



FEBRUARY

Dear Millersville Families,

Here we are in February already! Time seems to be flying, and our weather is being a guessing game! Just close your eyes a minute and when you open them the weather will change again!

Here at school we will soon be ending the second quarter of instruction and looking at the second semester. We are well into our instruction and expectations are solidified. We want our students to truly achieve all that they can.

Each school in AACPS looks at their specific data and needs of their students and determine the goals which create a unified effort for the students' success. In case you have not taken the time to look at our School Improvement Plan, here are the goals that we have determined for this school year:

ELA: (Rigor and Readiness) Increase the percentage of students who make one year's growth and/or reach grade-level ceiling by the end of second grade by engaging students in literacy behaviors and strategies to develop readers ready for close, analytical reading and responding so that 88% of students in grades K-5 are on grade level or beyond by the spring administration of Fountas and Pinnell.

Out of the 30 students who did not achieve grade-level standards 74% will meet or exceed grade-level expectations.

Math: (Rigor and Readiness) Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-5 who meet or exceed expectations on standardized mathematics assessments by engaging students in higher order mathematical conversation and written response to include precision, accuracy and perseverance so that 75% of the students score proficient or beyond on checkpoint quizzes (K-1) and 73% of students score proficient or beyond on quarterly assessments (2-5).

Social and Emotional Well-being: (Relationships & Readiness) Increase the percentage of students who report that AACPS staff care for and support them.

We will work hard to assure that each student is challenged and pushed to their fullest potential. Your support definitely makes a difference.

Respectfully,

Linda Toth, principal



Our School Wide
Motto

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I
remember. Involve
me and I learn."

Linda Toth, Principal
ltoth@aacps.org

Amy Worrall, Assistant
Principal
aworrall@aacps.org

Office 410-222-3800

Anne Arundel Website
www.aacps.org



Communicating with your School Nurse



medications and
medical

treatments
your child
requires
during the
school day.



Parents/Guardians - Keep Your School Nurse Up to Date:

1. Be sure to inform your school nurse about your child's health conditions or other special health needs in order to plan for safe management at school. Chronic health conditions including but not limited to: asthma, seizures, diabetes or life threatening allergies.
2. Remember to provide your school nurse with current emergency contact information.
3. Tell your school nurse if your child's health condition interferes with school attendance.
4. Make sure to tell your school nurse about

5. Tell your school nurse about any changes in your child's health or mobility status, or about any infectious disease.

6. Speak to the school nurse if you need to obtain information about health insurance for your child.

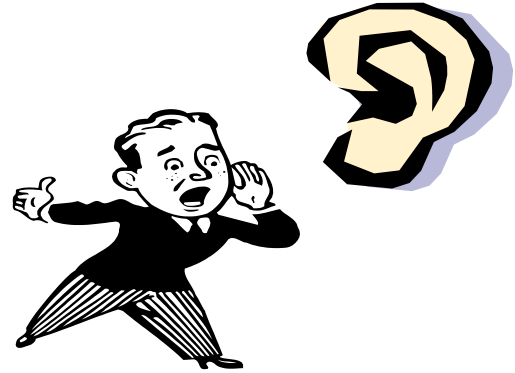
Any questions or health related concerns? Please contact your

school nurse, Sue Simon RN or Angela Stohler, HA

at 410 222 3807 .

Working Together for a Safe
and Healthy School Year!

Anne Arundel County Department of Health
School Health Services



Vision and Hearing Screening

Vision and hearing
screening will take place

February 10th, 2020

All kindergarten and
first grade students will
be screened.

Screenings will also be
done on all students
new to Anne Arundel
County public schools
and those referred by
their teachers and/or
parents. Parents will
receive a letter if their
child does not pass the

screening. If you have
any concerns, please
contact your school
nurse at 410 222 3807.

Remember To Bring Your GLASSES

On Screening Day!

Anne Arundel County Department of
Health

School Health Services

Information



OSP

Online School Payments

OSP is available at Millersville Elementary School! Pay for school items, fees and activities online using a credit or debit card (Visa or Mastercard).

Go to the AACPS.ORG website and select your student's school from the list.

Click on the OSP Link provided on the Gateway Page.

Create a new user account and then add Student profiles. You must have your student's ID to complete this section.

Also note that the student's name must match exactly to school database (as it appears on report card). If you have any problems, please contact the school office.

<http://osp.osmsinc.com/annearundel>



Health Room Reminder



Please remember to drop off any medication to the nurse's office, and to let them know of any concerns regarding your child's health.

If you are dropping off medication, it must be in the pharmacy issued bottle with the child's name on it.

Please remember that cough drops and aspirin are considered medication and a child should not have it in their possession.



Volunteers!

We love our volunteers here at MES! Information regarding our volunteer program will be coming home shortly! In the meantime, please review the following links to make sure you are prepared for all volunteer opportunities!

Please view the Sexual Harassment/Child Abuse video (left hand side). You will need to print the verification form and send it in to school:

<http://aacppschoools.org/family/family/>

Please carefully read the updated information regarding Fingerprint Supported Background Checks and Commercial Background Checks can be found here:

<https://www.aacps.org/Page/1869>

Please contact Mrs. Abell or Mrs. Hudgins with any questions!

Important Dates For February

February 3 PTA Meeting 6 PM

February 7 MES Movie Night

February 10 Report Cards

February 12 Unity Day wear Orange; 2 hour early dismissal

February 14 Valentine Celebrations – Ice Cream Sundaes

February 17 No School for President’s Day

February 21 All fifth grade course selection sheets are due

February 26 Coffee and Tea with Me 9:30 - 10:15 AM

February 28 PTA Skate Night 5-7 PM



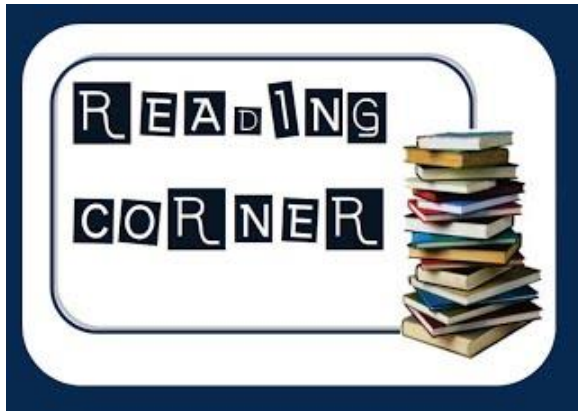


Fifth grade chorus members did a fabulous job at the Old Mill Cluster Concert in December. Students enjoyed learning a South African song and performing with other elementary, middle, and high school students from the Old Mill Cluster.

Thank you to everyone who attended our winter concert here at MES! It was great to see a standing room only crowd. I am so proud of all the hard work and dedication shown by chorus members. A special thanks to Mr. Bright who came back to guest conduct one of our songs.

We have lots to look forward to in music during the second half of the school year! Students are just wrapping up their dance unit in PE and music. Be sure to ask your kids about all the fun dance moves they have learned! Students in all grades will continue to sing, play, read, perform, and move to music throughout the second semester.





February Newsletter:

We are very excited to start a new program at MES called One School, One Book! Thank you to PTA for supporting this initiative that will hopefully promote a culture of literacy, in and out of school. We hope that your family will enjoy reading Friendship According to Humphrey together. It is a fun story about a hamster that isn't thrilled to be sharing his status as class pet with a frog. The book, timeline for reading and family activities should have made it home by now. Please contact Mrs. Abell with any questions or concerns. Enjoy reading together!

Crabby Road

2-15-12



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Maxine.com

Why Read
..... at home?

20 minutes per day
3,600 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year

If a child starts reading 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, they will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER?
SIMPLY READ.

www.bettefetter.com



Something to Consider!

If you have a child just starting their school career, or if you have more than one child, please consider getting fingerprinted for AACPS. As long as you have a child in an AACPS school, the finger printing is good. This negates the need to have background check completed every 2 years.

There is a cost at \$58.25.

You need to make an appointment at the Board of Education to have this completed.

If we can get 25 people interested in being fingerprinted, our security office will come here to Millersville Elementary

School and complete the finger printing on site.

Please contact Mrs. Claytor if you are interested, and she will see if we can create a group and have it done at school.

This will make it easier to chaperone and participate in school events with your child.



DEVELOPING A GROWTH MINDSET – 5 TIPS FOR PARENTS

If you have a growth mindset, you believe that with **work, practice, and perseverance**, you can improve – whether it's your academic performance, or any other skill. (Those with the opposite, a fixed mindset, believe that our intelligence and talents are predisposed, and either you were born with it or not.)

Thanks to the great work of Stanford's Carol Dweck, we know that not only is the growth mindset accurate, but those who hold these beliefs actually improve more than those with a fixed mindset, which makes it so essential for our kids!

HOW YOU CAN HELP FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET AT HOME:

1. Pay attention and verbally praise kids for skills that don't sound predetermined: hard work, persistence, rising to a challenge, learning from a mistake, etc., rather than being "smart", "brilliant" or "gifted". Recently my girls brought me a song they had recorded together, and said they had to do it 10 times to get it right. I made sure to tell them I was just as proud of their persistence as I would have been if the song had been perfect the first time.

2. Be a growth mindset role model. Be honest: how often do you say "I can't (cook/sing/balance my bank account)" or "I'm terrible at (sports/spelling/public speaking)" as if there's no hope for you? Make sure you're sending the right message – maybe even take on something new! (Relax, it doesn't have to be cooking. Sorry, just thinking out loud.) My students and daughters all know that I expect them to finish any sentence about something they are currently unable to do with the word "yet"!

3. Encourage your child to forget taking the easy route (where little learning is done) and instead embrace challenges. A sheet full of questions he already knows the answers to won't "grow the brain" like one deeper problem to solve (even if he doesn't get the correct answer).

4. Remember growth mindset isn't just academic; it applies to many areas of life (athletic, musical, social). Having trouble getting the basketball into the net? Keep making mistakes on a guitar chord? Tried to initiate play with someone but it didn't go well? Discuss the next step for improvement.

5. Discourage envy of peers, and talk to your child about what he or she can learn from others who appear more successful. While skills may come more easily to some, most often there's a (possibly unseen) element of practice, persistence, and hard work which leads to achievement.

Embracing a growth mindset isn't always easy, but can have a huge impact
on your child...

and perhaps on you, too!



Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Hudgins, School Counselor

During the 3rd quarter I will be teaching the Erin's Law lessons. Attached is a letter that explains the Law and lessons.

I sent grade level specific letters mid-January.

What is "Erin's Law"?

"Erin's Law" is named after childhood sexual assault survivor, author, speaker, and activist Erin Merryn. Merryn is the founder and President of Erin's Law, which is registered with the State of Illinois and the IRS as a 501 (c)(4) non-profit social welfare organization.

The legislation was introduced in Merryn's home state of Illinois and caught on nationwide. It was passed in Maryland in 2016, with a mandate that schools implement it beginning in Fall 2017.

"Erin's Law" requires that all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- **Students** in grades prekindergarten through 12th grade age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.
- **School personnel** about child sexual abuse.

- **Parents and guardians** the warning signs of child sexual abuse, needed assistance, and referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

Why is it important that children receive this instruction in school?

Schools provide a safe place where children can learn what to do in unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations. Trusted adults will provide students with an opportunity to practice handling these situations so that the first time a young person is faced with an unsafe situation, he or she will know what to do and have had practiced doing it. Students will identify trusted adults, both inside and outside of the school, where they can go for help. **How will "Erin's Law" be implemented in AACPS?**

Secondary students will receive instruction through the AACPS Health Education curriculum. Health standards will be taught to middle school students in grades 6 through 8 through the Health curriculum. High school students will be taught the health standards through the mandatory Health class, a high school graduation requirement.

In elementary school, the standards will be addressed through the school counseling curriculum for all students in grades K to 5, using modified

lessons from the Barbara Sinatra Foundation. Parents will be sent a letter prior to the lessons being taught to inform them about when the lessons will be delivered by the school counselor. Parents will have an opportunity, if they so desire, to review the materials. Parents can opt out of having their child(ren) participate in the lessons and an alternative activity will be provided. Follow up activities to the lessons will be sent home.

Are there resources parents can access to help them recognize warning signs and talk with their child(ren) about how to keep themselves safe?

Yes. The Erin's Law website has tips for parents about recognizing warning signs and what a parent should do if he/ or she learns/suspects that a child has been/is being sexually abused. Similarly, the Barbara Sinatra Foundation has many resources for parents on the topic of child sexual abuse. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center has a number of good resources for parents.

If you have specific questions or concerns regarding secondary Erin's Law lessons, feel free to contact your child's health educator. If you have specific concerns regarding the elementary lessons, please contact your child's school counselor.

¿De Qué se trata la "Ley de Erín"?

La "Ley de Erín" lleva el nombre de la sobreviviente de agresión sexual infantil, Erín Merryn, autora, oradora, activista, fundadora y presidente de la organización "Erin's Law", la cual está registrada en el estado de Illinois y con el Servicio de Impuestos Interno (IRS, en inglés) como una organización 501 (c) (4) sin ánimo de lucro para el bienestar social.

Después de que Erín presentó la legislación en su estado natal de Illinois, el proyecto de ley fue denominado "Ley de Erín" por los legisladores y ha tenido una acogida a nivel nacional. La "Ley de Erín" se aprobó en Maryland en el año 2016, con la ordenanza de que las escuelas la implementarán a partir del otoño del 2017.

La "Ley de Erín" requiere que todas las escuelas públicas en cada estado implementen un programa de abuso sexual infantil orientado a la prevención, este programa enseña:

- **A los Estudiantes** que están en los grados de pre-Kínder al 12 ° grado, técnicas apropiadas relevantes a su edad para que puedan identificar el abuso

sexual infantil y le cuenten a un adulto de confianza.

- **Al Personal Escolar** todo lo relacionado con el abuso sexual infantil.
- **A los Padres & Tutores Legales** las señales de aviso del abuso sexual infantil, además de la asistencia necesaria, referidos o información de recursos para apoyar a los niños que han sido abusados sexualmente y a sus familias.

¿Por qué es importante que los niños reciban esta instrucción en la escuela?

La escuela proporciona un lugar seguro donde los niños pueden aprender qué hacer en situaciones desconocidas o incómodas. Adultos de confianza le brindaran la oportunidad a los estudiantes para que practiquen y manejen estas situaciones, de modo que cuando el joven se ve por primera vez en una situación insegura, sepa qué hacer ya que lo ha practicado. Los estudiantes

identificarán adultos de confianza, dentro y fuera de la escuela, a los cuales puedan acudir en busca de ayuda.

¿Cómo se implementará la "Ley de Erín" en las Escuelas Públicas del condado de Anne Arundel (AACPS, en inglés)?

Los estudiantes de Secundaria recibirán instrucción acerca de la "Ley de Erín" a través del currículo de las AACPS en el área de Educación de la Salud. Los estándares de salud se enseñarán a los estudiantes de la escuela intermedia en los grados 6º al 8º a través del currículo de la Salud. A los estudiantes de secundaria se les enseñarán los estándares de la salud a través de la clase obligatoria de la Salud, la cual es un requisito de graduación para la escuela secundaria.

En la escuela primaria, los estándares serán trabajados a través del currículo de consejería escolar para todos los alumnos de kínder al 5º grado, utilizando las lecciones modificadas de la Fundación Bárbara

Sinatra – [“Protect Yourself Rules”](#). A los padres se les enviará una carta antes de que den inicio las lecciones informándoles cuando se enseñarán las lecciones por parte del consejero escolar y así ofrecerles una oportunidad para que revisen los materiales. Los padres pueden optar por no permitir que su(s) hijo(s) participen en estas lecciones, y si este es el caso, se les proporcionará una actividad alternativa. Las actividades de seguimiento de las lecciones serán enviadas a casa.

¿Hay recursos disponibles para los padres que les permitan ayudar a reconocer las señales de advertencia y hablar con sus hijos acerca de cómo mantenerse seguros?

Si. El sitio web [Erin’s Law](#) ofrece consejos para que los padres reconozcan las señales de advertencia y lo que deben hacer si descubren o sospechan que su hijo(a) ha sido o está siendo abusado sexualmente. De manera similar, la Fundación Bárbara Sinatra - [Barbara](#)

[Sinatra Foundation](#) tiene muchos recursos para los padres relacionados con el tema de abuso sexual infantil. El Centro Nacional de Recursos sobre Violencia Sexual - [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#) tiene una serie de recursos buenos para los padres.

Si tiene preguntas o inquietudes específicas acerca de las lecciones de la Ley de Erín, no dude en ponerse en contacto con el educador de salud de su hijo. Si tiene inquietudes específicas con respecto a las lecciones a nivel de Primaria, comuníquese con el consejero escolar de su hijo.