



Relay Elementary School News



Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar This Month - December 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1 PTA Meeting at 6:15 in the library	2	3
4	5	6 "A Cozy Night of Reading" at Relay 6:00-7:30	7	8	9	10
11	12 PTA Holiday Shop 4:30-6:30	13 5th grade Winter Concert 6:00 PTA Holiday Shop special concert hours	14 PTA Holiday Shop 4:30-6:30	15 PTA Holiday Shop 4:30-6:30	16 PTA Holiday Shop 4:30-6:30	17
18	19	20	21	22 Half Day - Dismissal begins at 12:40	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Winter Break - Schools Closed December 23rd - January 2nd Schools reopen January 3rd						

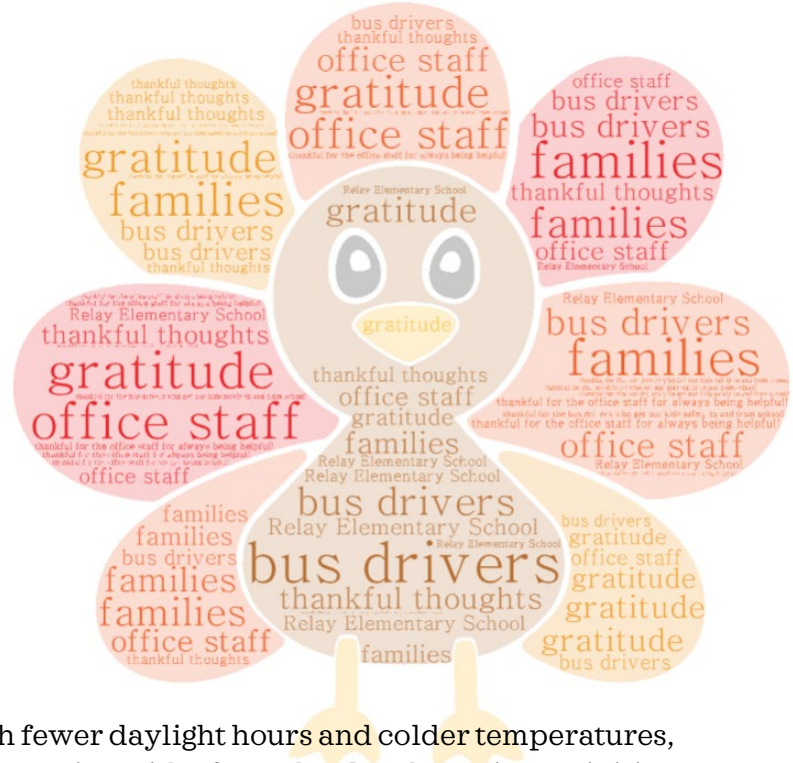
Looking Ahead to Next Month - January 2023:

January 16 th	Schools Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 17 th	Half Day - End of Marking Period 2; Dismissal at 12:40
January 23 rd	Schools Closed for Students - Staff PD Day
January 25 th	2 nd Quarter Report Cards published in FOCUS

Principal's Message

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." —Oprah Winfrey

Thank you for sharing your gratitude messages last month. Here is what you shared→



As we head into the winter months with fewer daylight hours and colder temperatures, families may find the need to get more creative with after school and evening activities to keep children entertained. Books and reading can be a great source of fun! We are looking forward to spending the evening with so many of you on December 6th for "A Cozy Night of Reading," where students and families will be able to engage in a wide variety of family friendly reading activities, and may even get to choose a free book to take home!

I am also including a resource from ReadBrightly.com at the end of this newsletter, which suggests an array of ideas that you can try at home. One of my favorites on the list is: Read a book about a holiday you don't celebrate at home. I have learned so much over the years about holidays around the world, much of which has come from students and families who have been willing to share about their unique and personal holiday celebrations. Learning about cultures different from our own is a great way for children to open their minds, broaden their perspectives, and develop appreciation and respect for others.

******Does your family have a special way of celebrating a winter holiday that you would like to share with our Relay school family? Send your stories and photographs to me by email at lgrace3@bcps.org and your family could be featured in our January newsletter!***

Thank you so much for the time you have invested to partner with your Relay school family. As always, we are so grateful to you, our Relay community, for committing 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.

From Your
♥ Devoted
Principal,
Lisa Grace



Safe and Healthy Environment

Cold Weather

The weather has started changing – the days are shorter and the air is much colder outside! Please send students to school in layers, and remember to provide them with coats and any other winter gear to keep them warm for outdoor recess, arrival, and dismissal.

Arrival/Dismissal Safety

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.

Visitors and Contact Information

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.

***Attached at the end of this newsletter: Student Directory Form** – *You are welcome to complete and return to the office at school to ensure your child's information is up-to-date.*

Bathrooms Breaks

In order to maximize instructional minutes, we are in the process of reviewing our bathroom break practices at school. For example, some classes/grade levels may incorporate a sign out log in the classrooms for students to take a break as needed instead of spending time on a full class bathroom break. More specific information will be shared by teachers to keep you informed if and when procedures are modified.

American Education Week Recap

November 14th-18th

Students and families enjoyed sharing learning experiences together at school during American Education Week. It was so much fun welcoming parents and families to school to observe and even participate in learning activities with their students.





Our school librarian, Ms. Wymer, helped to make the week extra special by hosting the Fall Scholastic bookfair. We are so grateful to parents and families who supported this fundraiser. Money raised will be used to purchase books for our book vending machine and to enhance the collection of books available for students to check out from the school library.

Our PE teacher, Ms. Sengebusch, collaborated with a ballroom dancing coach throughout the week to provide 5th graders with a unique opportunity to learn about techniques and history of ballroom dances. An extra special interactive performance was offered for visiting parents and families at the end of the week. Great job students and family members!



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.***

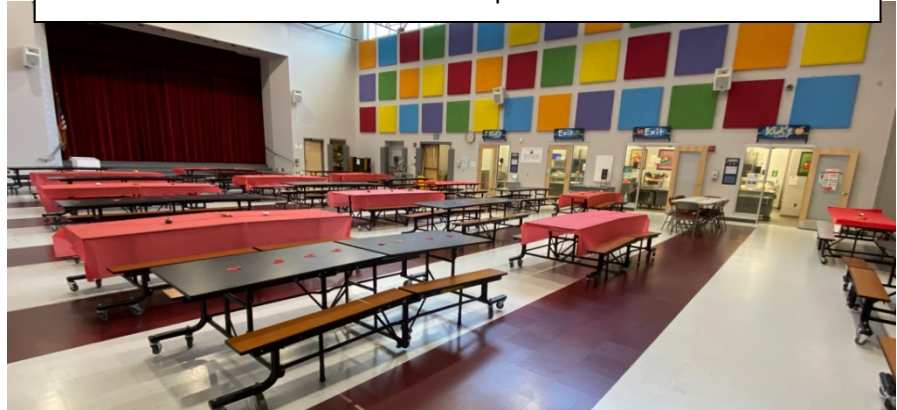
School Meals

*Would you like to be more involved with your student's spending in the cafeteria? Would you like to pay off your negative balance and prevent future ones? Sign up for www.MySchoolBucks.com! However, you can take advantage of all these features, and fund your account for **free**, with cash or a check at your student's school.*

It is important to note: New federal regulations that went into effect this year are associated with the Anti-Lunch Shaming Act. All students receive two full meals per day and continue to accumulate meal debt, when they do not bring money to pay for their meal; breakfast remains free to all students at Relay Elementary this year, but lunch is only free to those who have qualified by completing and submitting an application: [MySchoolApps - Getting Started](#)



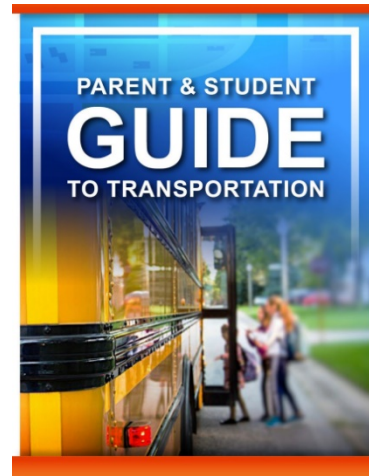
Our Executive Director, Dr. Morrow, shared a meal with students on November 10th when the Cafeteria served Thanksgiving Dinner. We decorated the tables to make it special and fun for students.



*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 \(nutrislice.com\)](#)

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.



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:

- Student Directory Information Form
- December Reading Challenge from readbrightly.com
- Free Online Resources for Families to Use to Build Literacy and Number Concepts



**Baltimore County Public School
Elementary School Name**

Annual Student Information Review for School Year 20YY-20YY

Directions: Review this form. If there are changes, indicate them on the form, sign and return to your student's school. There is no need to return the form if there are no changes.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

To change the address, proof of residency is required. Contact your school for more information.

Siblings (attending BCPS)

Name	Relationship	School	Resides with student (yes or no)

Primary Guardian Contact: Contact in the event of a student absence, school closing or other emergency.

Note: All parties that provide telephone numbers may receive calls or text messages from the automated calling system in a school emergency. Message and data rates may apply.

Primary Guardian Name:	Phone Numbers	Home, Work, Cell
Guardian Relationship:		
Resides with Student: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Address:		
City, State, Zip Code:		
Email: Note: This is the email address that will be used to access BCPS One. Visit https://bcpsone.bcps.org to create a parent account.		
If you would like non-emergency notifications to be sent to a different number, please specify below: Non-Emergency Phone Number: <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell		
When receiving written communication, do you need it in a language other than English? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What language:		
When receiving oral communication, do you need it in a language other than English? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What language:		
Parents/Guardians should submit opt-out preferences for students in BCPS One through September 30 th by logging into BCPS One (https://bcpsone.bcps.org/) and navigating to the Student Information tile. To change opt-out preferences after September 30 th , contact your student's school.		

Secondary Guardian Contact: Contact to be called if primary guardian contact cannot be reached.

Secondary Guardian Name:	Phone Numbers	Home, Work, Cell
Guardian Relationship:		
Resides with Student: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Address:		
City, State, Zip Code:		
Email: Note: This is the email address that will be used to access BCPS One. Visit https://bcpsone.bcps.org to create a parent account.		
When receiving written communication, do you need it in a language other than English? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What language:		
When receiving oral communication, do you need it in a language other than English? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What language:		

Student First Name _____ Student Last Name _____

In case of an incident or serious illness, school staff will contact a parent/guardian. In the event parents/guardians cannot be reached, please list people that may be contacted to pick up your student if necessary. If a parent/guardian or additional contact cannot be reached in a medical emergency, school staff will contact the child's physician/dentist listed on the health form. School staff may also make necessary arrangements, including calling an ambulance and transporting your student to the hospital. **NOTE: All early dismissals must be approved by a parent/guardian in writing.**

Additional Contacts: People to whom student can be released from school.

Name	Relationship	Telephone	Email

In the event only School Name closes early due to an unexpected emergency, who is responsible for the student when released from school?

Name	Relationship	Telephone	Email

The student will (check one): ☐ Walk to the contact's address ☐ Be picked up from school ☐ Ride assigned school bus

Upon notification by school staff, I agree to send my child home by taxicab if necessary. I also agree to be responsible for calling the cab and for payment of the cab. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does the student have a parent/guardian on full-time duty in the active military services of the United States or on full-time National Guard duty? ☐ Yes ☐ No

BCPS One View Only Access: View only access to BCPS One allows a user to view student information such as attendance and report cards, as well as access the Learning Management System. **To grant view only access to people other than parents/legal guardians, list their information below and check by their name to APPROVE.** People that have previously been granted view only access by a parent/guardian will be listed below. Visit <https://bcpsone.bcps.org> to create an account.

Name	Relationship	Email Address	Check here to APPROVE BCPS One View Only Access	Check here to REMOVE BCPS One View Only Access
John Doe	Step-Father	jdoo@gmail.com	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
			<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
			<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

By law, if parents are legally separated or divorced, each parent has equal rights to the custody of the child, UNLESS a parent has a court order that indicates otherwise. The school MUST HAVE A COPY OF THE CURRENT COURT ORDER on file.

☐ I have provided the school with legal papers for the student.

NOTE: Legal papers include custody papers, protective and/or peace orders, and other court orders.

I certify all information on this form is correct and up-to-date.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Walking in a Bookish Wonderland: A December Reading Challenge for Kids

- ☐ Read a book about a winter sport.
- ☐ Ask a Librarian: Visit your local library and ask a librarian, “What are some of your favorite books published this year for readers my age?” Then check one out!
- ☐ Read a book about a holiday you don’t celebrate at home.
- ☐ Celebrate National Short Story Day, December 21, by exploring an anthology or collection of short stories and using it as inspiration to write your own short story.
- ☐ Try reading a book aloud to the tune of your favorite winter song, such as “Jingle Bells” or “Winter Wonderland.”
- ☐ Think ahead: What’s something you want to learn more about in the New Year? Read a book on that topic to get a jump start!
- ☐ Read a book while wrapped in a favorite blanket. Add a cup of hot cocoa if you’d like.
- ☐ Think about all the books you’ve read this year and choose your favorite. Flip through it one more time and ask yourself, “What made it feel special?”
- ☐ Read a book by an author who has a first or last name that starts with the same letter as yours.
- ☐ Gather up old books you no longer read and donate them to those in need.





Free Online Resources for Families to Use to Build Literacy and Number Concepts

Research from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that children whose families help their children at home learn at a far better rate than those children that do not. Below are some ways you can practice with your child at home, as well as some free websites that include games your child will love to play.

How can I help my child without using technology?

1. Read to and with children.
2. Teach the alphabet and the sounds of letters.
3. Balance learning with fun.
4. Label items in the house.
5. Consult a reading specialist if needed.
6. Rhyme and sing songs, focusing on the sounds of the word.
7. Build vocabulary by having a conversation.
8. Ask questions about stories read by or to the child. This is valuable for reading comprehension.

In addition to the free resources on Schoology, Digital Content, BCPS Apps, First in Math, and Legends of Learning, there are several online games your child will love to play and won't even realize they're learning.

<https://www.ixl.com/> **Free or Subscription**

Click on the "Learning" tab. This will take you to thousands of free games and activities for all subjects. You can join and pay \$9.95/mo., but it is not necessary in order to enjoy the games and activities.

www.turtlediary.com **Basic is free / Subscription for Ad-Free**

Fun online games, videos, experiments, puzzles, coloring sheets, and more!

<http://www.roomrecess.com/> **Free**

Free learning games that are fun and were created by an elementary school teacher.

<https://www.uen.org/k-2interactives/reading.shtml> **Free**

A site that includes interactive texts and games about a variety of topics.

<https://www.roythezebra.com/> **Free**

Includes reading games, guided reading stories, songs, and worksheets.

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/> **Free**

Covers **everything** from **letters** and **sounds** to reading **full sentences**.

Computer version is **100% free**.

<https://eduplace.com/tales> **Free**

Kids can create their own wacky tales by entering phrases.

<https://www.storylineonline.net/> Free

Streaming videos of members of the Screen Actors Guild Foundation reading children's books.

<https://sites.google.com/site/gameonlearning/la-middle-school-games> Free

Early middle school games that teach and enhance writing skills.

ESL Specific Sites

<http://www.eslgamesworld.com/> Free

We provide a variety of interactive games and exercises for total ESL fun. Our free ESL fun games here include: Snakes and Ladders, Hangman, Spelling games, Wheel of Fortune, TV Games (Betting Game), Mazes, Memory Games, Matching exercises, Sequencing exercises, Picture Quizzes and more. Follow the links below.

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il/english-language-games/> Free

This series of vocabulary and games runs the gamut from elementary to high school levels of proficiency. Each is recommended for both native speakers as well as students learning English as a second or third (or more) language.

<http://www.manythings.org/vocabulary/> Free

Adult ESL and EFL learners sharpen their skills through the usual (but effective!) word scrambles, hangman, and other challenges frequently wielded in the classroom.

<https://www.englishclub.com/esl-games/> Free

Thousands of online crossword puzzles, matching pairs, jumbled words, hangman games and many, many more. You can play all these games online, on any device—from phone to desktop. Enjoy these games and make progress in English!

<https://www.seaofknowledge.org/sight-words-for-esl-students/> Free

This site includes 10 fun and easy activities you can make at home to teach sight words for ESL students.

SUBSCRIPTION ONLY SITES PERSONALLY CREATED FOR YOUR CHILD

https://www.abcmouse.com/abt/homepage?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIxN3Q_J7v5QIVA4iGCh0GXwUqEAAYASAAEgK69_D_BwE

Subscription only

You can try the site for free for 30 days. If you like it, you will pay \$9.95/mo. and can cancel at any time. This site is for age 3 through 2nd grade children. It includes games and activities for all subjects. There is also a way for you to track how your child is doing on the games and activities.

<https://www.adaptedmind.com/index.php> Subscription only

Personalized tutor-like games in all subject areas. 30 days free, then \$9.95/mo.

<https://www.starfall.com/h/> Free Resources – other options are \$35 and is tax deductible

Site includes games and activities for Math, Reading, Music, and Seasonal.