



# SHARK BITES



November 2019

## Principal's Corner – Anne Park

Dear Shark Families,

Can you believe we are already into our second marking period? Some parents have asked how they can best support their child during their time here at Downes. The very best thing you can do for your child is have open ended conversations about what they are learning. Rather than ask, "How was your day?" try saying something such as, "Tell me one thing you learned in math class today." Or "Tell me about the character in the story you read today". Having a student share their learning with you helps them to solidify the content in their own minds.

I want to take time to thank everyone who supported the Shark Pride Stride.

Many people put a lot of time and effort into the event and your work is greatly appreciated. The generosity of the Downes community is inspiring!

Finally, as we start to head into the holiday season I hope you get to take time to enjoy your families and share lots of love and laughter!

Anne Park  
Principal

## Month at a Glance

- 1<sup>st</sup>: No School
- 4<sup>th</sup>: School Choice Period Begins
- 5<sup>th</sup>: PTA Meeting at 6p
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Choice Open House for Kindergarten
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>: School Pictures
- 11<sup>th</sup>: No School (Veteran's Day)
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: No School (Conferences)
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Shark of the Month Lunches
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Newark Halloween Parade
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: No School (Thanksgiving Holiday)

## The Mitten Tree is Returning!

**The tree will be set up in the school lobby on Monday, November 4th**

Please consider helping a Downes family by participating in our annual Mitten Tree. The Mitten Tree helps support families in our school who are in need of clothing and essentials. A great way to share within our community and teach our children about the joy of giving. The tree will be set up in the school lobby on Monday, November 4.

- Select a mitten. Sign it out on the spreadsheet next to the tree.
- Purchase a new item described on the mitten.
- Drop off the unwrapped item and mitten in the Nurse's office by Wednesday, December 4.

If you were unable to shop for a Mitten Tree participant but would still like to help, you can donate Target or Walmart gift cards. These cards will be used to shop for items that were not selected from the tree.

Contact [Lynda Fisher](mailto:LyndaFisher4@gmail.com) at [LyndaFisher4@gmail.com](mailto:LyndaFisher4@gmail.com) with questions about the Mitten Tree.



### Contact Information

<https://www.facebook.com/DownesPTA/> | <https://www.facebook.com/DownesES/> | <http://www.DownesES.org>

Downes Elementary School Main Number .....454-2133  
Principal Anne Park.....ext. 12542  
School Nurse.....ext. 12543  
Guidance Counselor.....ext. 42836

Cafeteria.....ext. 42802  
District Transportation Office.....454-2281  
Christina District Office.....552-2600  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristinaK12/>

## PBS DONATIONS Needed

Donations are being accepted for the PBS program. Items will be given to classroom teachers to use as PBS prizes/incentives in their classroom. Please make sure items donated are not broken or missing pieces.

## Open Committee Chairs

- Reflections
- Mom's Breakfast
- Helping Hands
- Dad's Breakfast
- Advocacy
- Grant Writers

You must be a member, or willing to become a member, of the PTA to apply. If you need more information, are interested in a position, or know someone who might be a good fit, please contact Lori Nesnow ([lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com)).

## Report Card

As a reminder, report cards are now accessible on Home Access Center (HAC). If you have misplaced your log-on information, please contact your child's teacher and they can provide the information to you. The link is available on the Downes Elementary School website ([www.downeses.org](http://www.downeses.org)) under the "Parents" tab at the top.

## Electronic Versions of Shark Bites are available with clickable links.

Go to: <http://www.downeses.org> → About Us → [Shark Bites Newsletter](#)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to the Delaware Center in Wilmington

## PTA Officers

President	Bronwyn Millman	<a href="mailto:bmillman@gmail.com">bmillman@gmail.com</a>
Co-Vice Presidents	Dani Whitaker Parker Slaton	<a href="mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com">daniwhitaker14@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:parker.slaton@gmail.com">parker.slaton@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Rebecca Kalmbach	<a href="mailto:rebecca716@hotmail.com">rebecca716@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ann Balback	<a href="mailto:ann.j.balback@gmail.com">ann.j.balback@gmail.com</a>

## PTA Committees

Co-Membership	Lori Nesnow	<a href="mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com">lnesnow@gmail.com</a>
Book Fair	Andrey Mihaloew	<a href="mailto:andreamihaloew@gmail.com">andreamihaloew@gmail.com</a>
Shark Bites	Allison Gobiel	<a href="mailto:starr.allison@gmail.com">starr.allison@gmail.com</a>
Homeroom Parent Coordinator	Dani Whitaker	<a href="mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com">daniwhitaker14@gmail.com</a>
Reflections	Amber Money	<a href="mailto:amb828@gmail.com">amb828@gmail.com</a>
Vegetable Garden Chairperson	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Vegetable Garden Assistant	Heidi Bloch	<a href="mailto:Heidi.Bloch@chistina.k12.de.us">Heidi.Bloch@chistina.k12.de.us</a>
Display Case	Christy Fitzpatrick	<a href="mailto:christyeduncan@gmail.com">christyeduncan@gmail.com</a>
Website	Lori Nesnow	<a href="mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com">lnesnow@gmail.com</a>
Helping Hands	Dani Whitaker	<a href="mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com">daniwhitaker14@gmail.com</a>
School Photo Coordinator	Marilyn Porras	<a href="mailto:Marilyn.Porras@christina.k12.de.us">Marilyn.Porras@christina.k12.de.us</a>
Mitten Tree	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Box Tops	Parker Slaton	<a href="mailto:parker.slaton@gmail.com">parker.slaton@gmail.com</a>
Advocacy	Lynda Fisher	<a href="mailto:lyndafisher4@gmail.com">lyndafisher4@gmail.com</a>
Mom's Breakfast	Kevin Bohrer	<a href="mailto:downesboxtops@gmail.com">downesboxtops@gmail.com</a>
Dad's Breakfast	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Grant Writer	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
Shark Pride Stride	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>	
	Jason Snyder	<a href="mailto:itsnyder9@yahoo.com">itsnyder9@yahoo.com</a>



## The December Shark Bites Submission Deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please send submissions to: [Dani Whitaker](mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com) at [daniwhitaker14@gmail.com](mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com)



## Meet Your 2019-2020 PTA Members

Welcome back to another school year at Downes. While getting to know your new teachers and your student's new friends, we'd like you to take a moment to get to know who you can reach out to for additional support and resources. We look forward to seeing you at the many events hosted and supported by the PTA this year, and hope you and your students have a happy and productive school year at Downes!

**PTA President:** Bronwyn Millman ([bmmillman@gmail.com](mailto:bmmillman@gmail.com))



Hello Downes Families! My name is Bronwyn Millman and I am the current President of the PTA here at Downes. I have 2 children, Lucas (3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Downes) and Wesley (8<sup>th</sup> grade at Shue). I was PTA President for 2 years when my oldest was a student at Downes and I'm serving again now that my youngest is here at the school. I love the community here at Downes and am so glad that my children have had such a great experience. I have loved meeting other families at the school and appreciate the friendships that my children and I have formed. I believe that PTA has a place for everyone to participate and share their interests and talents. Please contact me at [bmmillman@gmail.com](mailto:bmmillman@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns that you might have about Downes or the PTA. I look forward to hearing from you.

**PTA Vice President Co-Chair:** Dani Whitaker ([daniwhitaker14@gmail.com](mailto:daniwhitaker14@gmail.com))



Hello fellow Sharks! I am pleased to be serving as the Co-Vice Present of the PTA and am excited to continue to be a part of what makes this school so great! My husband Rejean and I reside in Middletown, DE with our 2 daughters, Marley and Rory. Marley is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, at Downes, in the Chinese Immersion program and absolutely loves it. Our little Rory attends KinderCare Learning Center on Paxson Lane and has a little ways to go before entering kindergarten. I am the editor of Downes' school newsletter (Shark Bites), as well as one of the administrators for the school website. Outside of these duties, I work as an administrative assistant at the University of Delaware and am very active in a number of committees. In my down time I love to read, researching my family genealogy, photography and spending time with family and friends. I look forward to another great school year and connecting with you all.

**PTA Vice President Co-Chair:** Parker Slaton ([parker.slaton@gmail.com](mailto:parker.slaton@gmail.com))



I have two daughters at Downes, Ibbie in kindergarten and Cole in second grade, as well as two preschool-aged sons at Newark Methodist Preschool. I'm excited to serve as Co-Vice President of the PTA this year and grateful for the opportunity to help with our school. I enjoy photography and take pictures at many school events. The images can be seen on the posters in the front hall and in Shark Bites. I'm looking forward to the school year and helping other parents and guardians get involved with our community!



**PTA Treasurer:** Ann Balback ([ann.j.balback@gmail.com](mailto:ann.j.balback@gmail.com))



My daughter, Alana, is a second grader in the Chinese Immersion program. We love being a part of the Downes Family!

I have worked in the Financial Services industry for over 20 years and currently work as a Sr. Trust Officer - Team Lead at RBC Trust Company.

This is my third year acting as the PTA Treasurer. In this role, I have had a first-hand view of how the PTA (through your generous donations and volunteering your time) helps to improve the school through supporting various student programs, family events, and classroom/teacher support. We couldn't do it without YOU!!

Fun facts about me, in my free time I love laughing with friends and family, traveling, running half marathons, and being outdoors – especially at the beach!

**PTA Secretary:** Rebecca Kalmbach ([rebecca716@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca716@hotmail.com))



I happy to be serving on the board this year PTA secretary. I have two children in the Christina School District. My daughter Maeve is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in the Chinese Immersion Program and Thurman is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in the Chinese program at Shue Medill. I joined the PTA to learn more about what my children were doing at school, and to connect with other Downes families. I work full time as a middle school French teacher in the Appoquinimink School District. I love listening to podcasts on my commute and I have been known to take an extra loop around the neighborhood to hear the ending of a great story. I am so proud to be a part of the Downes community and I look forward to meeting more of you this year!

**PTA Membership Co-Chair:** Lori Nesnow ([lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com))



I am happy to be continuing as co membership chair this year at Downes. My son, Owen, is in second grade and is in the Chinese immersion program and my younger son, Evan, will be in kindergarten next year. We are happy to have our child attend such a great school and be part of such an amazing community of people. I work at the University of Delaware full time and have started to take classes again to expand my knowledge on contemporary issues. I love to explore national parks and have rafted through the Grand Canyon. We enjoy going to the beach whenever we can. I am looking forward to another amazing year at Downes.

## A Reading Note from Ms. Brewer

### 7 Tips on how to raise a reader



1. **Lead by example:** Be a reader and read around your kids all the time. Show your kids that you are interested and enjoy reading and this will help spark their curiosity.
2. **Read with your kids:** Read with your kids early, often, and lovingly, to help them establish a positive, comforting, and exciting relationship with reading from the very start.
3. **Talk literature:** Talk about favorite books, authors, stories, and genres with your kids and with others. Show your kids that you are interested in books and excited about their interest in books. Talking about literature will help create a rich literary culture within the family.
4. **Keep books everywhere:** Keep books in the car, in every room of the house, in beach bags, and more. If your kid gets bored and plops down next to a pile of books, then chances are they will pick one up and start reading it.
5. **Take regular outings to the library:** Outings are always fun, and the library is a great place where kids can explore new books and feel empowered by choosing and checking out their own books.
6. **Make reading and writing a part of everyday activities:** There are opportunities to read and talk about reading everywhere. Read pamphlets in waiting rooms or, for the younger kids, read street signs while out and about. This is yet another chance to talk about reading.
7. **Stay with it!** Start these habits when your kids are young and never stop. Who knows, maybe you'll start to love these habits.

## Donations for Keeping Wilmington Warm

It is that time of year when Room 102 and 106 are collecting for the charity: Keeping Wilmington Warm! This organization collects items and delivers to the men and women who are homeless, in the streets of Wilmington. Items that they are seeking are for adults. They are asking for new or gently used adult sweat suits sizes; medium all the way up to 2XL. These are used for layering on cold nights. They also collect new warm socks, and big blankets (new or gently used). We thank you for helping us keep these souls warm in our cold winter months! Please drop off deliveries to Room 102. Make sure you put your name on the bag of items, so we can give you a shout out on the Keeping Wilmington Warm Homepage! You make us the success we are!

**For it is in giving  
that we receive.**

— Francis of Assisi

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Downes Families!

## Meet the new Staff



Hello and 你好! My name is Michael Porter, and I'm a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. I lived and worked in Beijing, China for many years, and one of the things that fascinated me was the way that people from America and China used language differently in order to accomplish the same things. Some people would call these "cultural differences", and I love how learning a foreign language brings to light all the cultural assumptions we make. I also love learning about Chinese philosophy and how it can relate to our own lives, even now. This is my first year in the Chinese immersion program at Downes, and I'm so excited to get to know each and every student and parent in the Chinese immersion program.



My name is Rhonda Seagraves. I recently moved to DE and will be moving even closer to Downes in November. I have a son who is currently a sophomore in college. I've been an educator in both NJ and DE and have worked in grades K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Elementary is definitely my favorite. My academic career consists of degrees in Elementary Education, Reading, and ESOL. I enjoy reading, shopping, and going to the beach.

## Dictionary Delivery

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Downes received dictionaries courtesy of the Newark Rotary Club.



## Downes Welcomes Author Bethany Barton



On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Downes was excited to welcome author Bethany Barton. Ms. Barton is the author/illustrator of numerous children's books including This Monster Needs a Haircut, This Monster Cannot Wait, I'm Trying to Love Spiders and Give Bees A Chance. Students who purchased a book, were able to have a small meet & greet with Ms. Barton and have their book signed.











## Bank at School Assembly

Kicks off another school year for K-5 students at Downes Elementary School



Downes continues its partnerships with the University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship, the Delaware Financial Literacy Institute, and the State Bank Commissioner, and the New Castle County School Employees Federal Credit Union.



Weekly visits to the school from NCCSEFCU bankers accept student deposits, teach financial literacy and the importance of saving money.







## **Spirit Week at Downes – October 14<sup>th</sup> thru October 18<sup>th</sup>)**

Mismatched Monday: Everyone is different and we should embrace our differences.



**Twin Tuesday:** Dress up like a friend or your twin.



**Wednesday – Superhero Day:** Everyone is powerful, show kindness all day.



**Thursday – Kind Heart Day:** Write a kind note on a heart to a friend and post it on the wall.





Friday – We Stand United: Wear school colors or shark gear (blue and white).



## Newark's Main Street Mile – Downes takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Thanks to the Downes community for supporting the school by participating in the city of Newark's Main Street Mile. We had a record number 109 registrants which brought home first place! The weather was beautiful, the run was fun, and the refreshments were plentiful! To top off

such a wonderful morning, we brought back to the school \$500. The strength of our school spirit and unity was highlighted in the large number of alumni, staff, students, and families that participated in this event. Thanks for all you do!









# Downes Student, Parents and Community Leaders Participate on International Walk to School Day



On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Downes community participated in International Walk to School Day! We had a fantastic turnout, beautiful weather, and a lot of smiling faces. Thanks to DelDOT for inviting Mr. Cone and providing the awesome slap bracelets to the participating students. We even had a special visit from Mayor Clifton and Senator David Sokola. The City of Newark Police department ensured our safety by leading the way! Thanks to all the families who participated in this successful event. We look forward to another great event next year!









# Sharkifieds

## Wish Upon A Castle

Specializing in Disney Planning and Travel

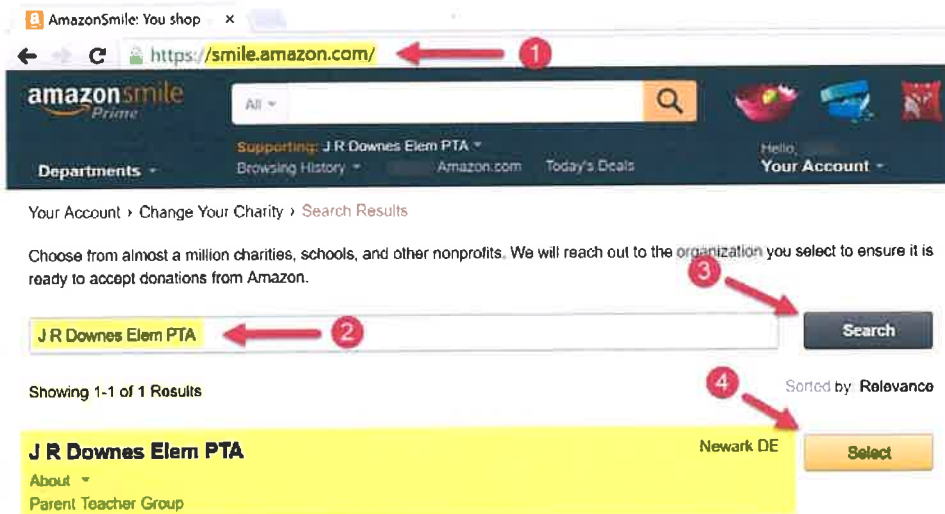
Eddie Robinson

wishuponacastle.com  
eddie@wishuponacastle.com

302-685-4531

## Shop on Amazon? Support Downes while Shopping

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) when you shop and select J R Downes Elem PTA as your Charity. Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases.



### FAQs from Amazon Smile

#### What is Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com.

#### Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time.

#### How do I shop at Amazon Smile?

To shop at Amazon Smile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return.

#### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on Amazon Smile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and Amazon Smile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

## Coca-Cola Give for Downes



Downes Elementary School is also registered for Coke Rewards. Sign up by going to:

<https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/>

Parents can help in one of three ways. Either enter your points yourself online using the link above, clip and send your codes along with your boxtops, or use your smartphone to take a picture of the code and text it to Kevin Bohrer @ 302-528-0666 and I will enter them. The code from a 20oz soda gets us 5 cents, the code from a 12-pack gets us 15 cents and the code from the 35 packs (Costco, BJ's, etc) get us 38 cents. It really does add up!

## Box Tops for Education

Downes Elementary School is registered with the Box Tops for Education (BTFE) program. Our 2019-20 School Year goal is \$1000. We fell short of our goal last year so we need your support to hit our goal. I know we can do it, but we need everyone's help!



[www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com)

They frequently run sweepstakes and schools can win 5000 or even 10,000 boxtops (that's \$500 or \$1000). Be sure to check out the Box Tops for Education website ([www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com)) and follow them on Facebook and you will see when a new sweepstakes starts. You can always enter the sweepstakes' DAILY so enter often to increase our chances of winning. We haven't won one yet, but the more we enter the better our chances!

**ATTENTION 2019 Homeroom Parents:** If you are in your child's classroom and see the extra school supplies (Ziploc, Kleenex, etc.) please check them for boxtops and take a few moments to cut them off and put them in the submission box. Everyone gets us 10 cents closer to our goal!

NEW!! Starting in 2019, the boxtops program is transitioning from physical boxtops that you clip and submit, to digital boxtops. Digital boxtops work by way of scanning your grocery store receipts. You will see a boxtop logo on your product, but instead of clipping it, you will open the BTFE app on your phone and scan the store receipt. That money then gets directly deposited into Downes' account. For clippable boxtops, please continue to send them in groups of 25 in an envelope or baggie marked with your child's full name and homeroom number. If possible, put this information on a piece of paper inside the baggie because we reuse the baggies for submission. Clipping them neatly and checking expiration dates on Box Tops is also greatly appreciated. Collection boxes are located in each classroom and the main office.

Questions? Contact [Kevin Bohrer](mailto:Kevin.Bohrer@downesboxtops@gmail.com) at [downesboxtops@gmail.com](mailto:downesboxtops@gmail.com).

## Shark of the Month – September Superstars

<b>Kindergarten</b> Mack Amos Daisy Melville Kenzie MacDonald Jamel Brooks Sage Sabocoor Isabella Patterson Amaya Moffat Brave Heiger	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b> Jackson Alkire Mason Xu Asher Pitzpatrick Haben Weber Zachary Barnes Aleeza Masood Jacob Machulski Brianna Snover	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b> Samantha Silva Corrina Huntley Evelyn Berry Maeve Kalmbach Ethan Revis Keira Smoak Autumn Knox Gianni Damiani	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b> Sojin Son Meredith Twagira Wells Heiger Ruby Yao Lucas Zhang Mirna Salman Lucas Millman	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Lucas Li Marissa Rieman Giovani Vega London Tate Isabella Jusino Olivia Hans Payton Pierce	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Delilah Epps Bradford Matthews Dylan Ristenbatt Kimberli Cordova Kennedy Melville Sebastian Duker Diego Aguado-Serino Arielle Echevarria
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## PE Corner

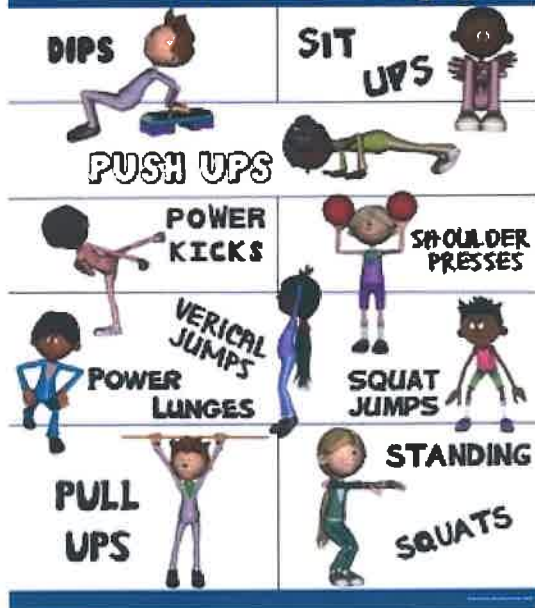
We have reached the end of the first marking period! The students were hard at work improving and applying various locomotor skills, such as jogging, skipping, galloping etc. and learning the correct form to throw, both underhand and overhand, and catch. The students are learning the importance of being physically active and developing an insight that movement and participation in various games can be fun! Some of our favorite activities over the past two months have been flag tag, foxtail tag, musical hoops, Hoola Hut Knockdown, Volcano Land tag, "Don't Sink My Ship," and Battleship! The students worked up a sweat with various warm up activities and increased their flexibility and reduced their risk of soreness by engaging in daily stretching activities as well. We even learned the difference between muscular strength and muscular endurance with various station exercises and scooter use! Just as important as skill development, the students are working on the importance of fair play, strategy, and working cooperatively within partner and team activities. Time flies when you are having fun! I look forward to the next couple of months and hope your students do too. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out and contact me over email or class dojo at [connie.spedden@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:connie.spedden@christina.k12.de.us).



### Locomotor Movement



### Top 10 Muscular Strength and Power Exercises



### THROWING AND CATCHING CUES

#### UNDERHAND THROW

SWING - STEP - THROW  
STEP WITH YOUR OPPOSITE FOOT



#### OVERHAND THROW

SIDE TO TARGET  
UPPERCASE 'L'  
STEP - THRUST - THROW  
STEP WITH YOUR OPPOSITE FOOT



#### CATCHING

READY POSITION - HANDS UP - REACH. GRAB. GIVE  
OVER BELLY BUTTON - THUMB TOGETHER  
UNDER BELLY BUTTON - PINKIES TOGETHER



**PARENTS,  
WE NEED  
YOU!**

## PTA NEEDS YOU!

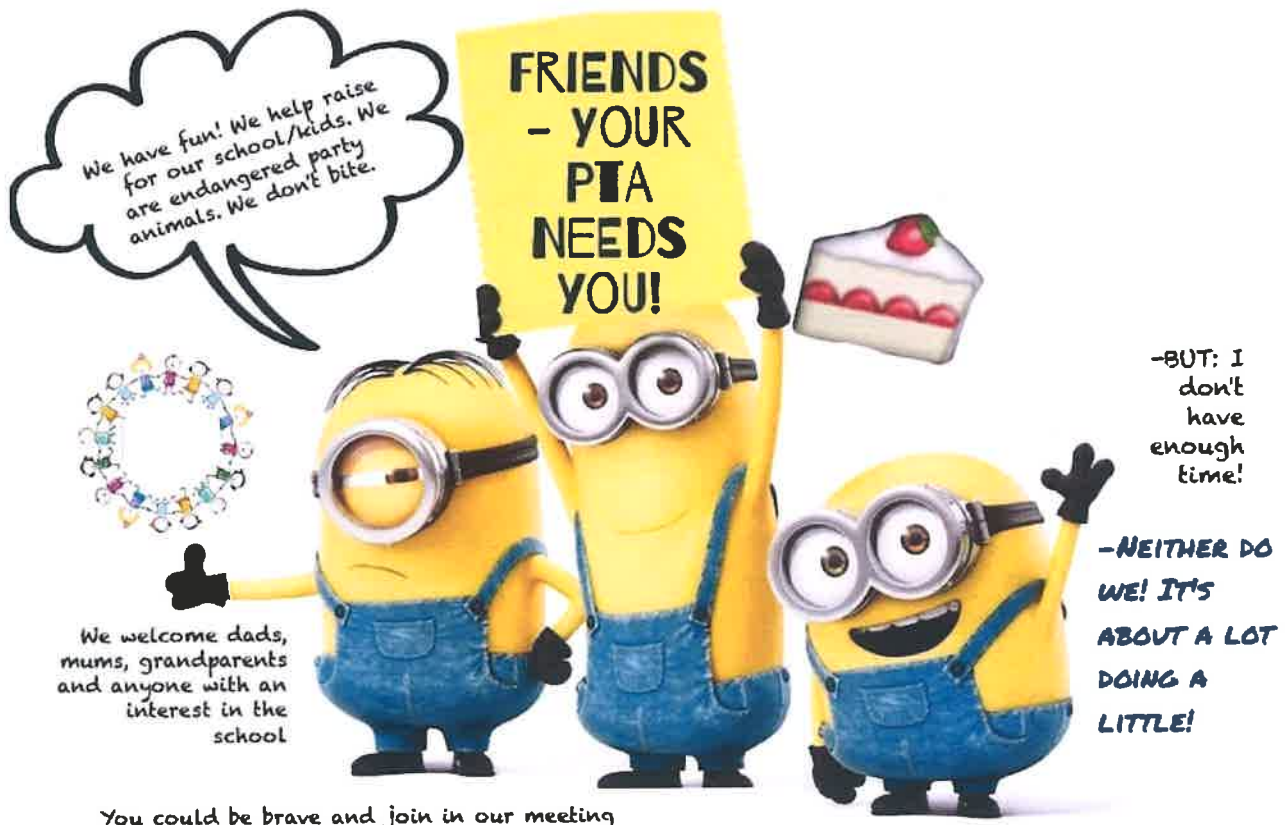
We need your help. We have several committee level position open for the 2019-2020 school year. If we are unable to fill these positions our students, families and teachers may miss out on valuable opportunities!

**HELP  
Needed!**

### Open Committee Chairs:

- Reflections
- Mom's Breakfast
- Helping Hands
- Dad's Breakfast
- Advocacy
- Grant Writers

You must be a member, or willing to become a member, of the PTA to apply. If you need more information, are interested in a position, or know someone who might be a good fit, please contact Lori Nesnow at [lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com).





## PTA Corner: Why Join the PTA?



**We Want You!**  
Join & Support  
Downes  
Elementary School

The PTA at Downes isn't just bake sales! When you join the PTA, you signal that you are involved with the school. You have opportunities to network with the principal, teachers, district administrators, and other parents. The PTA offers educational lectures and workshops. When you are a part of the PTA, you are part of a powerful voice of advocacy for our school. Please join us!

Questions about PTA Membership, contact Lori Nesnow at [lnesnow@gmail.com](mailto:lnesnow@gmail.com) or Andrey Mihalow at [andreyamihaloew@gmail.com](mailto:andreyamihaloew@gmail.com). To join or renew your membership, please send the completed membership form and payment in an envelope or baggie to school or drop off in the office. Or sign-up via online registration at [downespta.memberhub.store](http://downespta.memberhub.store) and select Single Membership for \$8, Double Membership for \$15, or Triple Membership \$21.

Meetings are held at 6pm the first Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise noted) in the library and childcare is usually provided in the cafeteria. Check our website to confirm meeting dates:

[https://www.downeses.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=218287&type=d](https://www.downeses.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=218287&type=d) Like the John R. Downes PTA on Facebook to get up to the minute announcements and to network with other Downes Elementary parents.

### DOWNES ELEMENTARY PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Simply return this to school with your child or drop it in the PTA mailbox in the main office

<input type="checkbox"/> \$8 single membership		<input type="checkbox"/> cash	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 two memberships		<input type="checkbox"/> check (Payable to Downes PTA) ck# _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$21 three memberships		<input type="checkbox"/> Optional Tax Deductible DONATIONS: \$ _____	

<b>Member 1</b> Parent _____ Teacher _____ Male _____ Female _____ address _____ phone _____ email _____ Student Name(s) / Homeroom Teacher (s) _____	<b>Member 2</b> Parent _____ Teacher _____ Male _____ Female _____ address _____ phone _____ email _____ Student Name(s) / Homeroom Teacher (s) _____	<b>Member 3</b> Parent _____ Teacher _____ Male _____ Female _____ address _____ phone _____ email _____ Student Name(s) / Homeroom Teacher (s) _____
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## K-Kids Club



The K-Kids Club has been collecting aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House is for families whose children are in the A.I. Hospital for Children and those families can stay at the house. Money is earned to run the house by taking just the aluminum tabs to a Recycling Facility. In one recent year they earned \$55,000. That's a lot of tabs collected!!!! This fundraiser is on-going throughout the school year so start now collecting the aluminum tabs. Just drop off the tabs in the school office. This is a win, win, win situation!!! The earth wins by recycling, the Ronald McDonald House wins by earning money, and you win by drinking and eating food from the cans you have purchased. Thanks ahead of time from the K-Kids' Club!!!!

## Downes Elementary School

### Car Rider, Parent Pickup and Walker Dismissal Framework

Please Reference the Dismissal Map

**Goal:** Student safety and expedite the dismissal process efficiently and promptly for Walkers, Car Riders, Parents, Crossing Guard, and School Staff

**Note:** Parents meeting students in designated pickup area should not double park in the school's parking lot or along drive going behind the school (cones will mark No Parking Area)

#### Car Rider and Walker Student Dismissal Times

**Kindergarten: 3:17 pm**

**Grades 1-5: 3:20 pm**

Car Rider Circle	Meet Student at Dismissal Outside Gym
<u>Pickup</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Drivers remain in cars and in a single lane</li><li>● Drivers picking up Kindergarten students may arrive by 3:07 pm as they are the first dismissed</li><li>● Maintain safe distances from other cars</li><li>● Slow speed when navigating through the pickup circle</li><li>● Student safely in vehicle slowly exit</li></ul>	<u>Meet Student</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Drivers park along adjoining neighborhood streets to school parking lot/car rider circle</li><li>● Note: Drivers should not double park in the school parking lot</li><li>● Walk to meet student outside of the gym doors</li><li>● Accompany student back to parked car</li></ul>

#### Exit Procedures

**Goal:** Reduce the number of vehicles the crossing guard is directing entering and exiting the school's parking lot at dismissal

#### Vehicle's Exiting School's Parking Lot

No Left Turn onto Rahway Rd between 8:10-8:40 am and 3:20-3:40 pm (at the crossing guard)

**Goal:** To increase safety for student walkers and improve the flow of car turning onto Rahway Rd. from Casho Mill Road to pick up their students

#### \*\*\*All Vehicles - Exiting Routes\*\*\*

1. Proceed straight on Webb Rd. and left onto Pickett Ln. to Casho Mill Rd.
2. Turn right onto Rahway Rd. and left onto Barksdale Rd. to Casho Mill Rd.





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John R. Downes Elementary  
School and our shared  
committment to the  
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# Parent Back to School Newsletter

## School Breakfast and Lunch Program

### School Year 2019-2020

#### Meal Benefit Forms

A NEW meal benefit form is due each year. There are 3 ways to access these forms.

- You may complete an online application at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com)
- Print form from [www.christinak12.org/CNS](http://www.christinak12.org/CNS) and return to the cafeteria
- Pick up a paper copy at your school and return to the cafeteria

If your child(ren) received *Free or Reduced* priced meals last year, they will automatically receive these meals up to 30 days or until a new form has been processed. If a new form has not been processed by *October 17, 2019* he/she will have to pay full price for meals.

#### Cafeteria Prices

##### Breakfast:

Grades PK-5	\$0.80
Grades 6-12	\$1.00
Reduced Price	\$0.25
Adult	\$2.50

##### Lunch:

Grades PK-5	\$1.50
Grades 6-12	\$1.75
Reduced Price	\$0.40
Adult	\$3.75
Milk	\$0.35

#### Prepayments for Meals

- Online payments are accepted at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). This gives families the option to view balances and account activity. A convenience fee of \$1.75 for every transaction is required.



#### Unpaid Meal Charges

- Accounts with unpaid meal charges should be paid promptly
- No snacks or seconds can be charged
- Elementary students who forget money will be able to charge a meal to be paid later
- Grades 6-12 with a negative balance equaling one week of meals, will be given a courtesy meal for lunch

#### PIN Numbers = Student ID Number (6 Digits)

Student's cafeteria pin number is their Student ID number which allows students and parents/guardians to purchase meals or make payments in any cafeteria in the district.

#### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Certain schools in Christina are operating under the "Community Eligibility Provision".

- All enrolled students are eligible to receive a breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge**.
- No need to submit a meal benefit form for child(ren) enrolled at a CEP school.

If you have additional children attending other schools in the district not participating in CEP, you will be required to fill out a meal benefit form to be eligible for free/reduced meal pricing at those locations.

#### Breakfast In the Classroom

More than half of the schools in Christina School District are allowing students to eat breakfast in their classroom. This initiative helps increase access for all students and helps ensure students start their day off with a nutritious breakfast.

#### Healthy Meals/Snack & Wellness

All Christina schools meet the tough federal nutrition standards for school meals, ensuring that meals are healthy and well-balanced & provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school.

Healthy snacks/beverages that meet smart snack guidelines are available in most schools for an additional cost, ranging from \$0.25 – \$1.25. For specific products call your school cafeteria.

Candy & soda are not permitted and baked goods discouraged. It is recommended that non-food items such as a book are used for classroom celebrations instead of food items.

#### Food Allergies

If your child is allergic to food, please provide a signed physician note stating the allergy. *If a special menu is needed, the Registered Dietitian will create a menu for your child with proper documentation.*







## Cafeteria Corner November 2019



### Turkey Troubles

Some people have a “Bad Turkey” story. Maybe they cooked the bird upside down without realizing it; maybe they brought it out Thanksgiving morning still frozen. Make sure this year’s turkey is terrific with the help of these tips.

Before you buy...

- \*Consider the size. The number of guests will determine the amount of turkey you will need. The rule of thumb is 1 lb per person.

- \*Think about timing. Frozen turkeys can take days to thaw safely, depending on the size. If it is the day before Thanksgiving, buying a frozen turkey is not your best bet.

- \*Fresh or frozen? Fresh turkey lasts three days in the refrigerator. If you buy in advance, frozen might be the way to go.



Safe cooking...

- \*Cook time depends on the weight of the turkey. Most turkeys have a cooking schedule on the package.

- \*The turkey is done when it reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. This can be measured with a food thermometer in the thickest part of the breast.

- \*If there is stuffing inside the turkey, it must also reach 165 degrees F.

Taking it out of the oven...

- \*Letting the turkey sit for 10 minutes before carving will allow the juices to spread throughout.

- \*Smaller cuts will help with portion control. A serving of turkey is only 3 oz., about the size of a deck of cards.

- \*Pair with yummy fall vegetables like asparagus, beans, and carrots.

### Pumpkin Dessert Recipe

#### Ingredients:

3/4 cup (6 ounces) 1/3-less-fat cream cheese

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup canned pumpkin

2 teaspoons maple syrup

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

24 apple slices

#### Instructions:

Place first 3 ingredients in a medium bowl, and beat with a mixer at medium speed until well blended.

Add syrup and cinnamon, and beat until smooth. Cover and chill 30 minutes. Serve with apple.



# First things First



## Prices (Non-CEP)\*

Elementary Student Breakfast: \$0.80  
 Secondary Student Breakfast: \$1.00  
 Reduced Student Breakfast: \$0.25

## Adult Breakfast: \$2.50

\*If your school participates in CEP (community eligibility provision), a breakfast meal is provided at no cost to all students daily.

**BREAKFAST@SCHOOL**  
 helps keep kids healthy and gives them the energy they need to learn.

*Available Daily!*

- Choice of Crunchmania, Yogurt or Cereal w/Graham Cracker
- 100% Fruit Juice & Assorted Fresh Fruit
- Milk Choices: 1% White, Fat-Free White, Chocolate, Strawberry or Lactaid

# BREAKFAST @SCHOOL

**For first-class learning!**

CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BREAKFAST MENU  
 FOR NOVEMBER 2019  
 ELEMENTARY/DSD/BRENNEN**

*Menu is subject to change.*



**Choose at least ONE  
 serving of FRUIT and at  
 least THREE items TOTAL  
 (so your meal counts as a Complete Breakfast)**

*Enjoy your  
 Breakfast!*

Friday, November 1

*No School Today*

Friday, November 8

Assorted Breakfast  
 Muffins

Friday, November 15

*No School Today*

Thursday, November 7

Mini Bagels

Thursday, November 14

*No School Today*

Friday, November 22

Assorted Breakfast  
 Muffins

Thursday, November 21

Mini Bagels

Wed., November 20

Mini French Toast  
 OR Oatmeal

Wed., November 13

Piggletick  
 (pancake wrapped turkey sausage)  
 OR Oatmeal

Wed., November 6

Mini French Toast  
 OR Oatmeal

Tuesday, November 26

Breakfast Egg Wrap  
 OR Cereal Bar w/ Graham  
 Cracker

Tuesday, November 19

Breakfast Egg Taco  
 (made with turkey sausage)  
 OR Chewy Oatmeal Bar

Tuesday, November 12

Breakfast Egg Wrap  
 OR Cereal Bar w/ Graham  
 Cracker

Tuesday, November 5

Breakfast Egg Taco  
 (made with turkey sausage)  
 OR Chewy Oatmeal Bar

Monday, November 18

Raspberry Turnover

Monday, November 14

*No School Today  
 Veterans' Day*

Monday, November 4

Raspberry Turnover

Monday, November 25

Mini Waffles OR  
 Mini Pancakes

*Thanksgiving*  
**ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY! SEE YOU MONDAY!**



# Menu for NOVEMBER 2019

Menus are subject to change.

## Prices (Non-CEP)\*

**Elementary Student Lunch: \$1.50**

Elementary Second Lunch: \$1.75

**Secondary Student Lunch: \$1.75**

Secondary Second Lunch: \$2.00

**Reduced Student Lunch: \$0.40**

**Adult Lunch: \$3.75**

**Milk: \$0.35**

\*CEP Schools provide one breakfast & lunch meal at no cost to all students daily.

## AVAILABLE DAILY

**PBJ Meal, Black Bean Veggie  
Burger, Cheese Sandwich, Chef  
Salad, Dairy Fuel Pack, Fresh  
Fruit, Fresh Vegetables w/Light  
Ranch Dip**

**Milk Choice: 1% White,  
Fat-Free White, Chocolate,  
Strawberry or Lactaid**



**KIDS!**  
Join us for our  
Thanksgiving  
Feast

Featuring  
Turkey & all  
your favorite  
trimmings



**Thursday, November 21**

Friday, November 1



**No  
School  
Today**

Monday, November 4

### Choose One:

Hot Dog (Turkey) on Bun  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Warm Vegetarian Baked Beans  
Fresh Crunchy Carrots  
Craisins

Tuesday, November 5

### Choose One:

Chicken Tenders w/ Dinner  
Roll  
Chicken Caesar Salad  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Cheesy Mashed Potatoes  
Assorted Fresh Vegetables  
Mandarin Oranges

Wed., November 6

### Choose One:

Cheese Pizza  
Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
Protein Power Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Italian Mixed Vegetables  
Fresh Green Pepper Strips  
Strawberry Cup

Thursday, November 7

### Choose One:

Cheesy Lasagna w/ Garlic  
Breadstick  
Chicken Fiesta Wrap  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Glazed Carrots  
Apple Harvest Salad  
Mixed Fruit Cup

Friday, November 8

### Choose One:

Smoked Hot Ham (Turkey) &  
Cheese Sandwich  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Capri Mixed Vegetables  
Fresh Broccoli Florets  
Juicy Peaches  
Chicken Noodle Soup

Monday, November 11

**Thank  
You**



★ VETERANS' DAY ★  
\*\*\*\*\* DAY ★  
NOVEMBER 11

Wed., November 13

### Choose One:

Cheese Pizza Pie  
Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
Protein Power Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

California Mixed Vegetables  
Assorted Fresh Vegetables  
Chilled Pears

Thursday, November 14

### Choose One:

Cheesy Lasagna w/ Garlic  
Breadstick  
Chicken Fiesta Wrap  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Tuna Salad Sandwich  
Personal Pizza Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Glazed Carrots  
Apple Harvest Salad  
Mixed Fruit Cup

Friday, November 15

### Choose One:

Smoked Hot Ham (Turkey) &  
Cheese Sandwich  
Grilled Cheese  
Protein Power Pack

### Fruit & Vegetable Sides:

Capri Mixed Vegetables  
Fresh Broccoli Florets  
Juicy Peaches  
Chicken Noodle Soup



# What's on YOUR plate?



## Find the two dozen Thanksgiving words!



- AMERICA MAYFLOWER
- COLONY PIE
- COOK PILGRIMS
- CORN PLYMOUTH
- ENGLAND PUMPKIN
- FALL SAIL
- FAMILY SETTLERS
- FEAST SQUASH
- FREEDOM STUFFING
- GRAVY THANKSGIVING
- HARVEST TURKEY
- MAIZE YAMS

S M K E Y D E Z I A M C N N  
P U M P K I N G L G M C O L O N Y  
M O M O C R H L F F S H S E D V I  
B I D S Q U R A N M A E A D I I  
A S E C O R A D E E V G W J S R  
J E E I P A L F Y E S A I L C N I  
E N R T I L K Y E S H F Y A M  
O O F M T K L K E W O L F Y A S  
L I P I R E W O L F Y A S  
B S G M U L A R B U T W H S  
Z F A T P O D V S I T U T A  
J F A L L S M A Y H S Z B

Learn more at [www.CHOOSEMYPLATE.gov](http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/food/pyramid.html) or [http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay\\_healthy/food/pyramid.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/food/pyramid.html)

# TURKEY TROT.



Thanksgiving dinner can add up to 4500 calories in one sitting! But you don't have to just sit there. If we all made a point to take a vigorous walk (or trot!) before and/or after the big meal, we could offset some of those holiday calories – and enjoy some fresh air, too!

EAT BETTER. PLAY HARDER. LIVE HEALTHIER. LEARN EASIER.  
**WELLNESS IS A WAY OF LIFE!**

★ OUR NATION'S HISTORY ★

When the bald eagle was adopted as a national emblem in 1782, Ben Franklin opposed the choice of that “cowardly” bird. His choice? The noble turkey, which he described as “a much more respectable bird, and a true original Native of America, which would not hesitate to attack a British Soldier who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on.”

★ WITH LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL ★

Monday, November 18	<b>Choose One:</b> Chicken Tenders & Waffles Grilled Cheese Protein Power Pack  <b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Sides:</b> Tater Tots French Crunchy Carrots Juice	Tuesday, November 19	<b>Choose One:</b> Cheesesteak Ranch Chicken Salad Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Tuna Salad Sandwich Personal Pizza Pack  <b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Sides:</b> Sautéed Spinach Black Bean Salad Apricot Cup	Wednesday, November 20	<b>Choose One:</b> Stuffed Crust Pizza Ham & Cheese Sandwich Protein Power Pack  <b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Sides:</b> Cheesy Cauliflower Black Bean Salad Chilled Pears	Thursday, November 21	<b>Choose One:</b> Oven Roasted Turkey w/ Gravy, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce & Dinner Roll Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Tuna Salad Sandwich Personal Pizza Pack  <b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Sides:</b> Glazed Sweet Potatoes Steamed Green Beans Fresh Apple Slices Pumpkin Cookie	Friday, November 22	<b>Choose One:</b> Turkey Gobbler or Manager's Choice Grilled Cheese Protein Power Pack  <b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Sides:</b> Steamed Carrots Assorted Fresh Vegetables Chilled Pears
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ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY!  
SEE YOU MONDAY!