



Relay Elementary School News

November 2022



Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar This Month

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	Oct 31 Spirit Week - See below	1	2	3 PTA Meeting 6:15 5 th grade Committee Meeting after PTA mtg Relay Library	4 End of 1 st quarter; Half Day - Dismissal begins at 12:40	5
6	7	8 Election Day - schools closed	9	10	11	12
13	14 Report Cards Distributed AEW - PreK & Kindergarten	15 AEW - 1 st grade	16 AEW - 2 nd grade	17 AEW - 3 rd grade	18 AEW - 4 th grade AM; 5 th grade PM	19
American Education Week - K-4 th grades Visitation Times are 9:30-11:00am; PreK Monday 9:30am and 1:30pm. 5 th grade: Visitation on Friday begins at 12:30 with the Ballroom Dancing Presentation in PE and continues until 3:00pm. Stop by the office prior to November 14 th to have your ID scanned to streamline the visitation process.						
20	21 Elementary Conference Day - Schools Closed	22 Pre-K Conference Day - No school for PreK only	23 Schools close 3 hours early; dismissal begins at 12:40	24 Thanksgiving Schools Closed	25 Schools Closed	26
27	28	29	30			

Looking Ahead to Next Month:

December 1 st	PTA Meeting at 6:15 in the library
December 6 th	Reading Night - More details forthcoming
December 13 th	5 th grade Winter Concert
December 22 nd	Half day
December 23 rd - January 2 nd	Schools closed for Winter Break

Principal's Message

Happy Fall! I love this time of year, when the leaves on the trees change colors to create the most beautiful landscapes in golden hues of amber, orange, and yellow. It also makes me think of my mom who taught me to appreciate the autumnal wonders of nature. For many in our community, this time of year is especially busy with Arbutus Golden Eagles football. Congratulations to our student athletes, including football players and cheerleaders! We are proud of your dedication and hard work this season!



The month of November is also a great time of year to acknowledge the many people and things for which I am so grateful, including:

- Parents and families for generous donations for prizes for our positive behavior program
- PTA and families for a successful and fun Trunk or Treat event
- Students for being kind and doing their best every day
- Teachers and staff for their commitment to Relay







Do you want to share a message of gratitude to someone in our school community, such as a teacher or another parent? Use this link and your messages will be compiled and shared out with next month's newsletter: <https://forms.gle/MBfMGsnCRG4FBWnr8>

**From Your Very
Thankful
Principal,
Lisa Grace**

Thank you so much for taking time out of your evenings to spend it with us, your Relay school family. As always, we are so grateful to you, our Relay community, for partnering with us to keep our students safe and learning. Please remember to reach out any time to share your concerns, questions, ideas, and feedback. You can reach me by email at lgrace3@bcps.org or by calling the school at 443-809-1426.

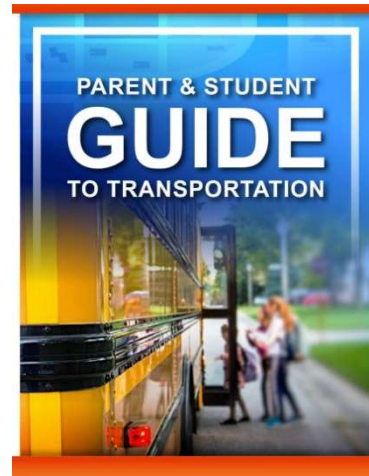


Relay's Fall Spirit Week

Monday October 31 st	Tuesday November 1 st	Wednesday November 2 nd	Thursday November 3 rd	Friday November 4 th
Fall Costume Day	Pajama Day	Relay Spirit Day	Pod Color Day	Sports Day
<p>Wear fall colors, a Halloween costume, or dress like a storybook character.</p> <p>(Masks, toy weapons, accessories, inflatables, and scary costumes ARE NOT PERMITTED in school. Please make sure your child's costume is something they can take on/off independently. Adults will not be able to help with costumes).</p>	<p>Wear pajamas or comfy clothes to school! (No slippers or stuffed animals please).</p> 	<p>Let's represent our school by wearing Relay spirit wear or Relay blue.</p> 	<p>Wear clothes to represent the color of your grade level pod...or wear rainbow!</p>  <p>Kindergarten 1st Grade/Ms. LeHaire 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade/Ms. Folkoff/Ms. Kursch 5th Grade</p>	<p>Wear sports jerseys/clothes to represent your favorite sports team.</p> 

BCPS Transportation Updates

This school year the Office of Transportation is moving toward a communication protocol in which bus changes and delays are posted publicly on the BCPS website, but in the interim, bus changes and delays will be emailed internally to all school-based administrators. The Office of Transportation will strive to provide this communication to schools no later than 7:05 AM for AM trips and 1:55 PM for PM trips. When Relay receives this information, SchoolMessenger will be used to send email and text message notifications to parents and families when buses are noted to be 30 minutes or more later than usual.



If a school, parent, community member, etc. has a concern with the location of an assigned bus stop (i.e. safety concern with a student needing to cross a busy road to get to the bus stop) or there is a request to add a new bus stop, the stakeholder can complete this [form](#). *←click for the link*

After the form is completed and submitted, the originator will be contacted regarding the status of the request.

Link to Parent and Student Guide to Transportation: [BCPS Student Guide to Transportation 080922.pdf \(sharpschool.com\)](#)

Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Department of Transportation at 443-809-4321.

School Attendance

It is very important that children start their day at school in a calm and consistent manner so that they can gain maximum benefit from the instructional program. Thanks for your continued cooperation to ensure all students arrive to school on time. Please remember to send notes to school when your child has been absent in order for the missed day(s) to be marked as excused.

Relay Elementary's Bell Schedule:

Opening Bell	8:40am
Late Bell	8:55am
Dismissal Bell	3:40pm

Cell phones

Please remind students of the cell phone policy: If you choose to bring your cell phone to school, it must be off and away during school hours. This includes similar devices, including smart watches. Students are not permitted to make phone calls, text, use social media, take photos or videos, etc. while at school. If parents need to reach students or vice versa, please call into the front office at 443-809-1426.

Dismissal Changes

We understand that life requires changes so please follow the steps below if your child will need to change their normal dismissal plan.

- Send in a note indicating the normal plan, the change, and the reason.
- Your child should give the note to his/her teacher. Children are not allowed to ride a bus other than the one assigned to them. If you are concerned that the note will not find its way to the teacher, please email your child's teacher along with the office staff, Jennifer Szczesniakowski at jszczesniakowski@bcps.org, Stacey Cronin at scronin@bcps.org, and Robin Kodek at rkodek@bcps.org.
- If you have not received a confirmation email by 3:00, please call the main office at 443-809-1426 to ensure your child is dismissed properly. **Please make sure dismissal plans are in place prior to 3:00pm.**
- ***We are unable to make changes to dismissal plans after 3:00, unless there is an emergency.***

School Meals



Breakfast will be offered free of charge to all students this year. Lunch will be available for purchase, and parents must complete the online Free and Reduced Meal application to determine eligibility for meals at no cost:

[MySchoolApps - Getting Started](#)

*Please note that we will no longer include the lunch menu with the newsletter because BCPS has moved to only publishing two weeks of meals at a time. Please visit the website if you are interested in viewing the lunch menu options: [Menus | Baltimore County Public Schools \(nutrislice.com\)](#)

Safe and Healthy Environment

Please remember to be safe and patient in the school parking lot, especially during arrival and dismissal. If you are dropping students off, please utilize the car rider line to do so safely. If walking, please access the crosswalks and be attentive and careful when crossing. Drivers – please be courteous to walking students and families.

If you pick up your child(ren) in our car rider line, please feel free to pull into a parking spot if you need additional time to ensure your children are properly secured in your vehicle before pulling off of the parking lot.

We ask that families update all student emergency contacts; anyone who comes to pick up a child MUST be listed on the contact form.

ALL visitors will be asked their reason for visiting and must show ID upon entering the building. Visits to classrooms will be allowed only when scheduled in advance with the teacher.

American Education Week

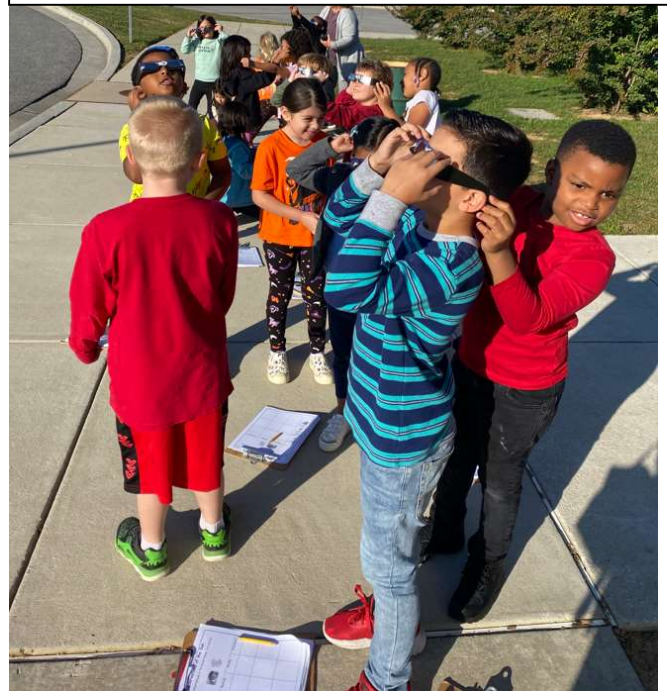
November 14th-18th

In preparation for American Education Week, if you are planning to visit, please try to stop by the office in advance to have your ID scanned into our Raptor system. This will expedite the process of signing you in on your visitation day and maximize the time you are able to spend with your child(ren) in their classroom. The best times to stop by are school days between 9:30 and 2:30. Please call the office with any questions. We are so excited to welcome you!

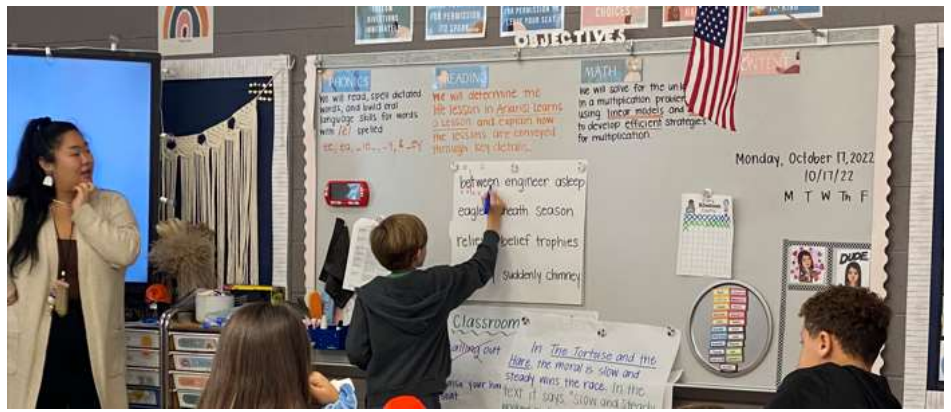


Part of the all-star team who made the Cooper's Kindness video (Ms. Kipp, Ms. A, and Mr. Jeff) – ask your children about it!

1st Graders Helping Each Other Learn About the Sun



Arbutus Middle Instrumental Music Ensembles came to Relay to perform for our 4th and 5th graders to spark their interest.



Where to find Information

Updates and information will be shared out regularly by teachers, and by administration via our SchoolMessenger tool as needed, which may include text, email, and/or phone calls. Contact the front office if you need to update any of your contact information to ensure you receive this information.

School Website:

<https://relays.bcps.org>

BCPS Website:

www.bcps.org

Relay Elementary Main Office
443-809-1426

Twitter:

@BaltCoPS

@Relay_BCPS

@LisaGraceRelay

BCPS Transportation Department

Transportation_Contact_Us@bcps.org

443-809-4321

ALL ABOARD THE RELAY EXPRESS



Attachments Included with this Newsletter:

- American Education Week flyer



Relay Elementary School



Welcomes you to American Education Week!

We are so excited to be able to open our doors again and invite you in to see all the amazing things our students are doing in school every day. We do ask that only grown-ups attend, so that we aren't disrupting instruction that will be occurring.

Please complete and return this form so we can be prepared for your visit.

**If you have not had your ID scanned into our Raptor system for visitors since prior to 2022, we encourage you to stop by the office before November 14th to expedite the process on your visitation day.*

Monday, November 14 th	Tuesday, November 15 th	Wednesday, November 16 th	Thursday, November 17 th	Friday, November 18 th
Kindergarten 9:30-11:00 Morning Pre-K 9:30-10:30 Afternoon Pre-K 1:30-2:30	1st Grade & Ms. LeMaire 9:30-11:00	2nd Grade 9:30-11:00	3rd Grade & Ms. Kursch 9:30-11:00	4th Grade & Ms. Folkoff 9:30-11:00 5th Grade & Ms. Folkoff 12:40-1:30 Ballroom Dance Showcase (gym), followed by classroom visits

Student: _____ Grade: _____

Who will be attending: _____

What day will you be attending: _____

What teacher(s) will you be visiting: _____