Message from Leslie Dunn, Principal

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Villa Cresta families a happy and healthy new year. I hope your holiday was relaxing and filled with memories to cherish with family and friends. Our students have transitioned back into their academic routines, and believe it or not, the end of the second marking period is quickly approaching. The end of the marking period is January 25 and report cards will go home on February 7. As always, please be sure to contact your child’s teacher should you have any questions about their progress.

Additionally, it’s important for students to arrive to school on time. The homeroom period provides students with a smooth transition to a day of learning. At this time, the students review the day’s schedule, copy homework assignments, listen to school announcements, get breakfast, and distribute notes and materials from home to their teachers. To provide your children with a positive start to the day, please plan your morning so your child arrives in homeroom before 9:00. After 9:00, they are considered tardy.

Update on our school safety plan.....
On January 8, members of the Baltimore County Police Department will meet with me and a team of teachers to discuss our school safety plan. In light of the events in Connecticut in December, we will no longer allow parents to walk into the building with their child/children in the mornings. We are enforcing a “Kiss and Go” procedure, and parents please say your good-byes at the door. There are many staff members available in the hallways to assist children if needed. If you do need to come into the building, it will be necessary to enter at the lobby doors and sign in at the office. We are ever vigilant in keeping your children safe and I appreciate your support in this endeavor.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS
Parents are asked to listen carefully to the news on the television or radio for the latest information regarding school closings or delays. The BCPS Hotline is 410-887-5555 or website www.bcps.org also contains this important information. Please avoid calling the school for information.
JANUARY, 2013

2  School Reopens
8  Picture Make-up Day 10—2
9  PTA Board Meeting—6:30 pm in Library
16 Market Day pickup in gym 4 to 7 pm
17 Bank Day in cafeteria
21 SCHOOLS CLOSED—Martin Luther King Birthday
22 Grade 5 Band/Chorus Concert—6:30 pm
25 2nd Marking Period ends
   Book Fair Begins
28 SCHOOLS CLOSED for students—Professional Development Day
31 Ice Cream Social

FEBRUARY, 2013

1  Book Fair ends
7  Report Cards distributed
13 PTA Board Meeting—6:30 in Library
21 Bank Day in cafeteria
26 & 27   Spring Picture Days (includes class picture)
28 STEM Fair—Initial judging
Villa Cresta Elementary’s 10th annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Fair will be held the evening of Thursday, March 7th at Villa Cresta from 6:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m..

Again this year we are excited to announce that all 5th grade students and the Gifted and Talented 4th grade class will submit projects. Our 3rd grade students will compete in the Safe Racer challenge. Winners from each of these grade levels have the opportunity to represent our school in the county STEM Fair on May 17th and 18th at Parkville High School.

Pre K- Grade 4

We encourage all students to do a science fair project. It’s a great learning experience. Any student who would like to complete a science fair project will receive a packet with all the information. A letter will be sent home the first week of January. Just complete the bottom and send it in. These projects will be on display during the school’s STEM Fair. Family projects are great fun, too!

Attention Parents of:

5th Grade Students and GT 4th Grade Students

Monday, January 21st

Summary and Approval Form
Due to Science Teacher

Friday, February 22nd

Completed Display Board with Log Book and Report
due to homeroom teacher

Thursday, February 28th

Preliminary Judging

Monday, March 4th

Final Judging-Interviews
Green Team News and Notes

After an extremely hectic October and November, the Green Team took a bit of a break in December. While continuing to empty recycling bins, count and recycle glue sticks and writing tools, and provide Green Tips on Thursdays during the morning announcements, we found time in December to make holiday ornaments out of recycled holiday cards. It was a nice change of pace for all of us. They are really pretty too! Let us know if you want to know how to make them!

In the New Year we will continue all our current initiatives and step up our efforts to become a Green School in 2013. We will be planning for Earth Week too. Start saving your aluminum cans for another collection during Earth Week.

KEEP THINKING GREEN IN 2013

From the Guidance Corner ...

During the month of January, your child’s class will be starting Baltimore County Public Schools’ Personal Safety Program K-5: Making Healthy Decisions.

This program includes information on personal safety, responsibility, and decision making. Topics we will be discussing include body safety and neglect and abuse prevention strategies, which highlight the importance of telling a trusted adult about uncomfortable situations. Keeping your child safe is a priority to all of us.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions my phone number is (410) 887-5275.

Mia Rochfort, School Counselor

My Coke Rewards for Schools

The school has accumulated 11,966 points from submitting the numbers off of the collected lids of coke products and from the number off of the 12 pack wrapper. We are in the process of redeeming the points and Mr. Chuck Willenborg, physical education teacher has chosen the Basketball Jumbo Jam to use in the gym. Many thanks go to Carol Edenfield and her family who donated most of them so the points added up quickly.
Message from PTA President - Jamie Vilcarino

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year Villa Cresta families! Hopefully your winter vacation was spent in the company of family and friends, relaxing and enjoying the holidays.

The PTA’s Toys for Tykes and Sock Tree campaigns were very successful. The generosity of the Villa Cresta community continues to amaze me. Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Rochfort for coordinating the distribution of all of your donations to the families in need.

The Book Fair is coming, the Book Fair is coming! The Book Fair will be coming to Villa Cresta on January 29th and continue through February 1st. The bookfair will also be available online this year. More information will come out soon so stay tuned. Our annual Ice Cream Social will be on the evening of January 31st where families can browse and buy at the Book Fair and enjoy a bowl of ice cream. We will need volunteers for these events so please consider helping out.

Do you know a local business owner, or have a favorite place you like to go? Would that business like to donate to our Auction? If you know someone who would be willing to make a donation to the auction please let us know if you need an official letter and we will get that to you. Remember, we also accept home-made crafts such as afghans, baby blankets or paintings.

The next PTA Board meeting is on Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30. Make it your New Year’s resolution to become more involved in your child’s school. Join us in planning upcoming events such as the Book Fair, Ice Cream Social and Spring Fling.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email Jamie Vilcarino at jmrlm@yahoo.com

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Kindergarten Registration 2013-2014 School Year

Villa Cresta Elementary Kindergarten Registration will be held on Tuesday, May 21st and Wednesday, May 22nd.

Children who will be five years of age by September 1, 2013 must attend kindergarten or an accepted alternative program. Call the office at (410) 887-5275 to pre-register your child. A registration packet will be mailed to you in in April. Parents of kindergarten age children who will not be attending Villa Cresta in the fall, but live within the school’s boundaries, need to notify the office so that appropriate forms can be completed.
27th Annual
Awards for Excellence in Education

The Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 27th Annual Awards for Excellence in Education, which will be held May 13, 2013, at 6 p.m. at Martin’s West. Students, parents, fellow teachers and community members are encouraged to nominate teachers by completing and submitting the application.

A panel of judges selected by the Chamber will review the nominations and judge them on the degree to which the candidate exhibits the qualities of an excellent educator:

- A high level of involvement with the total school program
- A caring, supportive attitude
- A demonstrated commitment to student success and growth
- A quality instructional program

Eligible personnel include:
- BCPS teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools
- Special educators
- Staff members in special areas, such as guidance counselors, librarians, and paraeducators

PLEASE NOTE: Past winners of any Awards for Excellence are ineligible for repeat nominations.

Candidates who have been nominated must submit a biographical summary. A nominee MUST complete the biographical summary in order to be considered for an award.

Schools are welcome to nominate multiple educators and all nominees will be listed in the event program. However, if more than two nominations from a school are received, the Chamber selection committee will identify two finalists to represent the school. All finalists will be notified prior to the event and will be invited to attend the ceremony on May 13 as guests of the chamber.

Finalist nominees will be recognized during the Awards for Excellence in Education and award recipients will be named in several categories.

In addition, the Chamber recognizes outstanding and experienced educators who serve BCPS priority schools with $500 stipends from the Berenbach Educational Incentives Fund, established in 2004. This year, to be eligible for the Berenbach Award, a nominee must have completed a total of five years teaching in a BCPS designated school (see attached list). Recipients will be selected from nominations submitted for the above-listed categories.

Nomination Forms by Interoffice Mail:
Office of Communications
Greenwood

Nomination Forms by Mail
Office of Communications
6901 Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21204

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 25, 2013, to be considered.
NOMINATION FORM

PAGE 1 OF 2

Name of Nominee: __________________________________________________________

Nominee’s School: __________________________________________________________

Category:  Elementary School       Middle School       High School
                       Special Education       Special Area Subjects

Subject Taught / Position: __________________________________________________

NOMINATOR

Name:  _________________________________________________________________

Contact E-mail: _________________________________________________________

Contact Phone Number: _________________________________________________

Relationship to Nominee:  Colleague       Parent       Student
                       Other _______________________________________________
Nominee’s Name: ____________________________________________

Please complete requested information about the candidate’s qualifications on this form in the spaces provided. If additional room is needed, attach a single letter-sized sheet of paper.

1. List extracurricular programs and special activities the candidate has sponsored.

2. Give at least two specific examples of the candidate’s caring, supportive attitude toward students and/or colleagues.

3. Give at least two specific examples of ways the candidate helps students build their self-esteem.

4. Give at least two specific examples of techniques used by the candidate to encourage students’ creativity and love of learning.

5. Give at least two examples of the high quality of the candidate’s instructional program.

ENDORSEMENT: I endorse this nomination in the belief that the candidate is a worthy representative of excellence among professionals in education.

Nominator’s Name

__________________________________________

Nominator’s Signature ______________________ Date ________
HOORAY FOR SNOW DAYS!

FOR COORDINATORS ONLY: Total # of Box Tops on this sheet:

Edwardsville CCSD #16

Bonnie Box Tops should not be added to this collection sheet. They should be submitted separately.

TEACHER’S NAME

GRADE

NAME

Paste in a flurry of Box Tops and earn cash for your school!