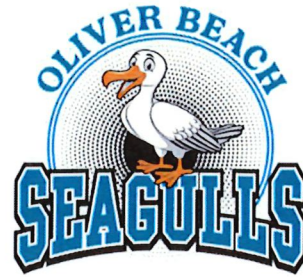


# THE SOARING SEAGULL



February/March 2024

Lynne Palmer, Principal  
Randy Quinn, Assistant Principal

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## Important Dates to Remember

<b>March</b>	4-8	Read Across America – Spirit Week
	11-15	PTA Scholastic Book Fair
	12	PTA Meeting
	15	PTA Spring Dance
	19	Beach Night Oasis
		PTA Joe Corbi Pick Up
	25	Spring Break Begins
<b>April</b>	2	Welcome Back!

### Message from Mrs. Palmer

March is a busy time at Oliver Beach, especially the first week in March. During this time, our fifth-grade students will participate in the state Science testing (MISA) testing. Please make sure that students are well rested and arrive on time that week. We want to thank our PTA for holding the Scholastic Book Fair which will be held during the first week of March as well. One more event during the first week in March... We will hold Read Across America and will have a Spirit Week related to different books. March also brings our first "Beach Night Oasis" which will be held on March 19 from 6:00-7:30. We hope you can join us for some peace and happiness through wellness events. Lastly, at the end of March, students can rest and enjoy their Spring Break. Schools will be closed from Monday, March 25-Monday, April 1. Schools will reopen on Tuesday, April 2.

A few words regarding attendance. All BCPS schools are expected to meet a standard of 94% attendance by students during the school year. Currently our school is hovering right at this standard. I want to thank all of you who have made a concerted effort to have your child arrive each day for school, on time and ready to learn. I ask that you continue this effort. We need to improve our rate and I need your help in boosting this by the end of the school year.

Recently, we have had some safety concerns as vehicles are entering the front loop from Cunningham Cove Road. This is causing a backup of cars on the street, and it has almost caused some accidents. Please make sure that during arrival and dismissal, cars enter the parking lot off Oliver Beach Road and enter the line. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

On behalf of the staff at Oliver Beach, we appreciate your compliments and support during the school year. I assure you; it keeps us all smiling.

### **News from Pre-K**

Pre-K has had a blast since coming back from winter break! We created our colorful coral reef using reusable materials, and even went to the aquarium to see everything we learned about! This unit we have been learning about how-to texts that are teaching us to make different structures and objects. We're getting ready to make our own instruments! Our next unit will be all about Museums and Dinosaurs. We get to pretend to be curators, archeologists, and paleontologists! At the end of our unit, we get to turn our classroom into a museum! This unit will also have us focusing on patterns, the orders of numbers 1-20 and continue learning letters and sounds.

### **Kindergarten News**

In Kindergarten, we are working on becoming independent with daily activities such as tying shoes, putting on jackets, zipping/buttoning/snapping, and opening food containers and packages. We are working hard to build the stamina necessary to complete tasks with follow-through!

In phonics, we are busy tapping out words to read and write. We are becoming experts at sound-blending so that we can read nonsense and real words. We have had fun reading and writing words that have consonant blends. We are also adding to the sight words that we automatically recognize. We are using our phonics skills to write about ways to be/stay healthy.

In math, we are working on identifying the attributes of 2D shapes. We are having fun sorting them in different ways.

I am proud of our progress. The kindergarteners are excited to start counting down to St. Patrick's Day. They are already talking about setting a trap to catch the leprechaun!

## **News From Grade 1**

1st grade has just finished Module 6 of Into Reading, titled “Celebrate America”. Students continued to build and strengthen their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as they explored holidays and symbols. Students continue to be exposed to various genres in this module including realistic fiction and informational texts. Students worked through the writing process to create a personal narrative about their favorite holiday. As we move into Module 7 called “The Big Outdoors”, we will be learning about nature, and will investigate how things in nature can change such as how the Grand Canyon formed and how the water cycle works. In Writer’s Workshop, students will write a poem about things they like in nature.

We have just finished Unit 5 in Bridges. Over the course of this unit, students used a variety of tools and models to explore 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and fractions (halves, thirds and fourths). Students described, constructed drew, compared, and sorted various shapes. Students learned about fractions in the context of 2-D shapes as they cut square and circle paper sandwiches/pizzas into halves and fourths.

Unit 6 focuses on addition and subtraction to 20. Students will make use of the number rack to model and solve number combinations and story problems of all types. In the process, they will learn how to write and solve equations that involve unknowns in all positions and determine whether addition and subtraction equations are true or false. The amazing habits of penguins offer engaging story problem contexts for our learners in this unit.

## **Grade 2 News**

Second grade has begun their geometry unit in Math. Students will investigate two-dimensional shapes, fractions (halves and fourths), congruence, symmetry, and transformations. In ELA students are beginning Module 7 students will learn about how experiences shape our lives. Students will learn about and write their own narrative story in writing.

## **News From Grade 3**

Our math journey continues with a new unit on geometry. Students will explore the fascinating world of shapes, lines, angles, and spatial reasoning. Through hands-on activities and engaging lessons, they will deepen their understanding of the properties of shapes and their relevance in the world around us.

Our students have poured their hearts and minds into researching and writing animal reports. They have worked diligently to gather information, organize their thoughts, and craft informative and engaging reports. We are thrilled to invite third grade families to join us on March 11th to hear our students share their findings and insights. It will be a celebration of their hard work and dedication to learning.

In our science unit, "Driving Forces," students have been designing and building their own cars. They have applied their knowledge of forces and motion to create vehicles that can withstand crashes and travel impressive distances. We are excited to announce that the culmination of this unit, the crash and

distance test, will take place soon. Students are eager to put their cars to the test and showcase their engineering skills.

### **News From Grade 4**

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade was very happy hearing the news about an early Spring! We kicked off the month of February with our first trip to the Aquarium! Thanks to all of the chaperones who joined us for the day! We also welcomed our Towson University intern, Ms. Julia Landis. Students have been learning about poetry and are looking forward to writing their own original poems for our class book this year. We are currently studying geology and the wonders of the Earth in both ELA and Science. All 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are multiplying and dividing greater numbers in math. It's imperative the students practice/memorize their basic facts. Several students are working hard to learn their lines for the upcoming musical, "Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon." Hope you can come out to support the show in April! Looking ahead, our next field trip will be in late May. Any parent wishing to be a chaperone MUST complete the Volunteer Training ASAP. Please let me know if you need any assistance with the training.

### **Grade 5 News**

Mrs. Swecker's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is working on math strategies for multiplying and dividing fractions. Students have been using their favorite strategies to solve the problems. To end the unit, students will be solving word problems involving the "sharing model" for division. Currently, in ELA, students are reading biographies about famous artists and musicians. If you have time, play some Louie Armstrong and enjoy some relaxing jazz. The students are auditioning for the play, Annie and Jack, that will be presented in April. They are also practicing for the Spring concert. Please remember to send their instruments on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **Counselor's Corner**

February's classroom lessons in grades pre-k through fifth grade were focused on the topic of celebrating differences. March's classroom lessons in grades pre-k through fifth grade were focused on the topic of mindfulness.

If you have any items that you think the students at OBES might like to choose as a reward for their perfect attendance, please send the items in to school. I am always collecting for our monthly SOAR "store". Thank you in advance!

### **News from Oliver Beach Elementary School Library**

#### **Curriculum:**

Pre-K students have completed their story elements unit. Students learned about characters, setting, retelling the beginning, middle, and end of story, and about locating cause and effect relationships in stories. Students are working towards making observations about the characters by making connections to the characters.

Kindergarten students have read engaging literature from beloved authors including Eric Carle, Mo Willems, Matt de la Peña, and Kevin Henkes. Students focused on making connections while reading, retelling key information, and inferring and making predictions while they read. In CSI, students expanded their skills with coding to write longer algorithms using our Code and Go Mice. Kindergarten also started using Ozobots. Students are working on creating color combinations to code the ozobot to move along a path from one location to another.

In Computer Science & Innovation class, first grade students programmed Ozobots to move along paths. They are using color code sequences to program the Ozobot to complete special tasks and tricks. Students have also used symbols to code various algorithms. In Library, students read Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Afterwards, students engaged in a research project about clouds. Students used the databases within the Digital Content app to research about four different types of clouds (stratus, cirrus, cumulus, and nimbus). Students used their research to create a replica of one of

the cloud types. Through the research, students learned what types of weather can be predicted based on the cloud types visible outside.

Second graders read award-winning and nominated books to explore what makes great books chosen for various book awards. Students focused on the following reading comprehension skills: reading illustrations, sequencing and retelling, citing evidence, using voice, and determining cause and effect. In Computer Science, students began using Scratch Jr, a visual programming language designed to introduce programming skills to children ages 5-7. The app has been installed on the BCPS student devices. Students have used the app to program sprite characters to move, interact, speak, and create stories.

Third grade students used databases for research. Students learned the importance of paraphrasing information and practiced citing sources for research. In Computer Science, students used their knowledge of notetaking to research internal and external computer parts. Students shared their learning with other classmates.

Fourth grade students analyzed elements of award-winning books by examining the characters, setting, and plot. By the completion of this unit, students should understand that award-winning books often have well-developed, strong characters and settings that help make the book appealing to readers. In Computer Science, students are developing and comparing multiple algorithms for the same task. Students are also working on creating, analyzing, debugging, and refining solutions in code.

Fifth grade students are engaged in a research project. Students have selected a historical figure from the American Revolution to research. In February, students will begin using their research to create a six-panel historical graphic novel to represent key events in their person's life using Wixie. In Computer Science, students are becoming familiar with our Hummingbird Robotics Kit. The robotics kit includes lights, sensors, and motors that allow students to build a robot out of any materials. Students are using Microsoft Make Code to program their robot to perform a variety of tasks. The project will take several weeks to complete. By the end of the project, students should be able to code a robot to become a service pet. To achieve this goal, we need help collecting materials. A few items have been collected, but many more are needed. If you can assist, please consider donating any of the following materials:

**Supplies Needed:** lids, pom-poms, cardboard boxes about the size of a shoebox or smaller, cardboard scraps, water bottles, toilet paper/paper towel rolls, straws, half gallon juice or half gallon milk cartons, tissue boxes, permanent markers, rubber bands, tissue paper, tape, or string.

## From the Art Studio

So many exciting things are happening in the OBES Art Studio! Pre-K students recently took home their clay pendants and Kindergarten recently took home their clay pinch pots. First grade artists are beginning their clay butterfly unit and are excited to work with clay. Second grade artists are finishing their Laurel Burch inspired cat and dog artworks that will soon grace the halls. Third grade artists have been working so hard on their Kehinde Wiley inspired self-portraits and they are amazing. Fourth graders are completing their Romare Bearden inspired music collages. They are almost ready to be displayed. Fifth graders just finished their yearbook cover contest designs with such creativity and determination! Winter artworks that are on display will be coming home soon to make way for fresh artworks as spring will be here before we know it!

In other news, BCPS (Baltimore County Public Schools) is offering a Summer Art Enrichment Camp this summer for third, fourth and fifth graders. Flyers will be sent home to students in those grade levels.

## Music Notes

March is Music in our Schools Month! We will be singing songs at every grade level that pays tribute to the sweet sounds of music.

Pre-K is making connections between music and reading by adding sound effects to stories.

Kindergarten - is working on simple patterned movements with partners. We are discussing what makes a respectful partner with dance/movement.

1- students will begin the mallet madness unit this month! They will play ALL of our classroom percussion instruments during our time together. We have already discussed safe movement and

playing expectations. Over the next several weeks, they will gain skills with: steady beat, rhythm, pitch, and form.

2- Students are about to start the orchestra unit. They will learn about the 4 families of the orchestra and discover how instruments are played and what characteristics make each family unique.

3- Students will learn about the TREBLE STAFF, identify notes as line notes or space notes, and name the pitch of notes found on the lines and spaces. They are doing all this prep work to prepare for the recorder unit. **Recorders will be sent home with students later this month.**

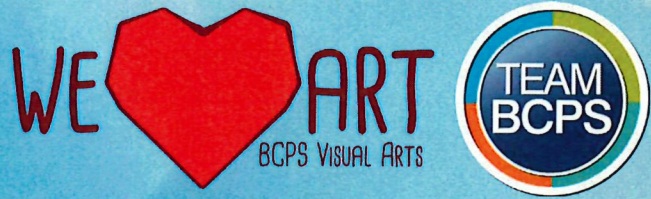
4- Students are working on adding layered accompaniments to songs using body percussion and percussion instruments. This is a challenge! They will also be utilizing the online Google program called SONG MAKER to recreate music. Once they understand how song maker functions, they will use it to create their own melody.

5- Students are learning about Major Scales. They will use the major scale pattern to help identify the correct pitches in several different scales. They will also learn to recognize sharp and flat symbols at the beginning of a song and use those symbols to help figure out the key of the song.

### **Nurse Notes**

While we're almost through the winter months, here are some tips on how to keep up good attendance for the remainder of the cold season:

- Have a back-up plan for getting to school. Many obstacles can block the way for your child to get to school in winter weather. Have a back-up plan for getting your child to school.
- Do your best to keep your child healthy. Dress your child warmly in the cold weather and encourage your child to wash their hands regularly.
- Learn how sick is too sick to send your child to school. Certain symptoms, such as fever, are reasons to keep your child at home. However, not every symptom is a reason to keep your child at home. Learn your school's policy on how sick is too sick and when to send your child to school.
- Ensure that your child goes to bed at a reasonable time. Prioritize a way for your child to be active but also go to bed at a reasonable time so that they can make it to school on time the next day.



**Camp Dates:** July 1-12, 2024  
**The Cost of the Program:** \$140  
**Where:** Pikesville High School  
**Time:** 10am - 3:30pm  
**Transportation Available**

## BCPS Summer Visual Arts Enrichment Camp Program Overview

The Baltimore County Summer Visual Arts Enrichment Program provides opportunities for students in grades 3-12 to build their personal art skills and add to their art portfolios. A variety of courses are offered to meet the varied needs and interests of the student whether the student is seeking to improve their art skills or is preparing a portfolio for acceptance into a magnet program, entrance into a college program, or preparation for an Advanced Placement exam.

### A Typical Day at Art Camp

**Studio Experiences:** Activities vary from day to day but generally include group interaction and independent work. Art problems attend to the processes artists engage in while creating art, as well as to the creation of finished art products.

**Lunch:** Students bring lunch daily.

**Critiques/Discussions:** Art problems provide opportunities for students to respond, connect, and present their work.

### Open House Celebration!

An Open House/Reception will be held in the evening on Thursday, July 11, 2024, to give students, families, and teachers an opportunity to share in the two-week experience and see the artwork created during camp.

Sketch by Open House 5 One W



Over 800 students and 30+ staff members of BCPS employees have volunteered for the Summer Art Enrichment Camp. Additional support may be needed. See above for more information and details regarding the program. For more information, please contact the Office of Visual Arts at (410) 338-1234 or visit our website at [www.bcps.edu/visualarts](http://www.bcps.edu/visualarts). We are currently accepting applications and are excited to have you join us for the Summer Art Enrichment Camp. Please contact the BCPS Office of Visual Arts.





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*Make Art this Summer with BCPS!*

## 2024 Course Offerings

Entering Grades: 3-5

### **An Exploration of Artists and Their Materials**

This program provides students opportunities to explore a theme through a variety of art materials as they learn about the work of various artists. Students will be encouraged to refine their current art skills and develop new skills with different materials by experimenting with and using 2-dimensional drawing and painting media and 3-dimensional materials. Students will learn about the artistic process as they solve visual problems, develop their own interpretations of the theme, and build personal portfolios to help develop a representation of their technical ability as an artist.

Entering Grades: 6-8

### **An Investigation of Media & Technique: Portfolio Development**

This program is geared toward students interested in developing portfolios for consideration for magnet art programs. During this two-week program, students will create works of art that incorporate the traditional art forms of drawing, painting, and sculpture, as well as computer arts. Students will work from direct observation and imagination as they build a portfolio of work that provides a record of the progression of their ideas, skills, and images.

Entering Grades: 9-12

### **Painting & Drawing from Observation: Portfolio Development**

This program is geared toward students who are interested in pursuing the sequential art program at the high school level and those who are preparing portfolios for Advanced Placement or college entrance. It allows students to survey their own artistic development to choose an area of concentration that will further their personal artistic growth. Students will research artists to find influences for their own work. Students will focus on drawing, watercolor, and oil painting.

## Signing Up for BCPS Summer Art Enrichment Camp

Signing up for the 2024 BCPS Summer Art Enrichment Camp is completed entirely online for both registration and payment. Please use the link in this brochure or scan the QR code to start the process!

[https://www.bcps.org/curriculum/academics/career\\_technical\\_education\\_and\\_fine\\_arts/visual\\_arts/summer\\_art\\_enrichment\\_program](https://www.bcps.org/curriculum/academics/career_technical_education_and_fine_arts/visual_arts/summer_art_enrichment_program)

#### Optional Transportation Services

Bus pick up is available at the following locations (tentative). Please see online application for more information and to request transportation services.

Bus 1: Catonsville Elementary, Sudbrook Middle Magnet, Woodlawn High

Bus 2: Holabird Middle School, Parkville High

Bus 3: Hereford High, Cockeysville Middle, Cromwell Elementary





*If you need assistance with the online registration or payment process or any Summer Art Enrichment Camp questions, please contact the Office of Visual Arts at 443-809-4030*