



Middle School Edition

From the Middle School Head....

Over the past two weeks, we have had higher than expected absenteeism due to illness. Just like the doctor ordered, children and adults alike are taking the time needed to recuperate and rest up. As Andy Martire mentioned in his letter dated October 15, the sicknesses have been relatively mild, and most students are returning to school within three to five days.

That being said, some students have missed as much as seven days of school. On Friday, October 23, the Middle School faculty met to discuss how we should handle long term student absences and we came up with the plan detailed below.

All teachers need to bear in mind magnitude of the illness when determining how a student can address

missing work and concepts. Staying home with a cough or slight sore throat is very different from dealing with a fever of 104. As a result, flexibility is key. We do, however, expect that a student will touch base with each teacher upon his or her return to discuss the absence and to collectively come up with a strategy to deal with missing work and missed instruction.

We discussed the following strategies as options for students:

- Allowing a day for every day absent to complete missing assignments.
- Being willing to negate assignments that aren't vital to understanding core principles of the unit.
- Sending tests home to

complete.

- Designating a class note taker who will provide notes to all returning students.
- Send and accept work via email.
- Use the homework page consistently to keep students abreast of both in-class activities and assignments.

Our primary goal is to work with the student and family to ensure that core concepts are mastered without adding undue stress and anxiety. Please call or email us if your child is feeling overwhelmed in any way. And remember, wash those hands and stay healthy!

Best,

Upcoming Events:

☐ Friday, October 30
12:15 dismissal (and Black and Orange Day)

☐ Thursday, November 5
Sixth Grade field trip to the Da Vinci exhibit (MD Science Center)

☐ Friday, November 6
No School for students (Parent Teacher Conferences)

☐ Monday, November 9
No School (AIMS Day for Faculty)

☐ Tuesday, November 10
Parent Education Evening (Mandatory for all Seventh Grade parents)

☐ Tuesday, November 17
8:00-9:30 A.M. Used Uniform Sale

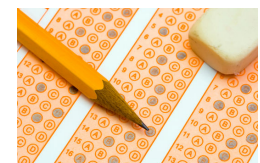
Important Announcements...

Parent Education Evening—On Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 P.M. in the Atrium, Michelle Kriebel, a national and local consultant and speaker, will facilitate a discussion of alcohol use, brain development, and peer pressure in the Middle School years. As Andy mentioned at Parents' Night, this is a **mandatory evening for Seventh grade parents**.

We require that at least one parent attend the presentation. Ms. Kriebel will be meeting with Seventh and Eighth Grade students for several sessions in early December.

Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University (CTY) - Many of our students qualify to take the CTY test, allowing them to enroll in many enrichment classes offered by Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. If you are interested in finding out how a child qualifies and/or if your child has qualified, please contact Susie Conkling at 410-243-6054 ext. 101. If you want to learn more about CTY, please check out their website at <http://www.cty.jhu.edu/>

ERB Scores—We have received the ERB scores from April 2009. If you would like to go over your child's scores, please contact Kelly Herry.



News from the Classrooms...

Eighteen Sixth and Seventh Grade students went to Chinquapin Park and planted 46 trees on Wednesday, October 21st as part of their fall Community Outreach program. The trees and expertise were provided by the Herring Run Watershed Association; the students provided all the energy and enthusiasm on a beautiful warm fall day. They found a Brown Snake, a Praying Mantis, and a new appreciation for our city's parks and trees.



On Monday, October 26, we whisked away the Eighth Grade students on a surprise field trip yesterday for a Spirit Day! With the help from two generous Calvert parents, Janet-Marie Smith and Ed Burchell, John McLaughlin planned a fun-filled day for the kids. We have posted a slideshow of pictures taken from the day, which can be viewed on the Eighth Grade blog – www.calvertschool.org/blogs

News from our Technology Department...

Students continue to use technology every day in their classes. Teachers work hard to find exciting and innovative ways to integrate technology in their lessons and allow students to use technology to complete assignments and projects. Many of the projects will be in portfolios this quarter, and some are posted on various teacher blogs if you'd like to see more visit the blogs at: www.calvertschool.org/blogs.

Below are just some of the examples that are taking place within Calvert's Middle School...

Fifth Grade students, using a Powerpoint template, created a continent, complete with map key, title, compass rose, latitude and longitude, and hyperlinks.

Sixth Grade Photoshop class completed a design your own tennis shoes and text in pictures projects utilizing layers, fills, and patterns in Adobe Photoshop.

Seventh Grade Digital Photography students

created a juxtaposition picture; putting themselves in unusual situations.

Eighth Grade Digital Arts class completed two stop action animation videos with Windows MovieMaker using inanimate objects and whiteboard drawings.

Internet and the Honor Code...

Children start using the Internet very early these days. The debate between pros and cons of Internet usage could be argued all day long, but the truth is preteens and teens can't get enough. In fact, at any given minute during a normal day, over one billion people can be on the Internet. So, how can we be aware of what our children are doing, help them navigate the internet with honor and integrity, and keep them safe?

As parents and educators, we have to decide how much time is spent and where that time is spent depending on their developmental stage. An article and handout is on the Calvert's Technology blog to help parents make the decisions that are best for them. However, whether students are accessing the Internet at Calvert or at home, we try to

encourage them to keep a few pieces of information in mind to make healthy and educated choices while "surfing the net."

All of the new information media, social networking, and electronic communication of our world necessitates that we as a school teach our students how to navigate through the temptations of the Internet. Three questions will help safely guide them: Is it safe? Is it honest? Is it kind?

If the answer to any of these three questions is "no," students need to reexamine their decision to interact with, use, or pass on that information. Honest, safe, and kind are different ways of phrasing the ideas in our

Honor Code at school, but they are great questions for you to ask at home as well.

We hope you will take some time at home to determine your family's guidelines for the Internet and what role the three important questions above can play at home to help children navigate the web.



News from the Foreign Language Teachers...

We have been celebrating International Week for the past four years. During International Week we devise activities that expose our students to different cultures around the world. In the past, these activities have included food, music, dance, and other cultural tidbits. This year we would like to expand this exposure by hosting workshops where our students can experience several cultures hands-on. We would like your assistance to achieve this objective. Our Calvert community is composed of many cultures, so what better resource than you, our families. Our goal is to have four to

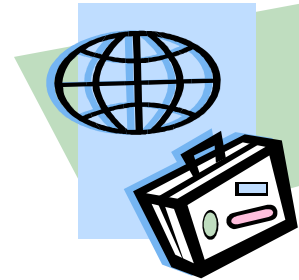
five mini-workshops going on Monday through Thursday during Study Hall (30 minutes, from 2:35 to 3:05). We welcome parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and friends of families. During your workshop you could talk about your country of origin, share a craft, your alphabet, music, dance – your choice. The students will be assigned a different workshop each day, so they will have the opportunity to learn about at least four different cultures.

International Week this year will take place during the week of February 22 to 26, 2010. If you would like to help, please contact Ms. Marlowe at :

dmarlowe@calvertschool.org. and let her know about the mini-workshop you would like to run. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

The Foreign Language Team



From the Middle School Counselor....

Ways to Keep Your Children Stress-Free

Sometimes your children may be stressed out from a problem with friends, too much homework, or an overly busy schedule of school and extracurricular activities. Here are some ways to help your children minimize stressors and stay stress-free:

- **Check in with your children.** Be sure to always know what is going on with your children by asking about their day, their friends and their feelings. Don't assume children have nothing to say just because they aren't saying it. Sometimes they just need to be asked. Asking questions and knowing how you can help are the best ways to reduce stress in your children's lives.

- **Cut back on the fun.** Too many extracurricular activities (such as playing an instrument and participating in sports) can overwhelm a child. Kids need time to

relax and do nothing, which can lead to more creativity and less stress.

- **Promote healthy eating and exercise.** For kids, as with adults, proper nutrition and regular exercise can go a long way to feeling more relaxed. Both have been proven to fight stress and boost energy.

- **Create a schedule.** Having a regular, reliable schedule can help a kid feel more organized. Have a family calendar up on the wall where all events are listed so that everybody in the house knows when things are going on. This allows everyone to get prepared in their own way and to not be surprised by events they didn't know about.

- **Take off the pressure.** Kids often feel a lot of stress because of the pressures they feel are put on them by their parents. While it's good to encourage them to do well in school, sports or life,

don't make them feel like you loving them depends on how well they do. Be sure to tell them that it doesn't matter what the outcome is, as long as they are enjoying themselves.

- **Learn to relax.** The benefits of relaxation breathing or zoning out to music are good to learn early on in life. Figuring out what relaxes your children now can help keep them grounded for the inevitable stresses of life later on.

- **Avoid caffeine and sugar.** Too much sugar or caffeine can create anxiety, which can lead to more stress. Try to do limit the amount of these ingredients in your children's diet.

The website is your best source for timely and accurate information-
www.calvertschool.org

Learn more about our Optional Trip to Costa Rica...

Visit <http://casterbridgetours.com/Groups/calvertcosta.htm> to learn more about this exciting educational opportunity!

Middle School Calendar

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Day 6	3 Day 7 End of Fifth-Grade intramurals	4 Day 8 Eighth Grade Shadow Day	5 Day 9 Sixth Grade field trip to Science Center (Da Vinci Exhibit)	6 No classes for students Parent Teacher Conferences	7
8	9 <i>No School (AIMS Day)</i>	10 Day 2 7:00 P.M. Parent Education Evening	11 Day 3 End of Fall Sports!	12 Day 4 Calvert-in-Action Day!	13 Day 5 Sixth Grade potluck (boys)	14
15	16 Day 6 Eighth Grade Shadow Day	17 Day 7 Used Uniform Sale Squash begins	18 Day 8	19 Day 9	20 Day 10	21
22	23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day 3 12:15 Dismissal (No lunch, sports, or after-school)	26 <i>No School</i>	27 <i>No School</i>	28
29	30 Day 6 Basketball begins					

Main number 410-243-6054

For Middle School office, absences, emergencies, call ext. 101

Athletic Hotline (game days, times, cancellations), call ext. 200