



# PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

It's not a color. It's a newsletter.



## Principal's Message

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CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

### School Leadership

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move into March, I want to take a moment to emphasize an important message: **now is not the time to let up!**

We are in a critical stretch of the school year, and this month presents a key opportunity for our students to focus on academics, strengthen their skills, and finish the year strong.

**Attendance is more important than ever.** Every school day counts, and consistent attendance is directly linked to student success. We need your support in ensuring your child is at school every day, ready to learn and engage with their teachers and classmates.

Please encourage your child to stay focused, complete assignments on time, and give their teachers their best effort every day. Our teachers are working hard to provide meaningful, rigorous learning experiences, and we want to see every student thrive.

Thank you for being our partners in your children's education. Together, we can help our students achieve **their best!**

Respectfully Yours,  
Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta



# National History Day

On Feb. 7, all Middle School Scholars presented their history projects for National History Day, an annual, national competition for 6-12th graders. This year's theme, "Rights and Responsibilities in History," inspired exciting group and individual projects. Each project was judged by 43 community leaders, educators, artists, and elected officials invited by City Springs to participate and meet our young historians. Students chose a U.S. history topic, conducted extensive research, created presentations, and on National History Day, shared their projects with the judges. The program was organized by Mr. Oroke, 7th Grade ELA teacher, with projects mentored by middle school social studies teachers, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Traugher, and Mr. Patterson.

Congratulations to every student on their hard work! The 7th and 8th grade winners competed in the district competition, held on March 1 at Patterson High School:

## Group Exhibits:

- LGBTQ+ Rights: 6th graders Amariey, Javon, and Dariell
- The Great Reginald F. Lewis Museum: 7th graders Trinity, Carlos, and Kimora
- Atlantic Slave Trade: 8th graders London, Mya, and Kemani

## Individual Exhibits:

- Baltimore as a Stop on the Underground Railroad: 7th grader Joy
- Maya Angelou: 8th grader Jamie

## Individual Documentary:

- The Rights and Responsibilities Linked to Redlining in Baltimore: 7th grader Denise

# A Few Eagle Historians







## Class Spotlight: 5th Grade

By Ms. Livers

Our 5th grade students had an exciting time reading *The Odyssey*. This epic poem by the ancient Greek poet Homer tells the story of King Odysseus who wanders for ten years trying to get home after the Trojan War.

As they journeyed through the epic story, they also got to experience a taste of history by enjoying pomegranates, a fruit we learned about in one of our lessons. The students were fascinated by the connection between literature and culture, and they loved trying this amazing fruit. It was a wonderful way to bring the story to life and make learning even more engaging.

## Temple Univ. Homeroom Places 1st in Md. for READ Bowl

Scholars in the Temple University homeroom (Mr. Henshaw, 4th grade) competed in the READ Bowl, an international competition run by former NFL player Malcom Mitchell. This competition of scholars from across the globe is used to see which class can amass the most reading minutes in a four-week competition.

Our Temple University scholars competed against more than 800,000 other scholars in the Elementary division and placed 1st overall for the Maryland!

In order to be ranked as the top reading class in the state, scholars have been completing their normal academics during the school day while also completing novel studies as homework to continue to push their independent reading skills. Scholars have been reading titles such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *The City of Ember*, *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, *The Odyssey* and *Holes* this year as they continue to grow their reading skills.

Way to go Temple University and keep on reading!





# Volleyball

Our Volleyball team was 3-2 during our short Winter season. We have high hopes for our Spring season for even more success! Visit [citysprings.school](http://citysprings.school) for our game schedule and come cheer on our Eagles as we bump, set, and spike our way to a championship!



# New Improv Club



City Springs has kicked off a new club for 4th-7th grade to learn and perform improv, which is theatre, usually comedy, created by reacting to prompts and spontaneous ideas. Club members do improv exercises and circles, which will evolve into actual scene work with plans to perform for the school later this year. Learning improv also helps with problem-solving and communication skills outside of the club. Mr. Wade plans to introduce Improv Clubs to the rest of the BCP network next school year. (Pictured: a few of the 20 club members.)

# Fun at the CIAA!

On Feb. 26, 47 Middle School students attended the 50th anniversary Food Lion CIAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament at CFG Bank Arena. Thanks to donated tickets by Elev8 Baltimore, our Scholars enjoyed a day courtside soaking in the fun and culture of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) basketball tournament that kicks off March Madness.





# Community School Coordinator Corner

## Family Math Night

To celebrate Pi Day on 3/14 (3, 1, and 4 are the first three numbers in the mathematical constant,  $\pi$ ), we're hosting Family Math Night with pizza and regular pie for families! **REGISTRATION required with QR code.**




OPEN TO ALL GRADES

# FAMILY MATH NIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025  
CITY SPRINGS LIBRARY  
4 - 6 PM

MATH GAMES!  
PRIZES AND FOOD!  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

RSVP USING THE QR CODE



RSVP

The poster features a dark purple background with colorful math-related icons like dice and playing cards. The text is in various colors and fonts, with 'FAMILY MATH NIGHT' being the largest and most prominent.

## Weekend Backpacks

Weekend Backpacks: We distribute Weekend Backpacks every Friday (unless otherwise announced on ClassDojo) between 12:30-1:00pm at the double-doors next to the purple trailer in the school parking lot. Weekend Backpacks are *free of cost and do not require any sign-up ahead of time*. Email Mr. Trumino with questions.

## PTO Meeting:

Friday, March 28, 9:15am, Cafeteria

## Hug-in-A-Mug!

Last month, we gave Hugs-in-Mug to our parents to show our love for our families.

THANK YOU, parents and guardians, for all you do to make City Springs such an amazing place for your child to learn and your family to thrive!

We appreciate that you:

- Send your child to school every day, in uniform, ready to learn
- Reinforce our City Springs' Habits and Attitudes at home--we are a team!
- Communicate with your child's teacher and team on what is going well and how we may better support your child.
- Attend events and share your voice as part of the PTO
- Read together as a family and support homework and projects

Let us know how we may support your family with needs outside of school. Contact Mr. Trumino--we are here to help!

MR. TRUMINO  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
COORDINATOR:

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## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 13:** Family Math Night. Registration required: [LINK](#)

**Friday, March 14:** NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day

**Friday, March 21:** Early Release

**Friday, March 28:** PTO Meeting, 9:15am and Early Release

Check [citysprings.school/events](https://citysprings.school/events) for the full calendar.

## Baltimore Curriculum Project

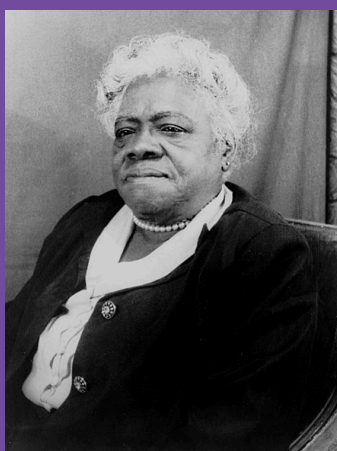


BCP hosted the 2025 Leading Minds Symposium on Feb. 14, bringing together educators from all six BCP schools to address chronic absenteeism in the post-pandemic era. Dr. Josh Michael, President of the Maryland State Department of Education, led a panel featuring Dr. Deborah Brooks (Baltimore Mayor's Office for Family and Children's Success), Larry Simmons (Attendance Works), and Mark Gaither (Principal, Wolfe Street Academy). The discussion emphasized the need for a community-driven approach, addressing systemic barriers like poverty, mental health, and family instability. Panelists highlighted the role of community schools, early intervention, and student engagement in improving attendance and academic success.

Following the symposium, BCP teachers and staff participated in breakout sessions to explore these issues in greater depth, discussing practical strategies for increasing attendance and supporting students. The event reinforced that solving absenteeism requires collaboration between schools, families, and city resources to ensure every student has the support needed to thrive. Learn more at [baltimoreecp.org/blog](https://baltimoreecp.org/blog).

**City Springs Habit of the Month: Synergize**  
**Attribute of the Month: Cooperative**

**Exemplar Educator of the Month: Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)**



An American educator and civil rights activist, Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935, was a national advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt, led many national African-American women's organizations, founded a private school for African-American students that became Bethune-Cookman University, wrote for many publications, and more.