As we enter the mid-year point, our focus remains on social emotional learning and quality instruction. Please enjoy this issue to highlight all we are doing to sustain our focus.

**Academic Achievement**
It is highly recommended that you and your child log into Schoology weekly to monitor your child’s grades and assignment completion. Please feel free to email teachers with any questions you may have so we are truly fostering our shared partnership and commitment to your child’s success.

**Behavioral Achievement**
The grade level team leaders and assistant principals will continue to reward the students who consistently followed our P.O.U.N.C.E. Code of Conduct. Our goal is to have 100% participation in these special events. We will continue to recognize and celebrate the students who are coming to school every day on time and for consistently displaying positive behavior; as well as provide consequences for students who are not making positive choices.

**Health and Safety**
Students’ and staff’s health and safety remain a top priority, please ensure that you are not sending your children to school when they are sick. Please contact the school if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID.

**Stakeholder Climate Survey**
The annual BCPS Stakeholder Climate Survey begins Monday, January 30, 2023, and will be available through Friday, March 3, 2023. Open to students in Grades 3-12, all parents and caregivers, staff, and community members, the survey will be available in multiple languages. Each year, this comprehensive survey provides valuable feedback and helps to steer decision-making about the budget, staff, and programs. It will be available on the BCPS website; be sure to participate and let us know your views.

**STEAM Activity:** SWA scholars engaged in a school-wide STEAM activity! Daren, our D.A.R.E. lion, and the D.A.R.E. lion mascot costume was stolen! Each class needed to determine who the culprit was and deliver a warrant. Classes worked together to track down the evidence and jot down clues to either support or refute their predictions. Students selected a class representative to deliver the warrant to the culprit. Can you guess who the culprit was?!
Academic Highlight

**Spotlight in 7th grade Science classes:**

Mrs. Roy’s and Dr. Gade’s science classes have been filled with discussions and activities on living systems and chemical magic from our daily lives. By the end of the second unit, students were able to successfully complete project by answering the essential question “How does our body work?” through their collaborative presentations. In unit 3, Chemical Magic, students paired up to do hands on chemical reactions, gathered evidence to justify whether changes were physical or chemical changes.

**Spotlight in Dr. Gade’s Magnet 7 classes:**

Dr. Gade’s Grade 7 magnet students role played as community garden coordinators. Presented power packed multimedia presentations and graciously took peer feedback.

**Spotlight from Ms. Gross’s Class:**

Ms. Gross’ 7th Grade World Cultures spent 2nd quarter studying Medieval Europe. Students gained understanding of the Feudal System and how it brought about stability in Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. They also learned what it was like to live in those old castles!!

**Spotlight from Ms. Donelson’s class:**

Business Computer Science classes are learning about animation. When learning about early animation devices students were intrigued to discover the various devices such as the magic lantern. The concept of not having movies and video games like we have now fascinated them. A student said the world was so flat back then (rather than 3D animation in movies or video games). Students also will be creating animations using google slides and other various tools. We also will be taking a trip to the library to explore noodle tools for upcoming assignments.
Spotlight from Mr. Johnson’s class:
He was able to administer a Periodic Assessment review before actually giving the Unit 2 Periodic Assessment for his Grade 7 classes. This was beneficial because it showed him what reading standards need to be practiced to improve literacy in Grade 7 classes. Additionally, students seemed to be more engaged and realized how before, during, and after reading strategies facilitate improved student achievement.

Spotlight from our PE department:
The kid with the red shorts and the wrestling belt is the Pacer Test record holder in PE.
The SWA Athletics Program continues to be one of the best in Baltimore County. The Badminton and Cross-Country teams set school and league records this fall. Our new sport Allied Bocce is having a great season as well and will play their last home game next week. The Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball Teams are playing hard for the top spots in their divisions. We are also looking forward to a great Spring season spring season begins March 15th. Come be a part of the action. GO Fantastic things are happening in Tyler. We still do the popular activities, such as Basketball, Soccer and Brisket ball, but we also have a new way to play Tic Tac Toe, The Human Pyramid and students are breaking records in the Fitnessgram Pacer Test. After over 10 years Jalen, an 8th grader at SWA, broke the school record in the PACER Test. Several students ran over 100 laps, but Jalen set the new record at 141 laps in the PACER Test. GO TIGERS!!!

Math Department- Ms. Humphries and Ms. Milan’s Class

Ms. Humphries updates that the Math Department has been busy learning about measuring circles and proportional relationships and percentages. In the measuring circles unit, students learn to understand and use the term “circle” to mean the set of points that are equally distant from a point called the “center.” They gain an understanding of why the circumference of a circle is proportional to its diameter, with constant of proportionality. Students use the relationships of circumference, radius, diameter, and area of a circle to find lengths and areas. In the Proportional Relationships and Percentage unit, students use ratios, scale factors, unit rates (also called constants of proportionality), and proportional relationships to solve multi-step, real-world problems that involve fractions and percentages. Ms. Milan’s 7th grade math classes have been doing an awesome job learning about functions, which builds and extends on previous work with equations. We’re wrapping up the first half of the unit very soon with a mid-unit assessment for this topic. These students are learning a new way to talk about math, almost like learning a new language of translations and meanings. Keep up the great work!
**Black Boy Joy**

Our Black Boy Joy and Genius mentoring group embarked on a field trip this past quarter! The boys had the chance to see Jorge Sierra, a motivational speaker and self-change advocate. Sierra took the audience by storm with his transparent and inspiring story of triumph and perseverance.

The Southwest Academy mentees reflected on their experience saying, “the things you do now will affect the future,” and that, “your dreams will define your destiny.” Students connected to the message relayed by Sierra and shared how they will, intentionally, think before they act.

After enjoying the motivational speaker, the boys of Black Boy Joy engaged in fellowship over lunch!

**AVID Family Night**

Southwest Academy hosted our AVID Family Night during Quarter 2! Families came together to learn more about the AVID Elective through student panels, an AVID escape room, and a special visit from the CCBC Upward Bound program. AVID is part of our school wide commitment to college and career readiness!

The elective class teaches a series of skills including writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading skills. In the elective, students build the confidence and the skill-set needed to succeed in rigorous courses in middle school and high school. Eighth grade AVID scholar, Camauri C.Y., shares how, “AVID taught me how to study and it made me more comfortable speaking in public and advocating for myself.”

Interested students can apply to take the AVID elective for next school year by accessing their grade level School Counseling Schoology group. AVID Applications are open until February 28th! Please email Ms. Thomas (bthomas8@bcps.org) if you have any questions or concerns.