

Smithsburg Elementary

67 North Main Street

Smithsburg, MD 21783

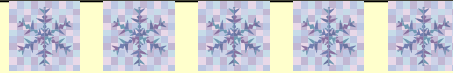
(301) 766-8329

February 2012

[www.wcboe.k12.md.us](http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us)

## February Newsletter

Dear Parents,



Although the shortest month, February has quickly become the one of the busiest of the school year! We have just begun the third marking period of the school year, and Maryland State Assessment (MSA) for students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 is just 28 days away! All students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be tested in the areas of Reading and Math. Additionally, grade 5 students will be tested on their knowledge of Science later in May.

One great way to continue a great routine of working with your students at home is Shared Reading Time. Shared Reading Time is a period set aside each day for parent and child to read together. It is not the length of time that is important; it is the consistency with which shared reading takes place that counts. Ten to fifteen minutes each day can benefit your student in all subject areas. Below are some suggested activities for Shared Reading Time:

### **Pinch Hitter**

While reading aloud to your child, have him or her read along silently with you. Pause occasionally to let your child read the next word. Or try this: Instead of reading the next word, ask your child to supply a different word. It will be fun to see how the new word changes the story. Then switch: As your child reads aloud to you, he or she pauses, allowing you to supply the next word.

### **Sound Effects**

Add a special sound effect to two or three words in a story. Have your child listen carefully as you read the story aloud. When your child hears the special words, he or she adds the sound effects! You can switch roles and the parent can supply the sound effects.

### **Crystal Ball**

While reading together, stop in the middle of a story or chapter. On separate slips of paper, you and your child draw a crystal ball and write down a prediction of what will happen next, or by the end of the story or chapter. Fold the slips of paper and set them aside. After reading, take out your predictions and compare them to what actually happened in the story.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Scarberry Price, Principal

## Family Math Night



SES will have its Family Math Night on Thursday, February 9 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Staff members will have a variety of math games set up for families to play and we will also share some great math websites with parents.

Please mark this fun event on your calendar!

## **Pre – K and Kindergarten Registration**

The first Pre-K and Kindergarten registration day has been scheduled for Monday, March 26 from 8:30 – 1:30 in the school office. Please let your friends and neighbors know about our first registration day.




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## ***PTA Upcoming Events...***

### ***PTA Restaurant Fundrasier***



*The PTA Fund Raiser Night for February will be next Wednesday, February 8 at Carmine's in Smithsburg.*

*10% of all sales will be donated to the SES PTA.*

*We hope to see you at Carmine's!*

### ***31 Bag / Basket Bingo***



*Basket Bingo will be held at the Smithsburg Fire Hall on Sunday, February 19. Doors open at 12:30. Bingo begins at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available through the PTA or in the school's main office.*

## ***Upcoming School Events...***

February 2	PTA General Meeting – 6:00 PM
February 8	PTA Fundraiser Night at Carmine's (All Day)
February 9	Family Math Night (6 PM – 7 PM)
February 19	PTA Basket Bingo – Doors open at 12:30 PM
February 20	<i>Schools and Central Office Closed – President's Day</i>