

# News Release: Laurel ES Named District Winner of State Breakfast Challenge

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For Immediate Release

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – Laurel Elementary was named Prince George’s County’s Maryland Breakfast Challenge winner for its great strides to ensure that students start the day with a healthy breakfast. Representatives from the Maryland No Kid Hungry campaign visited the school on Tuesday to present principal Melinda Lee, staff, and students with a \$1,000 cash award and a Maryland Breakfast Challenge banner to be displayed in the school.

“We know that students who start their day with a healthy breakfast are ‘fueled’ to perform their best during school,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer of Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS). “I am very proud of Laurel Elementary and everything they have done to successfully implement their schoolwide breakfast program.”

Although state and federal programs subsidize meals for approximately 20 million children in the United States, less than half receive free or reduced-price breakfast, according to the No Child Hungry website. More than 80 percent of the students at Laurel Elementary School are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and now, through their school’s Breakfast in the Classroom program, they will have a healthy start to their school day. Staff strategies for success include sharing the breakfast menu with students, reminding them to eat breakfast when they get to school, and modeling healthy eating habits in the classroom.

“We are so excited to have been chosen the district Winner for the 2015 Maryland Breakfast Challenge,” said principal Melinda Lee. “Each day, I greet the students at the bus and let them know what is on the menu for breakfast. I am a firm believer that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It jump starts our bodies to be able to function at our maximum potential.”

Each year, the Maryland No Kid Hungry Campaign partners with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and other anti-hunger advocates across the state to sponsor the Maryland Breakfast Challenge. In 2015, 10,000 more students in Maryland started receiving a healthy school breakfast as a result of this effort.

One school from each of the 25 districts in Maryland and a statewide winner are awarded prizes for their work to expand their classroom breakfast programs, including cash awards and in-school celebrations. Laurel Elementary School is planning on spending their \$1,000 cash award on a new wireless microphone system.

For more information about the Maryland No Kid Hungry Campaign, [visit their website \(http://marylandbreakfastchallenge.org\)](http://marylandbreakfastchallenge.org).