



# SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE

CHARTER SCHOOL

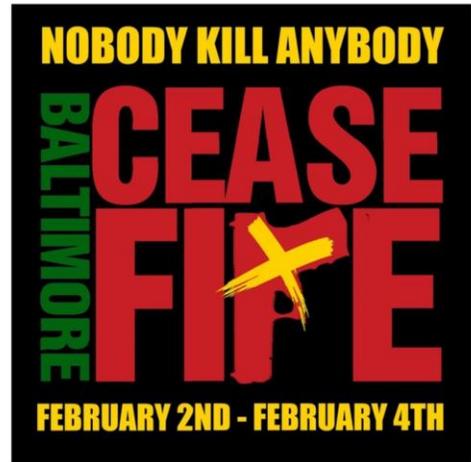
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 2** School-Wide Meeting, 9:00 AM
- Feb. 2** CEASE Fire Peace March and Youth Speakers, 5:00 PM
- Feb. 5** Canton Panera Bread Fundraiser for SBCS, 6-9 PM
- Feb. 9** Middle Grades Young Business Expo
- Feb. 9** PTO Dance, 3-5PM for Elementary grades and 6-8PM for Middle Grades
- Feb. 16** Professional Development Day, School Closed for Students
- Feb. 19** Presidents' Day, School Closed

## CEASE FIRE EVENT

Please join our community as we work to make our neighborhoods safe. Friday, February 2. Peace March at 5:00, starting at B&O Railroad Museum, 901 W. Pratt Street. Youth Speak at 6:00 at SBCS.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND



**5PM**

Peace Walk beginning at B&O Railroad Museum, 901 W Pratt Street, and ending at Southwest Baltimore Charter School, 1300 Herkimer Street.

**6PM The Youth Speak**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SBCS Families,  
Welcome to February. It is difficult to believe that we are halfway through the school year. I am sure that like me, you are hoping Spring is right around the corner and we will be able to open our windows, breathe some fresh warm air, and enjoy longer days and more sunshine.

Not only is February halfway through the school year; it is also Black History Month, or National African American History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans

**Southwest Baltimore Charter School's Fundraiser Night**

at  
**Panera BREAD**

**Monday, February 5th between 6-9 PM**

Join us for dinner with a sandwich, soup or salad! Enjoy freshly baked breads, bagels & pastries from our bakery! Try our RPU services or come stop on by!

RPU, Phone In, and Carry-Out orders are welcome! 410-552-2940

**Where:  
Canton  
3600 Boston Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224**

Panera Bread will donate a portion of our proceeds from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to Southwest Baltimore Charter School

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and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Please continue to take the time to talk to our young Trailblazers about the past, the present and their future.

February is also when BCPSS accepts **Nominations for the Teacher of the Year**: Nominations are now being accepted for City Schools' 2018 Teacher of the Year Award. To nominate your child's teacher, visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org) and click on the "Teacher of the Year" banner at the top of the page. It takes less five minutes and is a great way to show how much you appreciate our great teachers and the work they do every day. Nominated teachers will be contacted and invited to submit an application to compete for the award. The winner will then compete for the honor of the 2018 Maryland State Teacher of the Year. **Nominations will be accepted until February 9.**

Finally, thank you to all our parents and staff who participated in our annual Literacy Night! It was a huge success. One of the many reasons that we have a great school is the way our school community and staff work together to form an educational partnership that benefits our young Trailblazers. When this partnership forms, I have never encountered an issue that could not be solved.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our students, parents, community members and staff in support of our students and greatly value every contribution made!  
Yours in education,  
Iffeisha Gordon-Toppin  
Principal

### **FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR Where Have Family Dinners gone?**

*What is one proven way to improve your student's grades AND their nutrition AND their mental health AND your family relationships, all while saving money in the family budget?*

Sitting down together to eat dinner, face to face, on a regular basis.

Sounds crazy, but it's been researched and confirmed in multiple studies. A report by CASA found that teens who have between five and seven family dinners per week were *twice as likely to report receiving mostly A's and B's in school*, compared to those teens who have fewer than three family dinners per week. In addition, only 9% of teens who ate frequently with their families did poorly in school, according to the report. Another study found eating dinners with families more than three nights a week as highly correlated with being a National Merit Scholar.

Family dinners are becoming more and more rare. With electronics distracting us from each other, quick and easy processed dinners that any kid can heat in the microwave, and busy work schedules, it is harder to find time for a meal together than it used to be. But the effort may be more worth it than we realize.

In addition to academic benefits, family dinners also help kids feel connected with their families. Without the TV in the way, or the chaos of everyone grabbing a snack when they feel like eating, children and teens are able to have conversations with their parents, sharing the experiences of their day and learning from their parents about how they navigate adult life.

And cooking dinners at home improves the quality of what children eat AND saves the family money, since processed foods provide poorer nutrition and cost more than home-cooked meals.

Work nights? A family breakfast can provide all the same benefits and get your child off to a great start for the day.

So, help your young person succeed in the present and the future, and enjoy each other more by gathering around the kitchen table for a family meal tonight!  
Ms. Romey

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### **PTO UPDATE**

Come to the Dance: Sweet as Candy!

Friday, February 9, 2018

Tickets \$5.00

Food \$1.00 each

Elementary Grades Dance: 3pm-5pm

Middle Grades Dance: 6pm-8pm

Tickets on sale now in the PTO office

Candy grams for sale!!! \$1.00

### **BOTTLE CAPS!**

Ms. Jes, our elementary grades art teacher, needs bottle caps (all kinds) for a project with her students. Please bring them in ASAP and give to her or put in her mailbox in the main office.

### **CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES**

Elementary Fitness & Adventure

1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders will be bringing invitations home to a fitness "party" taking place in the gym this month. These "parties" are a celebration during which students can share what they have been learning: the games, techniques, and knowledge, with families and friends. It would be awesome if you can attend 1st grade's "Throwing Party" on February 9th or 3rd grade's "Kinball Party" the same day. Details about 2nd grade's event will be coming soon. Hope you can join us. - Coach Hunter

Middle Grades Art

The middle grade art students are well on their way toward creating their designs for the SBCS mascot. All grades 5th through 8th are participating in the SBCS Mascot challenge. We are currently in the process of learning the basic elements of design. – Ms. Sanders

Elementary Grades Art

In art! 4th grade is exploring simple machines in our world! We are making connections to the simple machines we use every day, and how we can use them as artists. We explored design thinking when drawing rough drafts of simple machine, and will move on to final drafts soon!

In art! 1st grade is investigating our amazing solar system. After learning about ours, they designed and created their own!

In art! Kindergarten is exploring our weather system! We manipulated materials to create rain paintings and rainbow sculptures, and are moving on to types of clouds! – Ms. Jes

### **KINDERGARTEN UPDATE**

Hello, Kindergarten Families. Please be on the lookout for a February snack calendar, field work permission slips, and other important information by checking your child's folder daily. We are still studying weather and its components. Checking the weather daily with your scholar is a great way reinforce ideas taught at school. Also, if you or someone you know is a weather expert please check in with you teacher about coming in to share your expertise with the class. In, Math we will be learning about subtraction. Flashcards are a great way to boost your student's fact fluency and although homework is not a requirement, it helps your child practice skills learned in class that day. Thanks for all you do!

### **1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

1stgraders are deep into our study of the sun, moon and stars. We are focusing on the patterns and movement of the sun and moon, and what the sun and moon look like at different times of day and their cycles. In literacy, we are working on retelling with major events and identifying characters and setting. We are also working on long vowel spelling patterns. In math, we will begin working to count, add and subtract with larger numbers.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

Happy February 2nd grade families! We want to thank all of our families that attended Literacy Night!

In Expedition, students are going to be starting writing a narrative piece. They will be writing a story about a dinosaur. You can support your students by asking them what they are learning about dinosaurs in class, and what specific dinosaur they are researching so that they can write their story.

In Math, students are going to begin learning about time and money. You can support this at home by having your scholars count money when you go shopping, or just having them count money that they may find around the house. You can also support by having them periodically tell you what time it is. We will be working with analog and digital clocks so make sure they are looking at both types of clocks. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction because we will be coming back to them this year!

In Literacy students will continue to work on their reading fluency. Scholars will also continue to answer questions about books they are reading. Please continue to read with your scholars at home every night. We will be working on different strategies to understand a text. You can ask your students about what they are learning, or feel free to ask their teacher.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE UPDATE

Third grade is pushing to catch up from all these second trimester snow days! In literacy, we are still studying frogs and are using text features to help us find more information, and are asking our own high-quality questions to help guide our research. In math, we are diving into a unit on scaled picture graphs. We are working to skip count to understand the scale of graphs to read them and to create our own. In Expedition, we are finally starting our own experiments using the scientific method. We are working to answer questions about the states of matter and density. You can continue supporting your scholar at home by practicing measuring and graphing skills!

### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE

The fourth graders have been working hard! In Math, they are learning about using the four operations to compare numbers. They are using this understanding to begin to solve algebraic word problems and equations. They will be starting soon units on fractions. In Reading, they have begun to learn about Simple Machines, and they are focusing on understanding facts vs. opinions and the author's purpose for writing. Soon they will start conducting experiments! In Expedition, they have been learning all about immigrants and immigration, and are developing their skills in telling stories from different points of view.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE

#### Expedition

In Expedition, students are finishing up our electricity and magnetism units. Students are using their engineering skills to build spinning art bots and steps to create them. They are also learning about the history and usages of magnets. During the final trimester, students will be learning about the formation and history of the earth, among other environmental topics.

#### Literacy

We are completely DONE with *Esperanza Rising* and now we are now analyzing our latest text, *Investigating the Scientific Method with Max Axiom*. While close reading the text and completing text-dependent questions, students are also discovering the importance of visual elements and how technologies can significantly alter human life.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE

6th grade is finishing the novel *Bud Not Buddy*, and comparing Bud's rules to live by with the rules given by Barack Obama and Steve Jobs in speeches they have given. Students will then analyze the rules and write a literary argument saying whether Bud's rules help him to **thrive**, or **survive**.

### 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE

In Humanities this trimester we are connecting our study of the Middle Ages to modern times. Our Social Studies focus is learning about 9/11 and other modern terror attacks while looking for connections to the Crusades and the idea of Holy War. We will discuss challenging questions about terrorism and warfare and the use of violence for political reasons. Our literacy focus will be supporting our ideas and opinions with relevant evidence from multiple sources. We will practice writing text-dependent question responses which require evidence from two or more texts; this is in preparation for the PARCC Assessment. In French we will continue writing basic sentences using pronouns, nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

In Literacy we will be looking at what influences our personal identity. The text we will be reading is *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. Students will be deepening their understanding of gender roles through text and discussions. Based on MAP data

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analysis, students will be working on areas in which they need to improve to grow their scores. We will continue to increase grade level vocabulary by working on Wordly Wise. Students can access the Quizlet website to practice and study their vocabulary.

In Science students are studying Physics! This means we've been learning about atoms, mass, density, gravity, motion, and waves. We are doing this each week and taking assessments most weeks. This trimester moves quickly so late work cannot be accepted after one week.

In Math this trimester all students are learning to graph points on the coordinate plane. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade continue working with rates and ratios. We are creating equations and tables from word problems and finding the constant of proportionality of the data. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are increasing their abilities with writing equations with variables in which they are using the skills of the dissociative property, combining like terms, and isolating the variable. These multi-step equations are being built and solved to lead us deeper into algebraic concepts such as slope. All students can use the website for Pearson Realize as well as Khan Academy to access classwork and for extra supports.

### **SUPPORT SBCS**

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start your search at our website, [www.sbcschool.org](http://www.sbcschool.org). On the right side of the homepage, click on the Amazon link. We will then receive funds equal to 0.5% of your purchase price!

If you shop at Giant Food, please register for A+ School Rewards so that SBSCS can earn cash through the Rewards Program. All you have to do is log on to [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) to register online using your Giant Card. Our school ID is 05598. Thanks!

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Connect with us on Facebook at Southwest Baltimore Charter School and follow us on Instagram at SbcSchool and keep up to date on SBSCS news through our website at [www.sbcschool.org](http://www.sbcschool.org).

### **REGULAR DISMISSAL**

Elementary grade students who are picked up late will be taken to Trailblazer After School Program (TASP). You will be charged \$1/minute, up to \$30, until you arrive.

### **EARLY DIMISSAL**

If you need to pick your child up for early dismissal, please send a written request with your child. Elementary Grades children will not be released between 2:30 and 3:00, and Middle Grades children will not be released between 3:00 and 3:30, unless they bring in a written request **that morning**. Teachers will not release your child to you if they do not have an Early Release Pass from the Main Office.

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

We have a variety of counseling services at the school. If you feel that your child needs social-emotional support, please contact the school at 443-984-3385.

### **SBSCS INC. BOARD MEETINGS**

SBSCS, Inc. board meetings are held six times yearly, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. They are open to the public. Please check the calendar in this newsletter or at [sbcschool.org](http://sbcschool.org) for applicable dates.