



# JANUARY

## TIGER'S EDGE



Sandy Blondell, Principal

Park Elementary News

John Panitz, Assistant Principal

Volume 12



"Academic Success for All!"



Issue 5



### PERFECT ATTENDANCE

If your student comes to school on time everyday, M-F they will get to pick a prize on Friday during lunch at our School Store!

Students in PK-2 will get to pick weekly and students in grades 3-5 will get to pick bi-weekly!



### SCHOOL HOURS

7:40 am - 8:00 am - Arrival

2-HR Delay Arrival 9:40 am

**8:00 am— Instruction Begins** (must be in their seat)

2:25 pm - Dismissal

12:25 pm - Early Dismissal

Due to traffic congestion and end of the day dismissal procedures, changes in early pick ups should occur before 2:00 pm.



✿ **EDGE** ✿

*"Every Day Give  
Everything"*

#### NOTICE:

Please remember to check your voice mail first if you receive a call from our school phone number. There is no way the main office can track calls.

When your child is out sick or tardy you will receive an automated phone call from the school even if you contact the school first.

201 East 11th Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21225  
410-222-6593

### Winter Games and Smores at the Park Lodge



Each day students will color one mitten if they meet the following PAW Rules criteria:

No minor/major referrals

No loss of recess/lunch detention

All work must be completed for the day-  
work must be high quality

To gain entrance to the games students  
must earn 15/17 mittens.

Following the activities,  
the students will enjoy  
smores!





**Principal's  
corner**

Happy New Year!

I am extremely happy to be back at Park with our incredible students, staff and parents. After 2 surgeries and three 911 trips, I am finally regaining my strength and am ready for a productive 2023 with our children who I absolutely love. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of their academic journey.

As you can see, the calendar for January and early February consists of many days off and/or early dismissals. We will observe Martin Luther King Day on January 16th and have two early dismissal days scheduled prior to a non-student workday due to the end of the second marking period.

We will be distributing report cards for the second marking period home with students. Although other schools will not be sending report cards home and will require parents to access the Parent Portal, we have heard from many of you who do not have computers and are having a challenging time seeing everything on your phone. You will also be receiving a scavenger hunt for you and your children to analyze student progress together.

I am also asking that you speak to your children about attendance. There is a clear connection between student learning and attendance. We want our students to be successful academically but know that students who miss school consistently become frustrated and have great difficulty keeping up with their peers. I am extremely concerned about the number of days our students are missing school and we have over 144 students who have 10 or more days off as of today. If you are having difficulty getting your children to attend school, please call any member of our school student/parent support team. (Their names and numbers are included in this newsletter.) To support our students and families, I have purchased a second full-time guidance counselor and a full-time social worker.

As always, please contact school staff if you have any concerns.

Gratefully,

*Sandra Brindley*

*We're here  
to help YOU!*

### Social Support Team

Guidance Counselor; Debra Cale - dcale@aacps.org

Guidance Counselor; Julie Tyler - mtyler1@aacps.org

School Psychologist; Clare Bailey - cbbailey@aacps.org

Social Worker; Alissa Starkey - amstarkey@aacps.org



## Community School's Updates

*Session 3 of clubs will start January 30th. Look out for more info this month!*

### Discover the Benefits of Excellent School Attendance with a Trip to Port Discovery!

Did you know one of the best ways to ensure your student's success in school is for them to come every day? Students with good attendance (miss less than one day a month) are 4 times more likely to read on grade level at the end of third grade than those who miss just 2 days a month (This adds up to 18 days a year).

#### Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?



 64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st  
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)



 43%

of kids with at-risk attendance  
(missed more than 9 days both years)



 41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st  
(missed 18 or more days one year)



 17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st  
(missed 18 or more days both years)

From January 9-February 3, any student in grades K-3 with 1 excused absence or less, will be entered into a drawing for a free field trip to Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore on February 28. Students will be notified by February 8 if they have been selected. Parents, if you would like to be considered to chaperone, be sure to complete the background check on the AACPS website now.

Please contact Janet Liimatta if you any questions - [jliimatta@aacps.org](mailto:jliimatta@aacps.org).





### V Soft Raptor Ware Security System

**Every visitor must bring their ID with them regardless if you are already in our system.**

The safety of all students and staffing Anne Arundel County Public Schools is of utmost importance to all of us. Our school utilizes a system to check in all visitors. The system is called **V Soft by RaptorWare**. When you visit our school for the first time, you will be asked to present a government-issued photo (i.e., driver's license) to a staff person in the school office. This card will be scanned and the following information will be collected: your photo, your name, and your date of birth. This information will be utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare 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 a 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 check 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. Your assistance in keeping our students safe is very much appreciated.

### Electronic Lock and School Cameras

For security purposes, we have an electronic lock and cameras at the main entrance. Parents and visitors must press the bell to the right of the main entrance and wait for the office staff to disengage the electronic lock before entering the building.



### Security Cameras

Park Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds.

It is **NOT** monitored constantly, although, select cameras are frequently monitored on a daily basis. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

### Park Elementary School Emergency Plan

Every Anne Arundel Public County School is required to have a plan to address different kinds of emergencies. At Park we have a plan in place and frequently conduct practice drills. In addition, it is important to note that if we ever had an emergency situation where we had to evacuate the building for an extended period of time that our evacuation site would be to Brooklyn Park Elementary School.



### Fire Lane/Bus Loops

Reminder that parking in designated fire lanes and/or bus loops is prohibited. This prohibition extends to staff, students, visitors, spectators at athletic events, day care vans, and after school activity vans such as karate centers, clubs, etc. Any vehicle parked in a fire lane or obstructing a fire hydrant must be moved to an authorized parking space.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Law §21-101.1(b)2,3 states,



*A person may not drive a motor vehicle in violation of any provision of this title on any property that is owned by or under the control of this State or any of its political subdivisions, county boards of education, or community colleges and that is open to vehicular traffic and used by the public in general. Any person who violates any provision of this subsection is in violation of the law to the same extent and is subject to the same penalty as if the motor vehicle were driven on a highway.*

As you know, in a critical emergency, the loss of every minute caused by vehicles blocking fire and police department access can become critical.



# January

## Upcoming February Dates (subject to change)

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Report Cards

February 8<sup>th</sup>. 2hr Early Dismissal. Wear orange for Unity Day!

February 20<sup>th</sup>. School closed for Presidents Day

Park Elementary School  
Principal- Sandy Blondell  
Assistant Principal- John Panitz  
School Counselors- Debbie Cale & Julie Tyler  
Principal Secretary- Ms. Rogers  
Attendance Secretary- Mrs. Miller  
Registration Secretary- Mrs. Armstrong  
PTA President- Mrs. Hinshaw 410-222-6593

# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Chatting through Math & Winter Concert 6:00 pm	11	12	13	14
15	16 School closed for MLK Birthday	17	18	19 Engineering Night 4:45 pm Math Wonderland 6-7 pm	20	21
22	23 2hr Early Dismissal	24 2hr Early Dismissal End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> MP	25 School closed for all students Semester Break	26 Mo Gaba Day Beginning of 3 <sup>rd</sup> MP	27	28
29	30	31				