

December 6, 2019

December Greetings Markham Families,

Thank you all for your support in attending conferences and working with us to do our best for your children. Please continue to keep the lines of communication open. Strong relationships between school and home are key to each student's academic, social and emotional success.

Conferences brought another year of bountiful goodness as the PTA and many volunteers put together breakfast, lunch and dinner for staff during the two days. We are most appreciative for your efforts, thoughtfulness and generosity.

Ms. Erickson, our School Secretary, has taken a position at Sabin Elementary. It has been her desire for quite some time only do halftime. She is deeply appreciated for her time at Markham and is wished the very best at Sabin. I am currently interviewing candidates for this position.

We have received three Chromebook carts with 30 Chromebooks each this year plus an additional 18 Chromebooks to complete Mr. Stafford's cart. The PTA purchased one full cart and the rest purchased with our Equity grant through the Portland Schools Foundation. To date, we still need six carts. This includes four general education and two special needs classrooms. What tremendous support this shows for our students as we use technology as a tool to enhance their learning experiences.

Ms. Truman, our librarian, shared with the staff that the **Book Fair** was busier than previous years. I witnessed last week, students bouncing down the halls with a bag of books, smiling gleefully. Several told me with elation that they just got their books from the Book Fair. We ended the week with **Grandparents and Special Friends Day**. Friday was a fun-filled, joyful time when our school was overflowing with additional love and support for our students. Thank you Ms. Truman, PTA, grandparents, special friends and all volunteers for making last week a big success!

Our next **Sharing with Shawn** takes place in the New Year on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Winter Break Reading and Writing Challenge Packets** will be sent home on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Students who return work are 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 a student 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**.

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and TAG students can also access **Dreambox** (math resource)

1. Go to <https://sites.google.com/a/apps4pps.net/pps-portal/home/student>
  - You may also Google "PPS Student Portal" and click on the first option
2. Click on the Clever app
3. Click "Log in the Google"
4. Type in your child's username (NO SPACES)
  - First Initial + Last Name + Last 4 digits of their Student ID @apps4pps.net
  - You may also contact your child's teacher for your student's username
5. Type in your child's password
  - Birthday month and date in number form (Example: April 7<sup>th</sup> = 0407)
6. Click on the learning resource your child would like to use and Clever logs them in immediately

Messages are sent three ways 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.
- **ssText 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 also posted online:

- **Twitter:** Follow our account, [@PPSConnect](https://twitter.com/PPSConnect).
- **Facebook:** Connect with us at [facebook.com/pps.homepage](https://facebook.com/pps.homepage).
- **Our website:** Go to [net](http://www.pps.net) and look for a yellow bar across the top of the page. This is where you'll find more detailed information, such as snow routes for buses. Messages are 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**. Along with the season, comes lots of energy and excitement 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!**

Have a safe and peaceful winter break and New Year. **School will resume on Monday, January 6, 2020.**

With thanks,

Shawn Garnett  
Principal