

# The Gobble Wobble Weekly

November 24th: School Community Newsletter

## Thanksgiving Break

As a reminder, Thanksgiving Break is at the end of the week, and MARSD is following the below schedule for district closures:

- **Wednesday, November 26th:** 4-Hour Day (Dismissal for students & staff is @ 12:45 PM)
- **Thursday, November 27th & Friday, November 28th:** School is CLOSED



*Students will return to school on Monday, December 1st for a full-day schedule. On Monday, December 1st, arrival will be at 8:35 AM and dismissal will be at 3:00 PM*

**Wishing you a happy, restful Thanksgiving to all who celebrate!**

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## Superintendent's Community Message

Last week, MARSD Superintendent Ms. Perez, shared an important [community message](#) about potential redistricting and the upcoming *Shaping Our District's Future* community forum. We encourage all families to take time to read this message, as it includes information that may impact our school community. Your voice matters; please stay informed and get involved in the discussion as we work together to shape the future of our district.



*\*Please note the location has been changed to Lloyd Road Elementary School Cafeteria.*

## Attendance Letters

Attendance letters are generated and mailed home every 4 absences (at 4, 8, 12, 16 absences, etc.) and will include the dates your child was absent.



Please note that the New Jersey Department of Education recognizes only six allowable reasons as "state-excused absences": religious holidays, Veterans Day observance, participation in board of election activities, Take Our Children to Work Day, college visits (grades 11-12 only), and busing school district closures. Any absence outside of these six reasons will be marked as "Absent" in the Genesis Parent Portal, even with a doctor's note or parent documentation.

By state statute, a student is considered "chronically absent" when absent for 10 percent or more of enrolled days. Any absence other than the six allowable reasons counts toward chronic absenteeism, which research shows significantly impacts a child's ability to succeed academically.

**For preschool families specifically:** Continued excessive absences may result in your child's spot being forfeited to another student on the waiting list. Remember, regular attendance provides consistency and is extremely important for your child's learning. We appreciate your partnership in making your child's attendance the best it can be!

## Parent / Teacher Conferences



Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on **Tuesday, December 2nd** (afternoon sessions) and **Wednesday, December 3rd** (evening sessions). Families can sign up for a **10-minute time slot** with their child's teacher through the **Genesis Parent Portal beginning Monday, November 17th through Monday, December 1st.**

To schedule your conference, please follow the steps below:

- **Log in.** Go to the Genesis Parent Portal and sign in.
- **Open the Conferences page.** At the top of the screen, click on the “Conferences” tab.
- **Choose your conference.** Find the calendar icon and click the **link to the right of it.**
- **Pick a time slot.** Select the conference time that works best for you. *Please note: You may choose only one time slot per teacher.*
- **Confirm your appointment.** Click the “Reserve” button to save your conference time.
- **Review your schedule.** To double-check your appointments, go back to the “Conferences” tab.

*\*If you have any trouble signing up, feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher or the school office for help. If you’re unable to attend on either of these dates, please reach out to your child’s teacher to schedule another time to meet and discuss all the amazing learning and growth your child is experiencing at CPES.*



**CAMBRIDGE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

<b>TIME OF DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>AFTERNOON</b>	<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND</b>	<b>1:30 - 3:00 PM</b>
<b>EVENING</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD</b>	<b>5:30 - 8:00 PM</b>

*\*Please note conferences are in 10 minute increments*

## *Gratitude Storytelling*

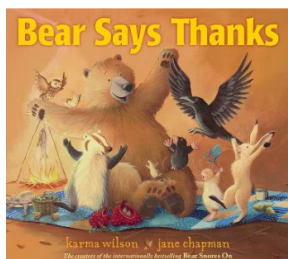
**Why Does Gratitude Matter in Preschool?** The preschool years are a critical time for emotional and social development. When children hear stories about characters who say "thank you," share with others, or appreciate simple joys, they begin to understand gratitude in ways that stick with them for life.

Reading gratitude stories helps preschoolers in several important ways:

- **Building Emotional Vocabulary.** Stories give children words to express thankfulness and appreciation. When a character says "I'm so happy you helped me," children learn how to name their own grateful feelings.
- **Developing Empathy.** Gratitude stories help children recognize that others take action to help them. Understanding that a parent prepared a favorite snack or a friend shared a toy builds awareness of others' kindness.
- **Creating Positive Habits.** When children practice noticing good things through stories and conversation, they're training their brains to look for positives. Research shows that

preschoolers who regularly engage with gratitude concepts often demonstrate increased happiness, better cooperation, and more helping behaviors.

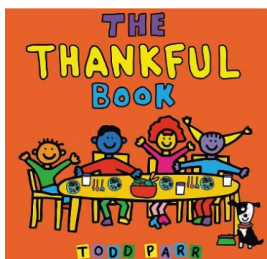
Some meaningful gratitude books to listen to or read together include:



### **Bear Says Thanks**

by Karma Wilson

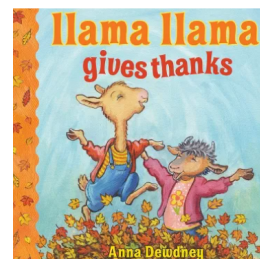
[Read Aloud Link](#)



### **The Thankful Book**

Todd Parr

[Read Aloud Link](#)



### **Llama Llama Gives Thanks**

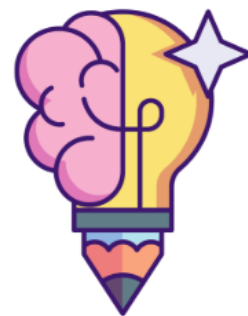
Anna Dewdney

[Read Aloud Link](#)

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## *Play & Learning: Family Edition*

**Play Planning & Make-Believe Play Sessions.** Don't forget to sign up! We're excited to invite families to join us for a special Play Planning and Make-Believe Play Session during the week of **Monday, Dec. 1st - Friday, Dec. 5th.** During this hour-long visit, you'll step into our classroom world of imagination and see how your child plans, pretends, and learns through play. Each student may bring one parent, guardian, or special adult (no siblings, please) to participate.



*If you haven't already signed up, please check your email or contact your child's teacher for sign-up instructions. We can't wait to have you join in on all the fun that happens here at CPES!*

### *Family Visitor Expectations*

To help make this experience positive and safe for all children, please keep the following expectations in mind:

- **Follow the teacher's lead.** Teachers will guide the flow of activities and help you understand the classroom routines; please look to them for direction!
- **Let children take the lead in play.** Encourage imagination and join in at their level, but allow children to make choices, solve problems, and guide the storyline!
- **Use positive language.** Model kind words, gentle tones, and supportive interactions.
- **Stay within the classroom area.** Please remain in the designated play space for the duration of your visit.

- **Be present and engaged.** Put phones away and give your full attention to the children and the activity; this makes a huge difference!
- **Support all children.** Interact with the group, not just your own child; we want every student to feel included and supported!
- **Respect privacy.** Please do not take photos or videos during your visit.
- **Be mindful of safety.** Keep an eye out for safe play, help reinforce classroom expectations, and notify a teacher if a concern arises; we are all partners in school safety!
- **Keep goodbyes quick and positive.** When the session ends, a warm, brief goodbye helps children transition back to their routines smoothly; dismissal will come quick!

We appreciate your partnership and can't wait for you to experience the magic of preschool play with us!

## First Ever CPES Holiday Gift Shop

The CPES PTO-sponsored Holiday Shop is coming to Cambridge Park on Monday, 12/15, and Tuesday, 12/16! Students will visit the shop according to the schedule below and will have the chance to purchase small gifts for family members this holiday season. Items range in price starting at just 25 cents. Please mark your calendars and feel free to coordinate with the PTO if you'd like to help make this festive event a success!

**DAY 1**  
Date: Monday, December 15th  
Location: CPES Gymnasium

DAY	TIME	CLASSES	
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Marques	Menconi
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Fowler	Mehta
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	Gerding	Balletta (Scala)
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	Hargrave	Gibson-Clarke

**DAY 2**  
Date: Tuesday, December 16th  
Location: CPES Gymnasium

DAY	TIME	CLASSES	
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Taylor	Babino
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sattira	Joseph
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	Gargulinski	Huffman
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	Wood (Yousoff)	Hornowitz
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	Novello	Madrusso
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Fin	



**Monday, December 15th**  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 16th**  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Gift options for every  
family member!**

## Preschool Parent Workshop: Toileting

The MARSD preschool program will host a parent workshop on toilet training on **December 10th from 6:30 - 7:30 PM** for families of all district preschool students. Free childcare will be available and provided by our **MRHS High School National Honor Society** students; please indicate whether you will need childcare when completing your registration. We hope to see you there!



Come



Join



Us!

## MARSD Cares: Winter Wonderland



MARSD Cares is excited to host the second annual Winter Wonderland! We are currently collecting donations to help make this event a success.

*Donations will be accepted now through December 5th.*

Please see the attached flyer for full details on what items are needed and how you can contribute. Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support!

## CPES Giving Tree

We're excited to start our **CPES Giving Tree**, a special way for our Husky Pups to learn about kindness and helping others during the holiday season. Each donation collected from our tree will support families in need and teach our students the joy of giving. Together, we'll see how small acts of generosity can make a big difference in our community.

We are accepting the following donations:

- A gently used or new tree skirt
- Gently used or new blue and white winter ornaments (*for example, snowflakes, snowmen*)
- Child-sized hats, gloves, socks, and ear warmers
- Child-sized jackets and boots



**Thank you in advance for helping support our school community!**

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## PTO Corner

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### Important Dates - November:

- **Monday, November 24th:** BOE RAM Meeting @ Ravine Drive (7:00 PM)
  - **Wednesday, November 26th:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 PM Dismissal)
  - **Thursday, November 27th through November 30th:** Thanksgiving Break!
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### Important Dates - December:

- **Tuesday, December 2nd:** PTO Meeting @ CPES (7:00 PM)
- **Tuesday, December 2nd:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 Dismissal)
- **Tuesday, December 2nd:** Evening Conferences
- **Wednesday, December 3rd:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 Dismissal)
- **Wednesday, December 3rd:** Afternoon Conferences
- **Thursday, December 4th:** National Cookie Day (Dress Like Your Favorite Cookie)
- **Thursday, December 4th:** PTO Court Jester Dine Out (4:00 - 10:00 PM)
- **Friday, December 5th:** Last Day of Trimester 1
- **Monday, December 8th:** 2nd Trimester Begins
- **Monday, December 15th:** BOE Ram Meeting @ Lloyd Road (7:00 PM)
- **Monday, December 15th:** Cozy Sweater Day (Wear Your Favorite Sweater)
- **Tuesday, December 16th:** Winter Wonderland (Wear White or Silver)
- **Wednesday, December 17th:** Pajama Day (Wear a Cozy Pair of PJs)
- **Thursday, December 18th:** Festive Hat/Headband Day (Wear a Festive Headpiece)
- **Friday, December 19th:** CPES School Spirit Day (Wear your CPES gear OR school colors)
- **Monday, December 22nd:** First Day of Winter (Wear Blue)
- **Tuesday, December 23rd:** Candy Cane Day (Wear Red and White)
- **Tuesday, December 23rd:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 Dismissal)
- **Wednesday, December 24th, 2025 - Sunday, January 4th:** Winter Break



**Dr. P**

Supervisor of Cambridge Park Elementary School

Contact



Dr. Paone-Hurd brings a decade of experience in education to the Cambridge Park Elementary School community. Now, as a proud member of the Cambridge Park team, Dr. Paone-Hurd is excited to bring her knowledge and passion to help every student thrive in our preschool building!

