

The Cub's Tale

October, 2016 Volume 4 Issue 1 Coming Events

- October 4 Celebration of the Arts
- October 6 Anti Bullying Assembly
- October 6 Student Picture Day
Preschool Students
- October 7 Student Picture Day
Kindergarten - 3rd Grade
- October 10 Columbus Day
School Closed
- October 11 Flu Shots
5:00 - 7:30
CSS Gym
- October 11 & 12 Gloucester City Fire
Department visits PreK
- October 11 CSS PTO
Candy Bingo
6:00 - 8:00
- October 14 Spirit day
Career Day
- October 17 Delayed Opening
Staff Development
Students arrival
delayed by 2 hours**
- October 18 PreK 3
Family Involvement
Fall Festival
- October 19 PreK 4
Family Involvement
Fall Festival
- October 17 PreK 4
Family Involvement
Fall Festival
- October 20 Kindergarten visits
GC Fire Department
- October 21 Kindergarten
Family Involvement
VIP Day
- October 28 PTO
Fund Raiser Delivery
- October 31 Halloween Parade

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another school year. The administrative team, and office staff have spent the summer preparing for and planning a year filled with activities as well as updating curriculum. A few changes have been made with regard to schedules and grading. This year, Cold Springs school will be following a trimester grading schedule. This means that instead of four grading periods, there will now be three. As in the past, you will continue to receive mid-marking period reports as well as end of the marking period reports. Conferences will occur prior to the end of each marking period so that you are made aware of any issues or concerns before a final report card is forwarded home. This provides everyone with time to develop a plan and work to assist your child. You may find dates for mid marking period, end of marking period and conferences on the district calendar found on the school web page.



We experienced a strong turnout for both of our Back-to-School nights. Once again a training session was offered to parents on accessing the MMS parent portal. Several vendors were present including our PTO. It is never too late to sign up and offer assistance on any of the upcoming fundraising events. The Fall fundraiser, Cherrydale Farms, will be over on October 7th. Order pick-up is scheduled for October 14th.



October is known as Anti-Violence/Bullying Awareness Month. An assembly is planned for students in grades K-3 entitled, The Good Character Magic Show. Students will learn strategies to help them stand up to bullying. Each Friday of the month, students will take the anti-bullying pledge during morning announcements and students will sign a poster of the pledge. I ask that all students wear ORANGE, the color of Anti-violence/Anti-bullying Awareness on the day of our assembly, October 6th.

Many of you frequently ask what students need to bring with them upon returning to school. While supply lists have been shared via our web site and from the classroom teachers, please know that these are suggested lists and we only ask that you provide these materials, if you are able. We thank all of you for any items that were sent in and for your quick response in returning the many forms that have been sent home. I have received a great deal of positive feedback from the teachers on your quick response as well as the return of summer reading assignments. Your generosity and cooperation makes for a pleasant start to a school year.

While we make every attempt to keep you updated with current information via our school web page, I encourage you to regularly check your child's take home folder along with the web page. The Cold Springs School faculty and staff look forward to working with you and your children this school year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Karen Kessler

<http://css.gcsd.k12.nj.us>



Homework Help News

We are excited to announce the start of Homework Help. Students are paired with their grade level teachers to get a jump start on their homework four days a week. Homework help allows students to have some extra help with their studies and ask questions that they might not have been able to ask during the school day. Homework help ensure that students are getting some if not most of their homework done. Spots do fill up quickly, sign you child(ren) up today!

We do ask that you check their homework folders each night along with their agendas to ensure that they did in fact finish all of their work. Also, please remember that there is NO homework help on Fridays or early dismissal days.

Thank you,
Corianne Aviad
Homework Help Director





EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER NEWS



Dear Parents,

As a former Preschool and Kindergarten teacher, I have a passion for Early Childhood education and have been a part of the ECC for the past fourteen years. I am happy to have the opportunity to welcome you to our Preschool and Kindergarten Programs where we strive to help our youngest students become independent thinkers and lifelong learners.



We have a team of highly qualified professionals that are committed to providing a quality education program which promotes the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of every child. Our ECC staff provides a positive nurturing environment as well as developmentally appropriate instruction incorporating a range of skills necessary for whole-child development & early learning. We work hard to find the best methods to meet the needs of every child.

We believe a strong partnership with families makes for the most beneficial educational experience for all children. We encourage families to take advantage of a variety of parent involvement opportunities we have at the ECC. We had our "Celebration of the Arts" Night for preschool and kindergarten families on October 4th from 6-7:30 pm.. This was a fun filled event for our students and families incorporating creative activities, crafts and music while promoting the importance of the arts. Our first preschool parent involvement activity is scheduled for October 18th for 3's and October 19th for 4's. This is a "Fall Festival" where you can enjoy special fall activities outside with your child. Each child will be able to pick a pumpkin from our very own "ECC Pumpkin Patch". Kindergarten parents are invited to their first VIP day on Friday October 21st where you can visit the classroom to get a peek at what your child is learning at school in literacy or math.

Those students who are new to our program seem to have settled into a routine and learning is well underway. I look forward to working closely with you for the benefit of our children. Should you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact us at any time. Also, utilize our website for important information throughout the year and updates on special activities and events.

Thank you for your continued support!.

Sincerely

Norell Gurcsik

Hands of Harmony!



This year we continue with our student recognition system. As in years past, we will continue to recognize students who have demonstrated monthly positive character traits. This year we will recognize students through Random Acts of Kindness or RAK, perfect attendance, being prepared for PE, showing effort and improvement.



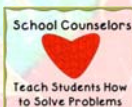
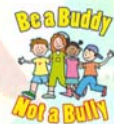
Counselor's Corner



The week of October 3rd through the 7th has designated the **Week of Respect** by the State of New Jersey. The week of October 17th through 21st has been designated **School Violence Awareness Week** by the state. These weeks have been set aside to highlight the importance that respect for others as well as personal and school safety during a child's educational career.



The Gloucester City School District consider both of these topics to be essential in our mission. We are proactively committed to maintaining Bully Free Schools. At Cold Springs School we take these opportunities to focus on the importance of Character Education, help ensure a safe and nurturing social and learning environment for all students that enhances our positive school culture. We have several events planned to help accomplish that highlight this goal. Each day this week our students pledge and then sign the Anti Bullying Pledge in their classrooms in conjunction with the Cold Springs morning news broadcast. Each student will be able to sign their names to a prominently displayed Anti-Bullying sign that reinforces their pledge. A student assembly is planned and will cover the multiple aspects of bullying. Our staff has integrated the weeks of Respect and School Violence Awareness into their lessons.



As adults, we help teach children the importance of speaking with a parent or trusted school official about how to handle disagreements. By simply listening, we can help develop the skills necessary on how to handle difficult situations. We demonstrate that fighting or violence is never the answer.

Please feel free to contact me at 456-700 extension 3154 to discuss your child's educational needs.

Sincerely,
Joseph DiPatri





Halloween is one of the world's oldest holidays, dating back to pagan times. But it is celebrated today by more people in more countries than ever before. There's a simple reason: it is fun and it is good, clean, harmless fun for young and old alike!

Ireland

In Ireland, which is considered to be where Halloween began, the day is still celebrated much like it is in the United States. In rural areas, bonfires are lit as they were centuries ago, and all over the country, children get dressed up in costumes and spend the evening "trick-or-treating" in their neighborhoods.

Canada

Modern Halloween celebrations in Canada began with the arrival of Scottish and Irish immigrants in the 1800s. Jack O'Lanterns are carved and the festivities include parties, trick-or-treating and the decorating of homes with pumpkins and corn stalks.

China

In China, the Halloween festival is known as Teng Chieh. Food and water are placed in front of photographs of family members who have departed while bonfires and lanterns are lit in order to light the paths of the spirits as they travel the earth on Halloween night.

England

English children make "punkies" out of large beets (which they call beetroots), where they carve a design of their choice. Then, they carry their "punkies" through the streets while singing the "Punkie Night Song" as they knock on doors and asked for money.

Mexico

In Mexico, Halloween is known as "El Dia de los Muertos," the days of the dead, a three-day celebration that begins on the evening of October 31 and ends on November 2. This is an ancient holiday that has been transformed throughout the years. It is a joyous and happy holiday...a time to remember friends and family who have died. Officially commemorated on November 2 (All Souls' Day), the three-day celebration actually begins on the evening of October 31.



The Early Childhood Center hosted a special evening for Pre-K and Kindergarten families on Tuesday, October 4th. Our "Celebration of the Arts" event provided hands on learning projects that introduced our students and their families to the fundamentals of art and music. We also celebrated the artwork of our students by showcasing their creativity in our hallways. Thank you for coming.



News from the Media Center

Exciting things are happening in our Media Center. Kindergarten has been learning how to take care of their library books. Kindergarten and first grades will be enjoying autumn stories and activities in October. Second grade will be learning how to access our eBooks. Second and third grades will be reviewing dictionary skills so they can experience even more success at our Word of the Week Center. Keep reading your books and taking good care of them!!



Classroom Connection
Health and Fitness By Lori Athey

Any type of regular, physical activity can improve your fitness and your health. The most important thing is that you keep moving!

Exercise should be a regular part of your day, like brushing your teeth, eating, and sleeping. It can be in gym class, joining a sports team, or working out on your own. Keep the following tips in mind:

Stay positive and have fun. A good mental attitude is important. Find an activity that you think is fun. You are more likely to keep with it if you choose something you like. A lot of people find it's more fun to exercise with someone else, so see if you can find a friend or family member to be active with you.

Take it one step at a time. Small changes can add up to better fitness. For example, walk or ride your bike to school or to a friend's house instead of getting a ride. Use the stairs instead of taking the elevator or escalator.

Get your heart pumping. Whatever you choose, make sure it includes aerobic activity that makes you breathe harder and increases your heart rate. Examples of aerobic activities are basketball, running, or swimming.

Welcome to Our New Staff!!!

We would like to welcome to our school family 2 new teachers and 1 teacher we have known for many years.

Michelle Barth is our new computer teacher. She has been teaching computers for 9 years. She loves technology and introducing her students to new and exciting things through technology.

Corianne Aviad is our new tutor and Director of our After School Homework Help Program. She has taught in various schools before joining our family.

And last but not least, Meghan Carey (O'Connor) is our new kindergarten teacher. Although she is not "new" to our family we are excited to have her in our kindergarten this year.

Tech News in First Grade!

The first grade classrooms will now have laptops! Every other day your first grader will have access to laptops in Reading during Daily 5 and during Math centers in the afternoon. The students get an opportunity to work on academic progress while improving their computer skills! How EXCITING! As the saying goes, "We are BIG kids now!"

