December 7, 2018

Welcome to December Markham Families,

The weather this week let me know that winter is just around the corner, though it felt like it was already here.

Conferences were well attended. Thank you parents/guardians for collaborating with us to do our best for your children. Please continue to keep our lines of communication open. Strong relationships between school and home are key to each student’s academic, social and emotional success.

A big round of applause to the PTA and the many volunteers who put together breakfast, lunch and dinner during conferences. We are thankful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Everything was so delicious!

Another Chromebook cart and 30 Chromebooks have been ordered and will arrive soon thanks to our PTA and their endless efforts to secure funds to support our students. This cart will be used to serve our primary grades. Many, many thanks, Markham PTA!

**Security Enhancements Coming:** PPS is happy to report that there are security enhancements planned for each school. By the beginning of the next school year, each school will receive upgrades such as video intercoms, VOIP updates, visual/video monitoring, PA and speakers in common areas, as well as effective and consistent signage. Each school cluster will get worked on simultaneously as there will be multiple contractors hired. Markham was one of the pilots for the video intercoms and visual/video monitoring, so these two items are already installed at our school.

Please join me in thanking **Steve and Alison Silva** for their generous gift that allowed us to purchase a **Leveled Literacy Intervention Kit by Fountas and Pinnell**. Ms. Groom will be using these important materials during her reading support groups with grades 1st and 2nd. Much appreciation to the Silvas!

Our next **Sharing with Shawn** takes place in the New Year on Friday, January 18th from 9:00 to 10:00 in the Neighborhood House Head Start classroom, Rm. 113. This is an informal get together where school information is shared, questions answered, as well as ways to get involved at school. Come and get important information about your school while meeting other Markham parents. Childcare is sponsored by our SUN School Staff for this monthly event.

During the winter break there will be an author’s reading of **The Yummiest Githeri** by **Kwame Nyong’o** at the Capitol Hill Library. It will take place on December, 22nd at 11 AM. This is a perfect event for children ages 5-9. More information on the author can be found at: www.kwamenyongo.com.
Constituent Town Hall on Healthcare – Please join Commissioner Sharon Meieran and Representative Andrea Salinas for a joint constituent town hall to discuss healthcare at the state and county level. This is taking place at Markham in our auditorium on Monday, December 10th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. To RSVP or for further questions, please contact District1@multco.us.

Winter Break Reading and Writing Challenge Packets will be sent home on Friday, December 14th with all students. Participation is voluntary. These packets are ones we have sent home in the past. The activities are open ended and therefore, can vary from year to year. Completed work needs to be returned to the classroom teacher no later than Friday, January 4th, 2019. Students who return work will be acknowledged at our January Awards Assembly and given a small token of appreciation for their efforts. Remember students can also vary their learning by checking out Mr. Kertay’s Technology Lab Homepage. This way students can access a variety of safe academic links outside of class. There are tabs at the top of the homepage that are grade level specific.

There are several ways to access Mr. Kertay’s Homepage:

1. Direct link: http://www.protopage.com/markhamcomplab
2. Google: Markham Protopage
3. Go to the Markham Elementary homepage http://www.pps.net/Domain/140 and click on “Technology Webpage” under Quick Links.

3rd, 4th and 5th graders and TAG students can also access Dreambox (math resource)

1. Go to https://sites.google.com/a/apps4pps.net/pps-portal/home/student
2. Click on the Clever app
3. Click “Log in the Google”
4. Type in your child’s username (NO SPACES)
   o First Initial + Last Name + Last 4 digits of their Student ID @apps4pps.net
5. Type in your child’s password
   o Birthday month and date in number form (Example: April 7th = 0407)
6. Click on the learning resource your child would like to use and Clever logs them in immediately

Message from NUTRITION SERVICES regarding NEW ACCOUNT BALANCE NOTIFICATION

Starting the week of January 14, 2019, the Nutrition Services department will be utilizing School Messenger to notify families by phone and email about student meal account balances. Kitchen staff will continue to provide personal phone call reminders and/or paper letters home. If you
have questions about student meal accounts or other information, please visit our webpage www.pps.net/nutrition or call our department 503-916-3399.

**District Winter Weather Notifications**
Below are the ways the district informs you when weather forces closures and delays. There are three ways messages are sent to families about delays, closures and other weather-related decisions:

- **Phone calls:** Automated calls, in all supported languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Russian and Somali), will be placed to the primary number listed on each student’s registration. If you’ve changed your number recently, please update with the school office.
- **Email:** An automated message will be sent to the email address you listed in your child’s registration. The message will be translated into our five supported languages.
- **Text message:** You will receive a text message on your cell phone, but first you’ll have to opt in to the SchoolMessenger system by texting “Yes” or just “Y” to 68453. Note: If you opt in, you will still receive an auto-dialer call.

Updates are also posted online:

- **Twitter:** Follow our account, @PPSConnect.
- **Facebook:** Connect with us at facebook.com/pps.homepage.
- **Our website:** Go to net and look for a yellow bar across the top of the page. That’s where you’ll find more detailed information, such as snow routes for buses. Messages will be translated.

This time of year I always ask for extra support from our parents in reminding your child to hold up the Markham High Five. It’s the time of year that brings lots of energy and can lead to students making poor decisions. I want to thank you in advance for assisting us.

**Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Your Best, Every Day in Every Way!**
I am wishing all a safe, peaceful, happy winter break and New Year. **School will resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.**

Joyously thankful for this school community,

Shawn Garnett
Principal