The team includes several Central Elementary Alumni- Cole Mastal, Jack Brusse, Lucas Gardeniers, Mason Childs, Logan Lainhart- and Mr. Mitchell's son Patrick! The boys not only won the Championship, but they were awarded the Sportsmanship Award by the State for how they conducted themselves during the competition at all times!

Volunteering and PTO:

Don't forget- if you're hoping to volunteer in school or at PTO events, you'll need a background check. [Click here to learn more about completing one](#), and check out the Central Elementary PTO page to learn more about opportunities (centralespto.org or <https://www.facebook.com/CentralESPTO/>)

Don't forget to Order School Photos!

Your student should have brought back a proof that looks like the one here. Instructions are on the proof you received on how to order pictures from picture day.

If you did not receive this proof from your student, please contact our office (800 869 9515 ext 112). Pictures will be mailed directly to your home.

Your Fall Portraits are Here!
¡Tus retratos de otoño están aquí!

Simply, scan the QR code on your proof
and enter the **Online Code** to order!
(Simplemente escanee el código QR en su comprobante e ingrese el código en línea para realizar el pedido)

It's that EASY!
(Es fácil!)

Don't Miss These Memories!
¡No te pierdas estos recuerdos!

If you have already placed an order, you can still scan the QR on your packaging slip to order additional prints, products and holiday gifts.
Si ya realizó un pedido, aún puede escanear el QR en su albarán para solicitar impresiones, productos y regalos navideños adicionales.

Classic
PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGING

BRANCH EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

ADULTS

Coffee with a Cop: Let's Talk Holiday Safety*Monday, December 4 at 10:30*

Community residents are invited to meet with officers from the A.A. County Police Department, Southern District. A short talk on holiday safety will be included in the event.

Skeins & Stitches*Wednesday, December 6 at 2 pm*

Meet old friends and new as we teach and learn the relaxing craft of knitting, crocheting and all forms of needlework. Everyone is welcome.

Co-Conspirators Book Club*Tuesday, December 12 at 7 pm*

Join us for a book club dedicated to mysteries and thrillers. This month we will be discussing The Family Game by Catherine Steadman.

Attend online or in-person.**Register to receive the Zoom link.****Securing Your Retirement: Part 1***Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 pm*

This seminar, presented by certified financial planner Matthew O'Keefe, will help you maximize benefits and gain confidence for retirement.

Attend online or in-person.**Register to receive the Zoom link.****South County Senior Center Book Club***Monday, December 18 at 1 pm*

This month we will be discussing Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. This book club is held in partnership with the South County Senior Activity Center. All are welcome.

KIDS

Homeschool Hangout*Friday, December 1 at 2 pm*

Homeschoolers, visit the library for a special program just for you! Play games, make a craft, and learn something new! Best for ages 5+.

Archaeology with Historic London Town*Tuesday, December 5 at 2 pm*

Explore archaeology with an educator from Historic London Town! Discover real archaeological finds as well as modern replicas.

Early Reader Book Club*Thursday, December 14 at 4 pm*

Join us for a special book club just for beginning readers! This program is best for new and aspiring readers.

Paws to Read*Saturday, December 16 at 10 am*

Children improve their reading skills while enjoying the rapt attention of canine tutors.

Call the Edgewater Library at 410-222-1538 for available times and to register.

TEENS & ADULTS

Easy Ukulele Learn and Strum*Tuesday, December 5 at 6 pm*

It's easier than you think to have fun on the ukulele!

Please register if you would like to borrow a ukulele.

Trivia Night*Thursday, December 28 at 7 pm*

Join us for an evening of stimulating questions and friendly competition! Teams of up to 6. **Register your entire team or sign up individually to join a team.**

FAMILIES

Noon Year's (Eve) Eve Party!*Saturday, December 30 at 11 am*

Celebrate New Year's Eve (a day early!) with crafts, games, and more! We will end with a special countdown to noon!

PRESCHOOLERS

Music & Movement*Saturday, December 9 at 10:30 am*

Sing, chant, play instruments and dance while exploring sounds, rhythms and patterns that make up our language.

Bedtime Stories for Astronauts*Monday, December 11 at 5:30 pm*

Families with young children enjoy a variety of stories, songs, rhymes and crafts about space while building early literacy skills.

Family Storytime with Juanita Banks-Whittington*Saturday, December 16 at 2 pm*

Join us for a very special storytime featuring local author Juanita Banks-Whittington and her book, I Love My Daddy. Bring your little ones for stories, songs, rhymes and movement activities.

Preschool Drive-In Movie*Monday, December 18 at 10:30 am*

Join us for a special drive-in movie experience at the library! We'll be decorating cardboard cars and watching short films with snacks!

Registration required. Please register each child separately.