

Nantucket Elementary School

# Starfish Scoop

*Empowering Every Starfish to be a Life Long Learner*



**January 2020**

## Principal's Message

Happy 2020! We hope that everyone had a wonderful break and all are ready to begin the new year. The new year is a great time to get organized, make plans and set goals. Take a few minutes to talk with your children about what they want to work on and improve in 2020. Be sure the goals are realistic and help your children make a plan for how to achieve them. Monitor progress along the way and celebrate success!

Sincerely,

Alexis McKay, Principal

Megan Edwards, Assistant Principal



## A Look Ahead to February

- 1 Beginning of 3rd Marking Period
- 5 Yearbook Photos
- 6 Vision + Hearing Screening
- 10 Report Cards Distributed
- 12 PTA Summer Camp Fair, 3:30-7:30 pm  
2 Hour Early Dismissal

## Mark Your Calendar!

### January

- 2 School Reopens
- 8-Feb. 11 ACCESS for ELL Testing Window
- 7-8 CogAT Testing—Grade 2
- 8 PTA Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 8-10 CogAT Testing—Grade 5
- 10 PTA Family Dance, 6:30 pm
- 16 Parent Diversity Night: How to Talk to Your Kids About Differences,  
6:00-8:00 pm
- 20 SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR ALL STUDENTS**
- 22 Differences Assembly
- 28-29 **2 Hour Early Dismissal**
- 29 End of 2nd Marking Period
- 30 **SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR ALL STUDENTS**
- 31 Beginning of 3rd Marking Period
- 31-Feb. 4 Drownproofing—Grade 5

## Emergency Closing Plans



It is that time of year again, and no one knows for sure what the Maryland weather might bring—an unexpected late opening or early dismissal. Be sure to keep our office staff advised of changes to your phone numbers so that we can keep the county Blackboard Connect phone calling system up-to-date. In addition, pay special attention to the radio and television during those bad weather days for updates on school delays/early closings, or cancellations. You may also get information from the AACPS website at [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org).

## School Security

Nantucket Elementary School follows all security guidelines set forth by Anne Arundel County Public Schools. The safety of our students is a priority of the faculty and staff. The current security measures we have taken are:

- \* All exterior doors are locked at all times.
- \* All people entering the building must be “buzzed” in. The person will be asked their name and why they are at the school before entrance to the building is granted.



**All visitors to the building must present government issued identification and be scanned through the V-Soft Raptor system (see below):**

**All parents/visitors must report to the office before proceeding into the school.** The safety of all students and staff in Anne Arundel County Public Schools is of utmost importance to all of us. Our school will be utilizing a new system for checking in all visitors. The system is called V-Soft by Raptor Ware. When you visit our school for the first time, you will be asked to present a government-issued ID to a staff person in the school office. This card will be scanned and the following information will compare to your information against sexual offender databases throughout the country. If your name appears on any of the lists or you refuse to allow the use of your ID, you will not be allowed access to the school. On future visits to the school, in which you have previously registered, you will only be asked to show your ID as your name will be selected from an existing list of previous visitors. You will also be asked to sign out with the office upon leaving the school so that we know you are no longer in the building. You will be required to check into the system even if you are only coming to school to pick up your child. The information collected will not be shared outside of the school and is kept on a secure server.

Should you have any questions, please contact Doyle Batten, Supervisor of School Security, (410)222-5083, or [jdbatten@aacps.org](mailto:jdbatten@aacps.org)

## Dressing for the Weather

As the temperatures get colder, please be sure that students are dressed appropriately. Students will be going outside for recess unless it is below 32 degrees or the wind chill is significant. Also, our doors do not open until 8:50 am, so students who arrive earlier will be waiting outside.

## Lost & Found

We have been gathering hats, jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes, glasses and other items that have been found on school property. If your child is missing something, please encourage them to check the Lost & Found.

Parents are also welcome to visit the Lost & Found— just remember to stop in the office first and check in!

## Valuables

Just a reminder that students should not be coming to school with valuable games, electronics, jewelry, etc. We encourage this so that these expensive items do not get lost, broken, or taken. The school cannot be responsible for these items. Keeping them at home is the best way to go!

## Cafeteria Account Balances

Please help Nantucket and attend to any outstanding balances on your child's lunch account. Any unpaid balances are deducted from our school accounts, limiting funding toward programming and materials of instruction. You can pay toward your child's school lunch account at <http://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/purchasing-school-meals/>. Thank you for helping us to keep our outstanding balances in check.

## A Message from the School Nurse

### NO FLU VACCINE AT SCHOOL THIS YEAR!

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC recommend everyone over the age of 6 months receive a flu shot. Please plan to make arrangements through your pediatrician to get a flu shot for your child this year. Unfortunately, Anne Arundel County will NOT be able to offer the flu shot or flu mist at school this year.

### GOING HOME SICK FROM THE HEALTH ROOM:

We would like to remind parents that when their children are sick, they need to be picked up as soon as possible from the health room at school. For those parents that work a significant distance from school, a "back-up" plan needs to be in place so that children do not spend hours in the health room while they are ill. Any child sent home from school with a temperature above 100, must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before they can return to school.

### ACCIDENTS HAPPEN!

Please be sure that your child has weather-appropriate change of clothes in their locker. Accidents can happen anywhere in school - spilled drink at lunch, falling in a puddle at recess, or not making it to bathroom in time. We do not have extra change of clothes for students in the health room.



## Crosswalk Update

For the past year, one of our Nantucket families has worked to move the crosswalk on Riedel Road due to safety concerns. Due to their advocacy, the county conducted a traffic study on the current crosswalk. Below are the results of this family's diligence to ensure the safety of our students:

During the county study and conversations with county highway staff it has been determined for safety reasons that the crosswalk should be moved to the four-way intersection of Riedel, Wilson's Grove and Crofton Farms. The county will be installing overhead flashing lights, crosswalk signs for pedestrians and a new safe harbor area in the middle of the road. The three-phase installation plan is below and the study spells out what they plan to do to ensure the kids' safety.

The new crossing will be installed in three phases-

- 1a—removal of existing crosswalk and signing at existing mid-block crossing. Installation of new crosswalk—standard crosswalk pavement markings and signing (early January 2020)
- 1b—signage to be upgraded with push button rapid rectangular flashing beacons and crosswalk pavement markings to be upgraded with hatching (early April 2020)
- 2—Removal of old mid-block refuge island and installation of new concrete pedestrian refuge island and dedicated left turn lane at new crossing (by 2021)

## Thank You All!

December was full of special events and activities. On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank all those people who helped make these special days possible.

The winter concerts were wonderful evenings of friends, family and great music performed by our talented students, under the skillful direction of Mrs. Ritenour, Ms. Kless and Mrs. Jenkins. We also want to thank our dedicated staff and parent volunteers for helping with everything from supervision to staging and directions.

