



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Thurmont Primary A Member of the Catoctin Feeder Schools

HOLIDAY IDEAS



The Holiday season is already upon us! Are you pondering what gifts to give? The perfect one-size-fits-all gift is a book! Make books a “must have” under your tree. Books can be enjoyed by everyone at any age. Do you need some titles? Just ask your child’s teacher, our Literacy Specialist (Karen Yoder) or our Media Specialist (Melissa Gaeta) for some great ideas. Spend time during the holidays reading together. Make reading a family tradition for your holidays.

Other ways to spend some learning time during the holidays---

- ▀ Allow your child to help you bake cookies. Have them measure the ingredients, read the reci-

pe, determine baking time (elapsed time), etc..

- ▀ Have your child sort gifts into categories. Sort by shape, size, use, texture, color, etc.

- ▀ Have your child write thank you cards for their gifts. (Make sure to send them!)

- ▀ Play board games together. There are learning opportunities in every game!

- ▀ If you travel, have your child plot the route, determine travel time, use the map, look for landmarks, nearby attractions, or neighboring cities. Keep a journal of your travels.

Spend time listening to grandparents or other relatives share tales of holidays long ago!

Watch a family movie together. Discuss who the main characters were, what the plot was, and discuss the conclusion—were there surprises?

Treasure the Holidays. Although students are not in school learning, it does not mean their learning stops. Have a wonderful Holiday!

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH ROOM



DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE?

The Health Care Connection’s Health Access Campaign Helps Uninsured Kids

You work hard to take care of your kids, but it’s not always easy. Without health insurance, medical bills can wipe out a family’s savings. Now there’s help.

Thousands of Maryland kids are eligible for free or low-cost health care

coverage—and your child could be one of them, even if you work. In fact, working families earning up to \$44,100 a year or more may be eligible for free health insurance through the Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP). Families earning up to \$66,150 a year can qualify for low-cost insurance through MCHP’s Premium programs.

Children enrolled in MCHP will receive benefits like healthcare provider visits, hospital care, specialist care, immunizations, dental

and vision care, prescriptions, x-rays and labs, emergency room visits, and substance abuse care.

To find out if your family is eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage, call 301-600-8888. Pick up an application today at your child’s school health room, the Frederick County Health Department, or online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/healthcareconnection.

FYI~ TPS operating hours:

****Office /staff hours:** 8:10 AM—3:40 PM / ****Student hours** 8:40 AM—3:10 PM
****2 hr. early dismissal days—** 1:10 PM
****PK schedule on 2 hr. early dismissal days:** AM 8:40—10:10 / PM 11:40— 1:10
****PK schedule on 2 hr. delayed opening days:** AM 10:40—12:10 / PM 1:40—3:10



REMINDERS

Toys, radios, electronic games, collectable cards, etc. should not be brought to school or on the school bus. We ask for your support in this matter. If your child should has any of these items in school the item will be sent to the office and kept there for parent pickup.



BUS SAFETY



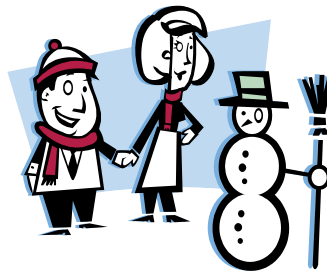
Please review bus rules with your children:

- Remain seated-facing front, bottoms on the seat, feet on the floor.
- Use quiet voices. Your conversation should only be heard by your seatmate. Only use appropriate language.

- Keep your hands, head, and objects inside the bus—nothing goes out the bus window.
- Remain seated for the entire bus ride. Only stand when it is your turn to exit.
- Exit the bus kindly. Use your manners and remember character counts!
- If you have problems on the bus, please notify the bus driver. Problems or concerns are most effectively addressed if they are reported in a timely manner.

EARLY DISMISSAL AND WINTER BREAK

Schools will be closed from Dec. 24-Jan. 4. School resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 5. Please mark your calendar.



HOLIDAY PARTIES

TPS will celebrate the Holidays on Dec. 23. Only parents or adults whose names have been given to the teacher as party volunteers will be permitted in the classrooms. Those volunteers will sign in at the front office and receive a volunteer badge. No siblings-young or old will be permitted to partake in the classroom celebrations. No children other than those enrolled at TPS are permitted at the parties. Party volunteers need to be focused on our students and the activities planned. Please refrain from taking any pictures, as we have a large number of students whose parents have requested that their children not be photographed at any time. Please be respectful by silencing your cell phone. Have fun helping in the classroom!

Classroom teachers will be sending specific information concerning times and directions and food/snacks for the party. Some classrooms may elect not to serve food at the parties due to allergies. Do not send food unless specified. Please respect these policies as we strive for safety for all children.

A CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC. 2	Cultural Arts: Maryland Science Center, 9:45 and 1:30; PTA meeting, TPS Media Center @ 5:30
DEC. 11	Title 1 Parent Night-Snow Day Goodies @ 5:30
DEC. 12	PTA Holiday Happenings @ TPS 6:00-9:00 pm
DEC. 24—JAN.2	NO SCHOOL—WINTER BREAK
JAN. 5	SCHOOL RESUMES!
JAN. 19	NO SCHOOL
JAN.23	First Semester ends
JAN. 26	NO SCHOOL



WEATHER RELATED DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

Decisions about school closures or delays are made by 5:30 AM and decisions to dismiss early are made prior to 10:30 AM. You can receive updates about all closures, delays, or early dismissals via Find Out First. You can sign up for Find Out First on the FCPS webpage.

Please know school personnel cannot call families to let them know that school is dismissing early due to weather or other emergencies (such as no heat, water, or electricity). Please tune to the radio, TV, or Find Out First (email notification).

Sometimes only certain schools will be closed due to inclement weather. Listen carefully. Thurmont Primary is a part of the Catoctin Feeder, and there are times that our feeder schools are affected while other schools in FCPS are not.



SAFETY PROCEDURES - reminders

Please be prepared to show identification at the door prior to being admitted and be prepared to state your reason for admittance.

Parents are asked to drop items for delivery to children in the office. Office staff will facilitate delivery of those items. In an effort to reduce adult traffic in our building, parents are not permitted to escort children to class.

All guests must sign in and out in the office. Please carry your visitor's pass at all times and return it to the office when you sign out.

Thank you for supporting these measures for the safety and security of our children. Thank you!



TITLE 1 Parents-Invitation only!

Please plan to attend our **Dec 11 @ 5:30 Parent Meeting**. We will be sharing ideas on what to do on those Snow Days or when kids get "bored" on the Winter Break. We will enjoy light refreshments and there is a goody bag for all the children!

A great time was had in November sharing our technology resources and making games to reinforce reading and math skills. Thanks to all that attended!

HAND SANITIZER

FCPS provides all areas of the school with hand sanitizer dispensers. These hand sanitizers are filled with alcohol free cleaner that has been approved for use in our schools. Please refrain from sending your child with his/her own hand sanitizer. Children often lick or ingest the sweet smelling hand sanitizers brought from home. Most of these contain alcohol and other fragrances that may cause reactions in other children. Please help us to be safe. Encourage your child to use the school hand sanitizers often. Thank you for your support!



To ensure all of our families are aware please read the letter below:

* Sent Home with all TPS Students the week of August 25, 2014

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
191 South East Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-698-6910 phone
301-698-6823 fax
www.fcps.org



Theresa R. Alban, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
superintendent@fcps.org

July 2, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Frederick County Public Schools strives to provide first-class learning opportunities for every student. We know that reaching this goal depends on having highly qualified teachers in our classrooms.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 gives you the right to ask for and receive information about the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, including:

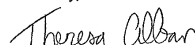
- College or university degrees or certifications
- The subject area of the degree or certification
- Whether the teacher holds a Maryland teaching certificate in a particular grade or subject, or holds a provisional certificate

You may also ask whether your child is served by paraprofessionals (such as an instructional assistant) and, if so, request the paraprofessional's qualifications.

If you would like to receive this type of information, please request it in writing from your school's principal. The principal will respond as soon as possible within 30 days.

Thank you for supporting your child's education. It is through strong partnerships with parents and family members like you that FCPS is able to achieve our "first class" goals.

Sincerely,


Theresa R. Alban, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JV/ss

All TPS Certificated staff meets the Highly Qualified status.

