

## **February 2018 - Mutual Matters Newsletter**

### **President's Message:**

Happy February everyone!

With all of our days off recently, I hope your children have made time to read and add books to their PTA Reading log. We may not be done with winter yet, but that's not going to keep us from providing some very fun activities that your kids and you will enjoy.

On Friday, February 9, 2018 from 6 pm to 8 pm, we will be hosting our very first Spaghetti Dinner & Dance. This is a FREE, FUN, FAMILY event which is sure to be a great time. We planned a "family date night" event filled with food catered by Mama Lucia's and dancing in the gym. Please wear your Sunday best to this event. Please RSVP at [mutualpta@hotmail.com](mailto:mutualpta@hotmail.com) so that we know how much food to order.

We will be looking to fill some positions on the PTA Executive Board next year. At this time we are looking for a Treasurer and a Secretary. Also, as some of our board members with 5th grade students will be moving on, we will also have committees that need new folks to head them up. We are looking for the following Committee Chairs: Spiritwear, Hospitality and Special Events. Now is a great time to ask yourself—How can I become more involved?

Without our hardworking, dedicated board members, our PTA would not be able to provide all of the many activities to students and their families, as well as support the wonderful staff of our awesome school.

Please contact me at [mutualpta@hotmail.com](mailto:mutualpta@hotmail.com) if you would like to learn more about any of these positions, or would like to volunteer for a position next year. Also, we will be having a meeting on March 14th at 5:30 that you are welcome to attend. Come and see how it all works! We would love to see some new faces! Thank you for your consideration.

Most importantly, we want to send a special THANKS to all of our hardworking and dedicated volunteers who show their love by spending their time helping students & teachers. Some examples include stuffing Tuesday folders and stepping up to help at our PTA events! Your devotion is truly appreciated and it makes such a difference at Mutual! From the bottom of our hearts – THANK YOU!

Hope to see you at our Family Dinner/Dance on February 9th.

Christine Jewett, MES PTA President

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Feb 5**  
PTA Exec. Board Meeting -  
5:30 pm  
**Feb 7**  
All County Band & Strings -  
7 pm @ CHS  
**Feb 9**  
PTA Family Dinner/Dance -  
6-8 pm  
**Feb 12-16**  
Random Acts of Kindness  
Week  
**Feb 15**  
3 Bros. Spirit Night, 5-8 pm

MES Music and Arts Night -  
6:30-8  
**Feb 19**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences -  
School Closed for Students  
**Feb 20**  
SCHOOL OPEN - Make-up  
snow day #1  
**Feb 24**  
Science and Engineering Expo  
**Mar 6**  
2 Hr. Delay for Students  
**Mar 7**  
Spring & Group Pictures  
**Mar 8**  
Technology Night - 6:30-8:00  
**Mar 14**  
PTA Exec. Board Meeting -  
5:30 pm

**Mar 15**  
PTA After School Activity -  
3:35-4:35  
**3 Bros. Spirit Night, 5-8 pm**  
**Mar 20**  
6th Grade Orientation @  
CMS - 6 pm  
**Mar 23**  
VIP Day  
**Mar 28**  
End of MP 3  
Prismatic Magic Assembly -  
9:30-10:15  
**Mar 29**  
2 Hr. Early Dismissal - Make-  
up snow day #2  
**Mar 30 & Apr 2**  
Spring Break - School Closed

## **READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Keep your reading skills strong and earn great incentives from local business sponsors! The 3rd quarter reading logs are due Thursday, March 15th! Our sponsors want you to ENJOY a REWARD for your READING efforts! To print a reading log, go to [www.mutualpta.com](http://www.mutualpta.com), click on programs & reading incentive. Just a friendly reminder, please make sure your child has their name, teacher and grade written on the top of their log.

\*We had 80 readers for the 2nd quarter!!! LET'S READ MUTUAL!!!

Questions, please contact Christina Council at [tinalee26@comcast.net](mailto:tinalee26@comcast.net).

## **Recycling Program**

It's easy to help us earn FREE \$\$ by bringing used toner or ink jet cartridges to Mutual! We can redeem them for Office Depot Rewards points or cash from the Funding Factory program!

Please send your recyclable donation in to the office to help Mutual!

Questions? Contact Kellie Lynch at [pklynch@comcast.net](mailto:pklynch@comcast.net)

## **Making It Count!**

It's easy to support Mutual PTA when shopping at Office Depot! Simply tell the cashier you're supporting MES PTA with your purchase and we'll earn Reward Points!

Questions? Contact Kellie Lynch at [pklynch@comcast.net](mailto:pklynch@comcast.net)

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## **\*\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED\*\***

We do lots of PTA events in Mutual spaces and we're hoping to see NEW volunteer faces! So if you've got extra minutes or perhaps a few hours...Our might would be multiplied with Mustang powers! We appreciate your support! Contact Mary Profitt-Gower at maryprofittgower@gmail.com or check Tuesday folders for volunteer opportunities!

## **Love the Bus!**

Parents – please take time during the month of February to say THANK YOU to your child's school bus driver. They protect and care for our children and drive them safely to school each day.

## **BOX TOPS**

Please submit all box tops by Feb. 16th.

## **SPRING BOGO Book FAIR is COMING!**

Paws for Reading

May 7 - May 11

## **Make-up days/Calendar changes**

- Monday, February 19, 2018 (Presidents Day) becomes a professional development day for staff and a work day for 12-month employees. Schools are closed for students.
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018 becomes a school day for students and staff. (Make-up day #1 for students)
- Wednesday, March 28, 2018 becomes a full day for students and staff. This was originally a two-hour early dismissal day.
- Thursday, March 29, 2018 becomes a school day with a two-hour early dismissal for students and teacher work time. (Make-up day #2 for students)
- Friday, June 8, 2018 becomes a full day for students and staff. This was originally a two-hour early dismissal day.
- Monday, June 11, 2018 becomes a full day for students and staff. (Make-up day #3 for students)
- Tuesday, June 12, 2018 becomes a school day with a two-hour early dismissal for students and teacher work time. (Make-up day #4 for students)

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## **SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

Hello Mustang Families!

Our students have been hard at work since returning from Winter Break. Not even a snow day (or four) can slow us down! From February 12th through February 16th we will be celebrating “Random Acts of Kindness Week” where our students will be encouraged to help and think of others. There will be daily morning announcements as well as a few school-wide activities. Be sure to talk to your child(ren) about kindness and how it can impact others.

To help with the conversation, here are a few ideas for Random Acts of Kindness students can do here at school:

- Offer someone a pencil who does not have one
- Hold the door for others
- Give a compliment
- Invite a new person to play at recess
- Make new friends at lunch

More information on Random Acts of Kindness Week, as well as other topics, will be available on my website! You can either type [www.mescounselorscorner.weebly.com](http://www.mescounselorscorner.weebly.com) into your search bar or click on the “website” button next to my name on the contact page of Mutual’s website.

As always, please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns ([fieldk@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:fieldk@calvertnet.k12.md.us) or 410-535-7704).

Kristin Finegan  
School Counselor

## **SOCIAL WORKER**

Hello from the School Social Worker, Joanne Gay! Thank you for coming out to support our “Building Positive Students” night last month! We are now half way through the school year! I wanted to give some helpful hints on how to praise your children while utilizing the Growth Mindset. Here are some ideas from the [biglifejournal.com](http://biglifejournal.com) :

- \*Great effort! You must have worked really hard.
- \* You really studied for your test and your improvement shows it.
- \* I like the way you tried all kinds of strategies on that math problem until you finally got it.
- \* I love the way you stayed at your desk, you kept your concentration, and you kept on working.
- \* Wow, you really practiced that, and look how you’ve improved.
- \* See, you studied more and your grade on this test is higher.
- \* You tried different strategies and you figured out how to solve the problem.
- \* You stuck to this and now you really understand it.

If you need additional resources or have any questions, please feel free to contact me 443-550-9661 or [gayj@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:gayj@calvertnet.k12.md.us).

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## **Music Notes ~ Dr. Maria Van der Vossen**

General Music: This quarter in music we are thrilled to begin some exciting new programs. The fifth graders will be learning to play ukulele while the fourth graders will explore the harmonica. In third grade students will be learning about music from around the world before reviewing the instrument families. Second graders will learn all about the families of the orchestra while first graders and kindergarten will be exploring the world of musical storytelling.

Chorus: The Mutual Chorus is busy preparing the new selections for our spring performance on Thursday, May 17. We are also proud to be singing the National Anthem at the Blue Crabs baseball game on May 12. Additional details will be coming home in March.

Musical Theater Club: Our Musical Theater Club is hard at work on "Jungle Book Kids". At this point, all performers should have all of their lines and lyrics memorized. It may help to read lines at home with someone else! Our performance will be on May 23rd at Appeal Elementary.

Mutual Music and Arts Festival: This year's annual festival will be held on Thursday, February 15. The year, all of the students in kindergarten, first and second grade are invited to come and perform. In addition, there will be performances by many of our instrumental music students and our Recorder Karate Black belts. Students who take piano lessons are also invited to perform. Student artwork will be on display. The evening will also feature hands-on art projects. Make sure to put the date on your calendar!

## **Band & Strings**

Hello MES Students and Parents,

Here we are, a little over half way through the school year. In the upcoming weeks, we will begin working on our music for the Spring Concert to be held at Calvert High School on May 17. Also in February, we will have our annual Music and Arts night. This event will be held on Thursday, February 15th starting at 6:30 pm at the school. Participation is not required and a letter was given to students who were interested in performing back in January with more information.

For the past month, students have been working on new concepts and techniques to be used in the concert music. This type of work on new concepts can be difficult at times, but quite rewarding.

A way to help would be to keep a practice journal at home right on their music stand. This way, your child can track what they want to accomplish each week. It can be as simple as setting a goal such as being able to play a certain tune rhythmically correct in the next 3 days of practice.

Setting personal goals can help to focus students when working on their instrument. If you have any questions or concerns, my email address is [Fraleyd@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:Fraleyd@calvertnet.k12.md.us).

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### **Physical Education ~ Mrs. Elliott**

2018 has been off to a great start in PE class! We have been busy learning some striking skills in floor hockey and noodle hockey. Students are also learning the skills needed to play the games of badminton and pickleball. Game play will begin the first week in February.

**Students in grades K - 1** are learning the skills with balloons and yarn balls, focusing on striking a moving object.

**Students in grades 1 – 5** will be testing in jump roping during their fitness stations, please encourage jumping at home if possible.

**Students in grades K – 4** have been and will continue participating in a Health curriculum, focusing on nutrition and wellness.

**Grades 4 and 5** will be completing 3rd quarter fitness testing ... please ask your child about the different tests they take and what component of fitness they are working on.

**Students in grades 3 – 5** will be receiving a PE Activity Calendar homework assignment that will be due on March 5, 2018. 25 of the 30 activity squares will need to be completed, dated and signed by a parent/guardian. Thank you for your support with encouraging physical activity outside of the PE classroom.

Please remind your children to wear or bring their sneakers for PE days. If we are out of school for inclement weather, the Elementary A – E calendar schedule does not change. Letter days are set for the school year and remain the same.

### **Media Minute ~ Mrs. Halstead**

Students in grades 1-5 are busy working on research projects to support classroom curriculum. It amazes me what our youngest kids are able to do. Let them show you the resources we are using at school. For K-2, Pebble Go is a fantastic database. Students often explore the site to locate information, but are also given the opportunity to explore for fun as well.

Our older students mainly use World Book Encyclopedia or Encyclopedia Britannica. Both of these are online resources, so information is updated often. Again, students are taught to refer to these sources first when doing research. We know that these are reliable sources that can be trusted.

Often, students just “Google” something when looking up information. The problem with this practice is that students are not proficient in narrowing their search terms, and don’t realize the enormous number of search results they will get. Many of these search results could be inappropriate because the articles are too difficult to read or they are off topic. At school, students are introduced to kid-safe search engines. Check out the MES Media Webpage at [www.mutualmedia.weebly.com](http://www.mutualmedia.weebly.com) so kids can access these databases and sites from home.

Passwords cannot be shared publicly, but email me at [halsteadk@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:halsteadk@calvertnet.k12.md.us) to find out what they are.

### **Mutual Music and Arts Festival**

Thursday, February 15th

6:30-8:00 P.M.

Art Displays

Musical Performances

Hands-On Activities

All Kindergarten, First and Second Graders are invited to perform!

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## ART

**Kindergarten** - Is using torn paper to create a collage owl project. We learned a bunch of facts that make owls so unique from other birds.

**1st grade**– We have been learning all about primary, secondary, warm, and cool colors. We painted a wax resist image of a sun and moon. We also did a couple of science experiments where we found out how to mix different colors.

**2nd grade**– We just wrapped up Oaxacan Animal project. We learned about the Oaxacan culture that comes from Mexico. They use vibrant patterns to decorate wood carvings of animals.

**3rd grade**– Students painted their favorite animal using watercolor. Then we used aboriginal dot paintings to decorate the negative space around our animals.

**4th grade**– We have just started learning how to correctly draw a face for our self-portrait project. We will be designing them inspired by a Brazilian artist named Romero Britto who is a neo-pop artist.

**5th grade**- Is working on their most difficult project this year. We have been learning how to use one-point perspective to create forms. In the next couple of weeks we will be finishing up our cityscapes using vanishing points to show space in our drawings.

Donations are still greatly appreciated of still-life objects (picture frames, fake food items, fabric, blocks, etc. We have an upcoming robot project and would appreciate metal items (soda can tabs, metal gears, etc.) and old cds. I am hoping to create a collaborative mural using plastic caps (water/soda bottles, milk jugs, squeeze lids, marker caps, etc.)

Annual Music and Arts Festival is coming!!!! THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH FROM 6:30-8PM. Come enjoy a free evening of music, dance, art, and a makers space. A piece of artwork will be hung to each student in K-5 grade. Hope to see you there!

## We Acknowledge & APPRECIATE...

**Our Santa Shop volunteers and patrons!** Thanks to our Santa Shop Chair, Ashley Eells, for making this activity such a success for so many students!

**Our Room Parents and teachers** who have coordinated our Fall & Winter classroom celebrations for our students!

**Our many Mutual families** that have taken time to clip out Boxtops and Labels for Education & our Ways & Means co-chairs, Maria Ratliff and Vicki Delehanty, for counting the THOUSANDS sent in so far this year!

**Our Special Events co-chairs**, Kirsten Jabara & Stacy Green for coordinating our Winter Fest, Gingerbread House & many After School events!

**Our Mutual teachers and administrators** who helped in so many ways at our Winter Fest!

**Our Mutual building service staff** for helping in the Winter Fest set up/clean-up efforts! These events could not happen without their dedication!

**Our 2nd Quarter Reading Incentive participants** who took the time complete their logs and our chairperson, Christina Council, for coordinating the distribution of incentives!

**Our dedicated MES fish tank caretaker**, Patty Fraley, for ensuring our fish friends have a healthy tank to swim in this year!

**Our MES Bus Drivers** for getting our students to and from school safely each day. They were honored in the beginning of December with goodie bags and special handwritten thank you notes from each student. They will also be receiving a special thank you gift in February for Valentine's Day!

Dear Mutual Families,

# **February 2018 - Mutual Matters Newsletter**

MES Families,

Unbelievably, we are over half-way through our school year. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report cards were sent home on February 1<sup>st</sup> with all PreK – Grade 5 students. Please make sure you reviewed your child's progress and returned the signed envelope to your child's teacher. We are holding parent conferences on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Even if you have already met with your child's teacher(s), we encourage you to meet again to discuss their progress. Our goal is to meet with 100% of our parents, at least one time. As a reminder, physical activity is very important to us and we will take students out to **recess**, at least for a few minutes, whenever the temperature is above 30 degrees. Please remind your child(ren) to wear hats, gloves and a winter coat with their name inside. Our lost and found is overflowing with unclaimed jackets, sweatshirts and winter coats. Please have your child check for lost items in the cafeteria.

Mother Nature has given us a cold winter and, thus far, we have had four snow days. Two of these days will be made up on dates previously scheduled as non-student days.

**Day 1 - School will be OPEN on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Parent conferences will be held on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Day 2 – School will be open Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and will be a two-hour early dismissal.**

March 28<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of school.

**Day 3 – School will be open Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

June 8<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of school.

**Day 4 - School will be open June 11<sup>th</sup> and will be a two-hour early dismissal.**

Any additional snow days will be added on beginning June 12<sup>th</sup>. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

The 2018-19 school calendar has been approved and is posted on the Calvertnet website. Following Governor Hogan's mandate of school opening after Labor Day, CCPS schools will open for the 18-19 school year on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. **PreK and Kindergarten Orientation and Meet Your Teacher Day** will be Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars!

We had a fantastic evening on January 25<sup>th</sup> for our "Building Positive Students" event. Seven mini-workshops were offered for parents to choose from and they were able to attend three. Our presenters suggested strategies and ideas to help build positive self-esteem, enhance motivation, establish goal setting, manage children's behaviors and more. We received tons of positive feedback and parents were able to offer suggestions for workshops for next year's event. While parents were in their sessions, our students enjoyed positive time together playing board games and doing relays. If you missed it, we will be offering the event again next year! We hope you are planning on attending our fourth annual **Mutual Music and Arts Fest on February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Every student will have a piece of art work on display, In addition, you will be entertained by live performances by our band and string students. Our kindergarten, first and second graders will be singing and everyone can make a special art project to take home. It is going to be another great night at Mutual!

**PARCC assessments** will be administered in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math to students in grades 3, 4 and 5 in May. Each student will have 7 one-hour testing sessions on the computer. The PARCC tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. Students who meet or exceed expectations are on track for the next grade level and, ultimately, for college and careers. The tests include questions that measure children's fundamental skills and knowledge, and require students to think critically, solve problems and support or explain their answers. The test is one of several ways to help parents and teachers understand how well children are learning. A testing schedule will be sent home with each student in April. To learn more about the PARCC test, and to view sample questions and practice tests, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).

As always, please contact me if you have any questions at [housed@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:housed@calvertnet.k12.md.us) or by calling the office at 443-550-9650.

Sincerely, Donna L. House

# **February 2018 - Mutual Matters Newsletter**

Dear Mutual Family,

From CCPS Transportation:

Transportation has a ten minute bus “window” in place. Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the typical arrival time of the bus and may have to wait five minutes after the typical arrival time. A bus may run late for many reasons, including traffic congestion, mechanical failure, or the need to return to a school. The Department of Transportation and bus contractors work diligently to minimize the unavoidable impact of such delays.

In order to provide the community with real-time updates on buses that are running more than ten minutes late, Transportation has created a “Bus Status” link on the Transportation Department website:

<http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/transport/boundaries/busstatus.asp>. After a bus driver or bus contractor notifies Transportation that a bus may be ten minutes or more behind schedule, a Transportation staff member will post the information on the “Bus Status” page. Only delays that exceed ten minutes will be reported on the website. No log in or password is needed to access the site, which is easily accessed through the CCPS app or website.

Transportation has also added several items to the Department page “Safety Items for Parents and Students” at <http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/transport/safety/safetyitems.asp>:

\* Rights and Responsibilities for Parents

Rights and Responsibilities for Students

School Bus Rules – yellow card that must be completed, signed and turned in by every child to the bus driver annually, and also if the student changes buses during the school year.

## **School Bus Safety Video**

Transportation’s goal is to give families and schools the tools they need to have informed conversations with their students about how to be safe on the way to the bus stop, while boarding the bus, riding the bus, unloading the bus, and getting home from the bus stop.

## **Assessments Schedule**

<b>February</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
1-16	Math NST #3	Pre-K, K, 1
1-16	ELA Decoding Survey	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
1-16	Math Comprehension	2, 3, 4, 5

Mrs. Mansfield

## **February 2018 - Mutual Matters Newsletter**

### Nondiscrimination Statement

Calvert County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or genetic information or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Student Services

Director of Human Resources

443-550-8000

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office of Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <http://ocrcas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.

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### Anti-sexual, Anti-racial and Anti-disability Harassment Statement

Discrimination can manifest itself in behaviors such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation of individuals.

Calvert County Public Schools does not tolerate any form of harassment including, but not limited to, sexual, racial, or disability. Any individual (student, employee, or community member) who believes that he or she has been subjected to any form of harassment is encouraged to report the allegation of harassment. Students, parents and community members may report allegations of harassment to:

Ms. Kimberly Roof

Director of Student Services

Calvert County Public Schools

1305 Dares Beach Road

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Employees may report allegations of harassment to:

Ms. Laveeta Hutchins

Director of Human Resources

Calvert County Public Schools

1305 Dares Beach Road

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Calvert County Public Schools is committed to conducting a prompt investigation for any allegation of harassment.

If harassment has occurred, the individual will be disciplined promptly. Disciplinary actions for students found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary actions for employees found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or termination.

Calvert County Public Schools encourages all students, parents, employees, and community members to work together to prevent any form of harassment.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office of Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <http://ocrcas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.