



PBMS Newsletter December, 1st 2009



December 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Franklin's Restaurant Night	2 Live Animal Show	3	4 Tea with Staff 8:30am – 9:30am Pizza Day
7	8 Vision & Hearing	9	10	11 Pajama Day Pizza Day
14 Hanukkah Assembly	15	16 Adopt A Family Gifts Due	17 Pizza Day	18 11:45 Dismissal No After Care Holiday Gathering 5:30pm
23 School Closed	24 School Closed	23 School Closed	24 School & Office Closed	25 School & Office Closed
28 School Closed	29 School Closed	30 School Closed	31 School & Office Closed	1 (January) School & Office Closed

~ Maria Montessori Quote

“The things he sees are not just remembered; they form a part of his soul.”

Franklin's Dinner Night – Tuesday, December 1st

Don't forget to come out for some fun, good food and beverages, and some shopping at Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery and General Store on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Be sure to give receipts from lunch, dinner, carry-out, or the store to the host or hostess to add to the fundraiser, and Franklin's will give 20% of the total purchases to our school!

Tea with Staff – Friday, December 4th

PBMS will be hosting Tea with Staff on *Friday, December 4th* from 8:30am to 9:30am. We invite all parents to join us for breakfast. This is a great opportunity to come and mingle with the PBMS staff. Please RSVP to the school office by Thursday, December 3rd.

Vision & Hearing – Tuesday, December 8th

On *Tuesday, December 8th*, Maryland Vision and Hearing will be coming to our school. Screening will automatically be done, free of charge, for all students age 3, in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 4. No paperwork will be necessary for these students.

A form will be sent home on Wednesday, December 2nd for all other students and must be returned by Monday, December 7th if you want your child to be tested.

No testing will be done on students under age 3.

Pajama Day – Friday, December 11th

On *Friday, December 11th*, your child can roll out of bed, put their shoes on and head over to school in their pajamas. Any student who wishes may participate in this fun day.

11:45 Dismissal – Friday, December 18th

Friday, December 18th, will be an 11:45 dismissal. There will be no After Care.

Holiday Gathering – Friday, December 18th

On *Friday, December 18th* we invite all our families to join us at the school from 5:30pm to 7:30pm to share in food, music and fun activities. Let's all come together to celebrate the end of another great year and the beginning of a new one. This will be a pot luck dinner. More information to come.

School & Office Closed – Monday, December 21st – Friday, January 1st

The school will be closed for winter break from *Monday, December 21st through Friday, January 1st*. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4th. We wish all our families a Happy New Year!

Adopt A Family

This year we are pleased to announce that PBMS has adopted a family for the holidays. The House of Ruth has sent us a wish list for the members of our adoptive family. This list will be posted in the front entrance of the school. All gifts must be **new** and **unwrapped**. All gifts must be brought to the school by Wednesday, December 16th. We are looking for a volunteer to deliver the gifts to the House of Ruth administrative offices on Saturday, December 19th between 10:00am – 1:00pm.

PBMS Inclement Weather Procedures

PBMS is registered on Schoolsout.com. This service will notify families in the event of weather related school closings. Follow these steps to sign up and receive free e-mail notification.

1. Go to www.schoolsout.com.
2. Click on the "sign up" square.
3. Look to the right of the screen under "Price" and select the option that says, "Click here".
4. Choose our school under the Maryland heading.
5. Enter your e-mail address and click on the "subscribe me" square.
6. You will be sent a verification e-mail, which you must reply to in order to complete the registration Process.

This free service can help complement the messages from the other media you use. Unlike other media, the Schools Out message comes to you directly and you do not have to wait to find out or go looking.

Schoolsout.com also offers the option of sending a text message to your cell phone for a fee of \$19.95 per year. If you prefer to register for this option, please follow the on-line directions.

If you previously registered to receive free email alerts (**School's Out Basic service**), you do not need to register each year.

If you signed up for paid cell phone alerts (**School's Out Plus service**), this is a yearly paid service with an annual fee and you do need to re-register when your subscription expires.

PBMS SNOW AND INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- We follow Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) inclement weather policy.
- Late opening or early closing information for Prince George's County public schools is available on the internet (www.pgcps.org), local radio and television stations.
- If PGCPS opens 2 hours late, our opening time will be 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. and there will be no ½-day Toddler or Primary session.
- If PGCPS closes 2 hours early, our closing time will be 12:45 – 1:00 p.m.
- There will be no Before Care on days with late openings due to inclement weather.
- There will be no After Care on days with early dismissals due to inclement weather.

~ Maria Montessori Quote

“The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.”



Primary Room 4 & Toddler Class ~ Ms. Joan

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving! This is such a special time of year! It gives us an opportunity to step back from our busy schedules, and take stock of all our good fortune. The children came back in great spirit, full of enthusiasm, brimming with laughter, and bright smiles!

We left for the holidays full of knowledge about vertebrates and its first group – mammals. From the many “growls” and monkey noises I hear, enjoyment of science is evident! It was amazing to see our students examine their own backbones to get the idea of what a backbone is. They would trace the backs of some of the plastic mammals in the classroom and point out their “backbone.” Dexterity in pouring has increased a lot! The benefits from the Practical Life exercises can be seen throughout the classroom. Walking in the classroom is now a regular way of getting around the room. Focus on work is evident by the look of concentration on the students faces as they are doing the exercise.

For December, we will have new lessons on Arctic animals, and on the holidays coming up – Hanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. We will touch on as many of the holidays as we can so the children can experience different cultures. In Geography, we are moving onto land and water forms, and in Science, we are getting ready for a study on insects. At some point in the near future, we will house an ant farm, as well as a butterfly home. In Art, we will continue painting for self-expression, and, also to further strengthen those pincer muscles. Language is moving along well. The children have gained many new

words and are increasingly expressing themselves. A new favorite activity for them is sharing stories about what they've done or what they like best at circle time. This has been a great opportunity for more grace and courtesy lessons as they practice taking turns talking to me, and raising their hands when they have something to share. Their progress is remarkable! This is not an easy task for excited children! They are counting more now, and can tell me which date comes next on the calendar.

As we get closer to the winter break, our class wants to take this time to wish you a very warm and wonderful holiday!

Primary Room 2/3 Class ~ Mrs. Singh

“The child is truly a miraculous being, and this should be felt deeply by the educator.”

~ **Maria Montessori Quote**

November ended with a Grand Feast for Thanksgiving. We read the story “Stone Soup,” and the children learned about giving and sharing. We dressed up as Pilgrims and made yummy Stone Soup with each child bringing a vegetable and a piece of fruit from home for the feast. This was a great science lesson too! The children were able to learn what a fruit and what a vegetable are!

In Geography, we continued our study of North America, and studied the different countries, the food and animals in it. We looked at the atlas to see the Central American countries. We also learned about animals of autumn.

In Math, we are working with our numbers and colored beads and in Language, we are working on our sounds and classification activities.

The children made quesadillas and turkey shaped sandwiches for snack this month. They also tasted an avocado!

We did lots of fun Thanksgiving projects and read many stories about the Pilgrims and Indians. The children had lessons on table etiquette, which came very handy during the feast.

The kindergarteners made booklets on Thanksgiving and parts of a mammal and parts of a turkey. Their handwriting is coming along really well. We are working very hard on our reading and doing a great job of it! In Math, we're working on odd and even, the hundred board and decimal addition and some are even working on the multiplication bead board. We are really enjoying having the Kindergarteners in our classroom.

In December, we will be learning about Arctic Regions, polar region animals, winter holiday projects and helping others.

Lower Elementary Class ~ Ms. Verma

As parents and staff at PBMS prepared to send donations to the troops overseas, the Elementary children shared in the contribution by writing beautiful, touching letters to the soldiers and expressing gratitude for their altruistic deeds. This involved a discussion on letter writing. The outcome was truly amazing.

Another main event that kept the children busy and excited was the Thanksgiving feast and celebration. The Lower Elementary group attended as Pilgrims. We prepared green beans and corn bread for the feast and decorated the classroom with pictures of turkeys. We made Pilgrim hats and wore them for the main event. The decorum during the main event will live in our memories for years to come.

Math, language arts and social studies revolved around Thanksgiving as we discussed how the Pilgrims came from Europe and settled in America.

The Lower Elementary children read and wrote sight words and will practice these words on an ongoing basis. They also learned to tell the time. Roman numerals and different kinds of graphs have been introduced. The calendar for November has been completed. The students have been working on word problems related to measurement, money and time.

We will talk about the history of numerals, the history of the Quarter coin in America and some interesting facts about cents. The children will also see the Infinity Street of numbers. The function of adjectives in sentences will be introduced besides synonyms and antonyms. They will explore layers of the atmosphere, landforms, the states and capitals of USA.

Upper Elementary Class ~ Mrs. Grover

The season after Halloween is dominated by celebrations of food, many gatherings and lots of cooking lessons as well as grace and courtesy for our students at PBMS!!

While we have been busy with squaring with the short chain material and cubing with our binomial square, we have worked diligently at word problems, fractions, measurements, factors and multiples with the Peg Board. Decimals, the number line and negative integers have occupied our interests too.

Language has involved many lessons on sentence formation, paragraph writing, poetry written in the Asian style, editing, peer reviewing, graphic organizers and brainstorming etc. as we hone our writing skills and styles. Synonyms, verbs, similes, metaphors and roots of words have been very well used too. Our weekly Reading Club books, readers, social studies books, using the Thesaurus and the dictionary as well as other reading material consolidates reading skills.

Cultural studies is very popular with latitude and longitude studies of the cities in Asia. Studying countries of Asia, cooking Asian-style food, water painting the Asian way, writing poetry in the Asian meters, and portrait/landscape paintings are all ways of immersing ourselves in Asian studies. We also studied Thanksgiving in its historical and its current modern context, and we talked about perceptions and accuracy of historical stories. Conducting computer-generated research on Native Americans gave us a well rounded perspective.

Our community effort, after the successful Holiday Express 2009, is Adopt a Family for the coming holiday season. We have listed the items needed for the family we adopted from the House of Ruth, in Baltimore. Please do as much as you can to help make this another successful community event. We believe that it is in giving that we receive.

There are many events planned for this time of the year, please do come to all, or as many as you possibly can. In a fabulous school community like ours, we need to show our children a fine example of caring and solidarity.