Upcoming Units in PE:

**December** - Heart Adventure Course; learn about the pathway of a blood cell through the heart and body, importance of keeping our heart and bodies healthy

**January** - Scooter Activities; Mario Cart and Gunpowder 500

**January** - Dance; Ballroom Dance (5th), Dancing through the Decades (4th), tradition party dances (K-3)

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**BALLROOM DANCING**

An outside instructor joins us at Gunpowder to teach our 4th and 5th grade students dances such as "The Merengue", "The Cha-Cha", "The Waltz", "Hand Jive", "Hip-Hop" and various other dances. Look for more information to come home about this event. 4th and 5th grade parents will not want to miss the performance on Friday morning, January 31st at Gunpowder!

**A HUGE Thank You to the PTA for making this fun event possible for our students!**

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**FUN RUN 2019**

Congratulations to ALL Gunpowder students for another awesome Fun Run event! Every student finished the course and gave it their all! We are SO proud of all the students for their effort and hard work training to prepare themselves for this event! Keep training and running to stay in great shape!

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***During the winter months, weather permitting, we will still take students outside for a warm-up; please make sure your child has proper SNEAKERS, coat, hat and gloves for PE***
All Library Media classes begin the year with a unit on Digital Citizenship. Topics addressed include cyberbullying, online safety, password security, digital footprints, media balance and online news. BCPS curriculum is based on the award winning Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship lessons. There are many family resources available related to online safety at https://www.commonsense.org/education/family-resources.

Upcoming units in Library Media

**Kindergarten** - Fantastic Fiction - This unit focuses on different skills related to reading and understanding fiction. Skills covered are retelling, sequencing, making predictions, making inferences and making text connections.

**First Grade** - Visualization - This unit focuses on the reading strategy of visualization, or making a mind movie, when reading different types of literature.

**Second Grade** - Discover Your Destiny - This unit will reinforce the skill of finding a book that is "just right for you" using Destiny Discover. Students will conduct a topic search and keyword search, as well as refine results to meet their needs using filters. Students will also use Destiny to locate and checkout eBooks and Interactive Books, and create a Destiny Collection.

**Third Grade** - Healthy Habits - This is a short focused research unit in which students will identify a healthy habit and share their new knowledge by creating a Public Service Announcement.

**Fourth Grade** - Reading is LIT! - Students will analyze elements of a great book by looking closely at characters and settings in award-winning books. Students will understand that reading preferences are shaped by life experiences and the quality and style of an author’s work.

**Fifth Grade** - Reading is Lit! - This unit will introduce students to the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Award, and the Schneider Award. It will help students understand what makes us enjoy good literature.

BCPL and BCPS Partnership

Did you know?
All BCPS students have a BCPL account which gives them access to all Baltimore County Public Library resources, from print books to audiobooks and e-books. Students can check out up to five items without any extended loan or late fees using their BCPS Student Account.

New this year is the Birthday Book Cart that visits students on their birthdays. These books are a gift from their Gunpowder family. Summer birthdays will choose their Birthday book on their 1/2 birthday!
Kindergarten has been learning all about the steady beat. They have learned about fast and slow beats, high and low pitch and loud and soft sounds in music. They will be learning songs about the farm to connect to their recent field trip. In December, we will be learning songs about Winter.

First Grade has been learning many musical concepts including high and low pitch, loud and soft sounds and fast and slow beats in Music. They are also learning about music notes: eighth note pair, quarter note and quarter rest. They will be learning about the orchestra families in December.

Second Grade has been learning how to use their voice and understand their vocal registers. They have been learning a lot of new songs. They are reviewing some notes from last year and learning new notes and rests. They have learned about Dynamics and their musical terms. In December, they will be studying the Nutcracker Ballet.

Third Grade has been learning about notes and rests. They have learned how to read, count and play rhythms on percussion instruments. They have learned the note names of the notes on the treble staff. They just recently received their recorders so they will be spending a lot of time learning to play the recorder this year.

Fourth Grade has been learning a lot of musical vocabulary. They have learned how to identify the beat and rhythm and many other concepts such as verse, refrain, coda etc. They have learned the parts of the voice and how to use them. They will be applying all this musical knowledge as they learn their songs for the Winter Program on December 17 at Perry Hall High School.

Fifth Grade has been learning how to sharpen their musical skills such as keeping a steady tempo, playing the beat or the rhythm on an instrument, reading notes and rhythms and understanding many musical terms. Fifth grade will be using all these tools as they learn and practice their songs for the Winter Program on December 17 at Perry Hall High School.

Art

All of our Gunpowder students, grades 1-5 were given the chance to create a circle design to be displayed in the main hallway as the “leaves” of our “Tree of Happiness”. Our kindergarten students created designs to represent grass using lines, shapes, and colors that made them feel joy and happiness. Artwork gives each artist the opportunity to express and share feelings and to connect with others. It is interesting to see the variety of images that were drawn. Soon the circle “leaves” will begin to “fall” and a new display will appear.

Kindergarten is currently making Black Line Designs related to the paintings of Piet Mondrian. We are looking at how his work changed from being realistic to abstract. They are learning how to use the correct amount of pressure when applying glue to the paper strips, and they will learn how to change the pressure when coloring to make some shapes light and dark. They are tearing strips to make them the desired length and have learned to use friction to clean the glue from their hands.
First grade is learning to ask themselves questions to help in identifying and combining lines and shapes to represent realistic fish. They must use careful observation as they draw. Overlapping will be used to suggest depth and they will be coloring the most important objects in their drawings using a lot of pressure. They are learning about Robert Wyland, an American painter known for his beautiful undersea murals.

Second grade is completing their Chalk Stencil Prints. They enjoyed experimenting with line and shape stencils in a variety of ways. Creative ideas, compliments, and suggestions were shared and they will be on display soon! It's hard to believe that stencil prints of hands were first made thousands of years ago, in many parts of the world!

Third grade is completing their Radiating Designs. They noticed that many plants, fruits, etc. are radiating designs. We practiced making some together and then students began creating their own unique designs that were interesting to them. Overlapping and a change in pressure is being used to suggest depth in their designs.

Fourth grade is learning about the French artist, Henri Matisse. After overcoming cancer surgery, Matisse was confined to a wheelchair. He spent the last ten years of his life cutting beautiful shapes from paper that had been painted for him. It was a new way for him to express himself and he said that collages helped him to feel free and liberated. Students are using bright colors, geometric and organic shapes along with a gesture drawn figure to show their idea of feeling free and happy.

Fifth grade is using direct observation and contour lines to draw three dimensional objects for a still life design. Some of their quick drawings are displayed in the main hallway. They will be learning about some rules of composition, as well as how to use contour lines on the surface of objects to suggest form. The work of Sascha Braunig, Bridget Riley, Vincent vanGogh, and Victor Vaserly will be explored.