

# Central Elementary School Newsletter



## October 2023

*"Diving into Learning"*

### **From the Principal:**

Hello Central Elementary School Families!

Fall is here- and things are getting exciting. We ended September with our wonderful Fall Festival, and October brings field trips, picture day, book fair, and, of course, Halloween! (See below for more calendar information.) Beyond that, the holidays that are just around the corner mean we can look forward to celebrations, musical performances, and some days off to spend with family.

The real excitement, of course, is what's happening in the classrooms. Students have settled into routines, and instruction is getting more meaningful. We've moved on from exploring the new math curriculum, diving deeper into investigating concepts and refining our skills. Reading instruction, too, is more relevant, as we use the valuable information we gained from beginning-of-the-year assessments to provide personalized instruction based on students' individual profiles.

This interactive, purposeful learning is the most important thing we do- but that doesn't mean you hear about it at home. Your students, understandably, are more interested in describing recess games, lunch menus, and, of course, the latest elementary school gossip. With a little prompting, though, they might open up a little more about what their work really looks like. When asking them about their day, consider replacing the typical "How was school?" with something like "Did you think math was easy or hard today?" or "What was the most interesting thing you read this week?"

As your students get deeper into learning this fall, conversations like this can help families understand a little more about students' experiences, but they also go a long way toward reinforcing learning and making meaning. With all the excitement around us, this can be an important contribution- and it can give us one more thing to celebrate.

All the Best,  
Mr. Thompson

### **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](http://centralespto.org)

### **Important Dates:**

**October 11th-** School Picture Day

**October 13th-** 5th Grade Chorus Singing National Anthem at SRHS

**October 17th-** Unity Day- 2-Hour Early Dismissal

**October 30th-** Book Fair Opens

- End of Marking Period- 2-Hour Early Dismissal

**October 31st-** Halloween Parade at 8:30 a.m.

- End of Marking Period- 2-Hour Early Dismissal

**November 1st-** Teacher Workday- Schools Closed for Elementary and Middle Schools

**November 20th-21st-** Parent Teacher Conferences- Schools Closed for Students

**November 22nd-24th-** Thanksgiving Break- Schools Closed

### **Absences/Dismissal Changes:**

Attendance notes regarding absences or dismissal should now be submitted through Parent Portal. [Click here for directions.](#)

### **Advanced Learning at Central Elementary**

Second and fifth grade students will participate in the Gifted and Talented Identification process this school year. The assessments used for identification include the iReady Diagnostic, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®), the Primary Talent Development (PTD) portfolio of student artifacts for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and Renzulli Scales for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will take CogAT during the testing window of November 6-17, 2023. Specific testing days for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be shared in a letter to families coming home later this month.

You can help your student do their best by considering these tips:

- Do your best to make sure your student is in school and on time on test days. Try to schedule appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Help ensure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.

More information about the Talent Development Identification process can be found [here](#).

[K-2 ALPs](#)

[3-5 ALPs](#)

[Additional ALPS resources for families](#)

### **MUSIC NOTES**



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus students will be singing the National Anthem with the Central Middle and South River HS Choruses at the SRHS Varsity Football game on Friday, October 13th.



Check out this great event from the Edgewater Public Library: [¡Mucha Música! – A Musical Journey to Latin America With Cantaré / Un Viaje Musical A Latinoamérica Con Cantaré](#)

### **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](https://www.centralespto.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/CentralESPTO/>)

CES 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

Please check out AACPS offerings for Magnet Program opportunities at the link below. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Venturella, the school counselor at [lventurella@aacps.org](mailto:lventurella@aacps.org).

Link to Magnet Program Information:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uKf52xWdSGwpaB3y5GCx0XUWrfTmsbecz4HuuWIoNH8/edit?usp=sharing>



# FALL STORYBOOK PUMPKIN CONTEST



The School Library/Reading Department will host a "Pumpkin Storybook Contest". All you need to do is:

- Read a **fiction** book. (Fiction is written from an author's imagination and tells a story.)
- Choose **one of the characters** in the book and create a pumpkin that looks like that character using a **real or artificial 3D** pumpkin (small size/no bigger than a cantaloupe). Artificial pumpkins are encouraged.
- Fix your pumpkin to look like a character in your fiction book. You may use any materials such as: paint, markers, crayons, fabric, paper, glitter, sticks, grass, buttons, pipe cleaners, etc.
- Please **DO NOT CARVE or PUNCTURE** real pumpkins, as they will rot quickly.

Three prizes will be awarded for each grade:

- One for the most creative.
- One for the pumpkin that looks most like the character in your book.
- One for Honorable Mention

All pumpkin personalities must be in the media center on Monday morning **October 23rd**. Fill out the bottom portion of this flyer and bring it to the media center with you to place UNDER your pumpkin. Pumpkins **must** be picked up from the media center by **Monday, November 6th**.

**\*Pumpkins should be a student's own work. Pumpkins will be judged based on the student's grade-level ability.**



---

Title of book

---

Character's name from the book

---

Your name

---

Your grade level and teacher's name

# JOIN US

for an in-person or virtual family math night about

## Reveal **MATH**



**Reveal Math is the new math curriculum program for AACPS students in grades K-5. Learn how Reveal Math will guide your student into a future of math success!**

**All events are from 5:30 - 7:00 PM**



**Southern Middle School**  
5235 Solomons Island Road  
Lothian, MD 20711



**North County High School**  
10 E 1st Ave.  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061



**Virtual Option**  
Will be held online

SCAN ME



**Register today  
to reserve  
and learn about  
the new math  
curriculum!**



Interpreters available upon request





# BRANCH EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

## ADULTS

### Skeins & Stitches

Wednesday, October 4 at 2 pm

Meet old friends and new while we teach and learn the relaxing craft of knitting, crocheting and all forms of needlework.

### Co-Conspirators Book Club

Tuesday, October 10 at 7 pm

Join us for a book club dedicated to mysteries and thrillers. We will be discussing The London Seance Society by Sarah Penner.

**Attend in-person or via Zoom.**

**Register to receive the Zoom link.**

### South County Senior Center Book Club

Monday, October 16 at 1 pm

This month we will be discussing There There by Tommy Orange.

### Strum Along with Us!

Saturday, October 21 at 10 am

Novice ukulele players are welcome to join players from UkeAnnapolis as they strum and sing.

**Please register if you will not be bringing a ukulele.**

### Meditative Mandala Painting Workshop

Monday, October 30 at 10:30 am

Create a Mandala on a rock using the art of dot painting.

**Registration required.**



### Baby Steps

Parents of infants 0-4 months will learn from community experts and build a network of support.

#### Baby Basics, Part 2

Thursday, October 5 at 11:30 am

#### Parent/Infant Communication

Thursday, October 12 at 11:30 am

#### Self-Care for Parents

Thursday, October 19 at 11:30 am

#### Early Literacy

Thursday, October 26 at 11:30 am

## FAMILIES

### ¡MUCHA MÚSICA!

Saturday, October 7 at 2 pm

In this highly interactive bilingual performance for the whole family, audiences are invited to sing, play percussion, and dance a basic Latin rhythm such as salsa or merengue.

### Eric Energy: Science Spectacular

Wednesday, October 18 at 4 pm

In this fun, interactive show all about weather science, help Eric Energy create vortex fog rings, bubbling potions, clouds on the ground, and much more!

## TEENS

### After-Hours Lock-In: Halloween Movie Night

Friday, October 20 at 6 pm

Join us for a special after-hours event just for teens! Get in the spooky spirit with an interactive watch party of Hocus Pocus (PG, 1993). Costumes are welcome!

**Registration and signed permission slips are required.**



## KIDS & TEENS

### Homeschool Hangout

Friday, October 6 at 2 pm

Homeschoolers, visit the library for a special program just for you! Play games, try new tech, make a craft, and learn something new!



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## PRESCHOOLERS

### Bedtime Stories for Monsters



Wednesday, October 11 at 6 pm

Little monsters and their families can enjoy stories, songs, and a craft.

### Music & Movement

Saturday, October 14 at 10:30 am

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

### Nature Story Time at Beverly Triton Park

Monday, October 16 at 10:30 am

Join us for a fresh-air story time at Beverly Triton Nature Park! Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes for walking.

### Halloween Toddler Time

Tuesday, October 31 at 10:30 am

Join us for a special Halloween story time. Costumes are welcome!

## KIDS

### Paws to Read

Saturday, October 7 at 10 am

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

**Call 410-222-1538 to register.**

### Early Readers Book Club

Thursday, October 19 at 4 pm

Join us for a special book club just for beginning readers! For children in kindergarten through 2nd grade.

**Registration is preferred.**

### Family STEM Night: Spooky Science



Thursday, October 26 at 5:30 pm

Try out some creepy cool experiments at Family STEM Night!

**Registration is required.**

## • COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND GUIDANCE

As a result of recently revised Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding the process for documenting and treating COVID-19 illness, the following steps should be followed for students who are suspected or confirmed to have been infected with COVID-19:

“Students who come to school or an early care and education (ECE) program with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school or an ECE program will be asked to wear a well-fitting mask or respirator while in the building and be sent home and encouraged to get tested. Symptomatic people who cannot wear a mask will be separated from others as much as possible.”

Regardless of vaccination status, students who test positive for COVID-19 should be isolated from others. The isolation should begin on the day of symptom onset or, for asymptomatic individuals, the date of the positive test. The aforementioned dates are Day 0.

Students may return to school on Day 6 provided they are asymptomatic and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication. Should symptoms persist past Day 5, students should remain home until the above criteria are met.

The current CDC guidance calls for students to mask for an additional five days when returning to school. This is a guideline and not a mandate. For additional guidance, families of students should consult with a healthcare provider.

As per the AACPS Parent Handbook, whenever a child is absent, the parent/guardian must provide a note of explanation to the school within three days of the child's return to school. Absences due to illness in excess of five consecutive days require a physician's note.

[For more information about COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, click here.](#)