

# Baden Bobcats Newsletter

## November/December 2022 Paw Print Edition



# BADEN ELEMENTARY

HOME OF THE BOBCATS

Ms. Antron Huff, Principal

### OUR VISION

Baden embraces all students recognizing that each child brings with him/her unique talents, strengths, challenges, and needs. Teachers at Baden are highly qualified and motivated to teach free-thinkers to be life-long learners. Baden expects that each child will succeed at rigorous levels, be prepared and accepted to college, and become positive role models in the community.

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is that all students are fully prepared for higher education and the opportunity to embark on college. No exceptions! No excuses! Just results! Baden seeks to provide its students with a rigorous, well-rounded fine arts education coupled with positive development, a solid foundation in character education and advanced technological skills for innovation in today's world. We strive for excellence through data-driven instruction and proven research-based best classroom practices. At Baden, we are a community of accountable stakeholders, learning together.

### FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL HUFF

The Baden Elementary School **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** Team is in charge of developing and implementing ways to improve student outcomes within our school community and assisting in the success of our scholars. The purpose of PBIS is to encourage students in their character development and support them in making positive choices both in and out of the classroom. Our school's matrix includes the following **ROAR** traits:

- Respectful
- Ownership
- Act like a Scholar
- Ready to Learn

This school year, classroom teachers will be providing weekly points to students based on these traits. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 20 points a week which will then be used to determine their eligibility in earning our monthly and quarterly PBIS incentives.

Last quarter, many students participated in our movie and popcorn incentive. This quarter, students will have the opportunity to earn a game day where they can play various board games along with their peers and classroom teachers! We ask that you encourage your child in earning these points and remind them of Baden's ROAR traits so that it is consistent both in school and at home.

Additionally, we would like to receive some input from you regarding our school counseling department and how we can best serve our students. PBIS assists in reinforcing many of the topics that we discuss in classroom guidance lessons. Therefore, we would love for our parents to complete the following needs assessment in order to get your thoughts and opinions on which supports should be in place:

<https://forms.gle/Yc4ZFdoKH4ioZLdc7>

Thank you so much for your time! Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Horstkamp at [margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org](mailto:margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org) with any questions regarding PBIS.

# IMPORTANT dates to remember

**2-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students:** Nov. 21st & 22nd, 2022

**Thanksgiving Break – Schools and Offices Closed:** Nov. 23rd-25th, 2022

**Unity Day (Wear Orange Shirt for No Bullying):** Dec. 7th, 2022

**Winter Spirit Week:** Dec. 19th-22nd, 2022

**(New Date) 1st QTR Awards Ceremony:** Dec. 19th, 2022

**PBIS Monthly Incentive:** Dec. 22nd, 2022

**Winter Break/Christmas/Schools /Offices Closed:** Dec. 23rd, 26th-30th, 2022

**New Year's Day – Schools and Offices Closed:** Jan. 2nd, 2023

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## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Thanks to parents, students, and staff, Baden Elementary had a successful Unity Day celebration and Red Ribbon Spirit Week this October. We want to continue the conversation of solidarity and support for our student community. On the first Wednesday of the month, Baden will celebrate Unity Day by wearing orange and promoting kindness/inclusion. This November, we are working to develop and implement the Baden Bullying Prevention Plan.

PGCPS remains committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from all forms of bullying, harassment and intimidation (BHI). This commitment is an integral part of our comprehensive efforts to promote learning, and to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that can impede the learning process. Therefore, Baden has been implementing the following interventions to address bullying prevention: continued Unity Day celebrations, the creation of a special Unity Day T-shirt, reinforcement of positive behaviors in students, recognition of good character, and guidance lessons on bullying, assertiveness, peer pressure, kindness/empathy, and conflict resolution. If you have any concerns about bullying, please reach out to the professional school counselor at: [margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org](mailto:margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org) or submit an official report here.

Thank you,  
Maggie Horstkamp

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## **NURSE CARTER'S CORNER**

Hello Parents!

As many of you are already aware, the 2022-2023 Flu season is here and hitting hard! The season started a bit earlier than usual, and appears to be making our kiddos a bit "sicker" than usual. So, what's a parent to do? Well...if your child has not yet received their influenza vaccine, now is a good time to get one. Also, consider sending your child to school in a face mask, and encourage them to keep it on throughout the school day. Please send extras since we are no longer providing them at school. Also, as always...encourage good hand hygiene. Wash those hands frequently and thoroughly!

For additional information, please review the CDC guidelines for parents.  
[Flu Guide for Parents](#)

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### **Attendance**

#### **Baden ES 2022-2023 Absence Reason Notification**

In an effort to provide a standardized Absence Reason Notification for all PGCPs schools, and to make submission and collection of documentation for student absences easier, a template has been created for all schools to use. This template will serve as the official means of parent/guardian notifications for student absences.

### **Important Handbooks**

This year's Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and Code of Conduct for Parents is linked below.

#### **Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook** **Parent Code of Conduct**

### **SchoolMax**

Please be sure that you have access to the Family Portal via SchoolMax. If you do not have a login and password, please contact Mrs. Huff or Ms. Woodridge. Use of this portal will keep you up-to-date on your child's attendance and grades.

If you have not logged into the parent portal over 6 months, your account will become disabled. The only thing we can do at the school level is to reset your password to get back in or if your email has changed we can put in your new email address.

[lisa.huff@pgcps.org](mailto:lisa.huff@pgcps.org)

[toshingw@pgcps.org](mailto:toshingw@pgcps.org)

### **Student Emergency/Contact Form**

Please complete all Google Forms that will be sent home on the first day of school, especially the **Student Information/Emergency Card**. You will find the Student Information/Emergency Contact Form **here**. It is extremely important that we have accurate emergency information on file for every child. We are also asking for email addresses as a form of communication with our families. Sending newsletters and other mass correspondence in this manner will save us time and ensure communication more efficiently.

### **Birthday Treats/Celebrations**

Parties, lunch celebrations, and treats/goody bags are prohibited this school year.

### **School Meals Application**


The federal waiver that provided free lunch and breakfast for all students during the pandemic has expired. During the 2022-2023 school year, families who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will pay for meals at school.

SY23 Elementary Meal Prices

 Breakfast: \$1.60/day

 Lunch: \$2.75/day

We encourage all families to consider applying for free and reduced price meals! Visit <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict> to apply online today!

 How to pay for lunch: MySchoolBucks is an online payment service through which parents can securely pay for meals and monitor student cafeteria purchases. Meal payments can be made online or through the mobile app. <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain>.

We have a Principal Lunch Account. If your child borrows the funds from the Principal Account. You must pay the account back as soon as possible. If you completed a free and reduced lunch application Food and Nutrition Services will respond to you in reference to your application. Baden Elementary School does not have any information about your application.

### **Morning Routine/Drop-offs**

If you are dropping off at the main entrance door, **please do not park in or block our bus loop between 8:45am-9:30am.** We need to ensure that our buses can arrive safely and on time each day. ***This means, you must park in the Baden Community Center parking lot for student drop-offs.*** Students will walk down the sidewalk from the parking lot and enter through the main entrance of the school building. **The morning drop-off area will be monitored by staff until 9:30 am. Students who are car riders, arriving after 9:30 am, must be escorted into the building and signed-in by a parent or guardian.** Your cooperation is appreciated!

### **School Dismissal Routine**

In order to ensure the safety of our students, children who are being picked up for early dismissal must be signed out each day. We check I.D. and match students according to those individuals listed on the emergency card or through a written note only. **Students will not be permitted to be signed out for early dismissal after 2:45pm.**

### **Communicating Changes for How Your Child Goes Home**

We will not be able to accept verbal permission or changes in your child's dismissal arrangements over the phone for safety reasons. **You must communicate this in writing via email before 1:30pm to your child's teacher and to the Main Office staff.**

[lisa.huff@pgcps.org](mailto:lisa.huff@pgcps.org)

[toshingw@pgcps.org](mailto:toshingw@pgcps.org)

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### **School Visits**

If you are interested in volunteering or observing your child during the school day this must be set up in advance. Please note, classroom visits/observation appointments are not scheduled through the classroom teacher.

All volunteers must first complete fingerprinting and background screening through the PGCPS Fingerprinting Office. Please visit the Visitor Screening Page on the PGCPS website, to begin your visitor approval process. Once the above fingerprinting and background screening is complete and we have this information on file at the school, please click the link below to make an appointment.

Please visit the [VISITOR SCREENING PAGE](#) on the PGCPS website, to begin your visitor approval process.

Appointment Link

<https://doodle.com/bp/badenesmainofficesupportstaff/appointments-classroom-visitobservation-sy23>

### **You can also find information pertaining to our school:**

**School Website:** <https://schools.pgcps.org/baden/>

### **Office Hours:**

Baden's office hours during the school year are from 8:00 am- 4:30pm daily.

Address: 13601 Baden Westwood Rd, Brandywine, MD 20613

Office Number: (301) 888-1188

**Registrar/Secretary I:** Lisa Huff [lisa.huff@pgcps.org](mailto:lisa.huff@pgcps.org)

**Secretary II:** Tishana Woodridge [toshingw@pgcps.org](mailto:toshingw@pgcps.org)

**Administration:** Principal Huff [antron.huff@pgcps.org](mailto:antron.huff@pgcps.org)

**School Nurse:** Pamela Carter [pamela.galloway@pgcps.org](mailto:pamela.galloway@pgcps.org)

**Guidance Counselor:** Margaret Horstkamp  
[margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org](mailto:margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org)