



DRAGON NEWS

Damascus Elementary School PTA Newsletter

December 11, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 8

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Treasurer: Angela Phillips
Secretary: Theresa Harris

Calendar of Events

- December 11
Group Piano lessons
- December 15
Volunteer Work Group meets
- December 19
Grade 5 to Baker for winter concert
- Reading Incentive ballots due
- December 23
DHS Marching Band
- December 24 - January 2
No School—Winter Break
- January 6
PTA Meeting
- January 9
Family Fun Movie Night

Message from the PTA

Montgomery County Public Schools To Be Closed on January 20 Inauguration Day

The Montgomery County Board of Education voted Tuesday to designate Inauguration Day, January 20, 2009, as a holiday in Montgomery County Public Schools. All schools and offices will be closed.

In its resolution approving the change to the current school calendar, the Board also noted that Inauguration Day will be designated as a school system holiday in all future years when Inauguration Day occurs.

The resolution, put forward by Board member Christopher Barclay, was passed unanimously. "I am very pleased that the Board decided to close the schools on Inauguration Day, not only on January 20, 2009, but from this point forward," said Mr. Barclay. "Our students and their families can celebrate the inauguration of our country's president."

The PTA encourages parents to take the time to share and reflect on this inauguration with your children, regardless of your political views. This is a day that will be in our history books and our children are being given a chance to witness this historic event.

The Dragon News is a publication of the Damascus Elementary School Parent Teacher Association.

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Deadline for next edition:

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Volunteer Corner

Thank you to Sarah McGreevy for organizing Grandparents Day. Everyone had a great time. Thanks, too, to all of the parents who helped escort/direct grandparents and sent in donations for this event.

DES Young Scientists

The information about the upcoming science fair on February 26, 2009, is now on the DES website. Please check it out if you want to start planning your projects over the holidays. This information will also be sent home the first week back from winter break. Happy experimenting!!!

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/damascuses>

Reading Incentives

December 19 will be the last day to turn in your reading incentive ballots. Please remember that the more minutes you tally for your reading totals the more chance your class will have of winning the final prize. The winning class will be given the opportunity to vote on their prize as well as be recognized in January with a parade! So, help your class finish strong and we'll look forward to celebrating with you after we come back from our winter break!

~Liz Doyle and Leslie Iacoviello
Reading Incentive Co-Chairs.

Happy Holidays

This is the final Dragon News of 2008. We would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday. Enjoy the winter break and come back refreshed, renewed, and ready for the second half of the school year.



Parent Volunteer Awards

Do you know a parent who has worked hard, creatively, and effectively to improve public education? Comcast and MSDE are launching the second annual Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award program. This award program honors Maryland parents who have made outstanding contributions to public education. The deadline for submission is January 16, 2009.

Nomination Forms in English and Spanish can be found at

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/audiences/parents/pima.htm>

2009-2010 School Calendar

August 31	First Day of School for Students
September 7	Holiday – Labor Day
September 28	Holiday – Yom Kippur
October 2	Early Release (tentative)
October 16	No School – teacher convention
November 2	No School – professional day
November 11	Early Release – conferences
November 12	Early release – conferences
November 25	Early Release
November 26	Holiday – Thanksgiving
November 27	Holiday – Thanksgiving
December 24	Holiday – Christmas
December 25	Holiday – Christmas
December 28	Winter Break
December 29	Winter Break
December 30	Winter Break
December 31	Winter Break
January 1, 2010	Holiday – New Year's Day
January 18	Holiday – MLK Jr. Day
January 25	No School – professional day
February 15	Holiday – Presidents' Day
February 26	Early Release (tentative)
March 29-31	Spring Break
April 1	Spring Break
April 2	Holiday – Easter
April 5	Holiday – Easter
April 6	No School – Professional Day
May 31	Holiday – Memorial Day
June 16	Last Day of School for Students
June 17	Last Day of School for Teachers

Student Spotlight

From left to right at top, Sarah Rojas, Kalyn Hunt, Courtney Witmer, Aubrey Seidel. Bottom row from left to right is Sydney Witmer and Danielle Kerich. (Not shown Alicia Zielinski).

These girls placed 1st at the University of MD Spirit Unlimited Competition with the Jr. Pom squad. Sydney Witmer finished up her 1st year cheering with the DSA Pep Squad. Great job girls!

Pictured above are Rachel Saah, Rachel Willis, and Trinity Lancaster at the 2008 Cheerleading competition.

A DES Daisy and Brownie girl scout troop visited Weiss in Damascus to purchase Thanksgiving dinners for two needy families in the area.

The third graders went on a walking tour of Damascus.

If you know of a DES student (it doesn't have to be your own child) who should be "spotlighted" in the Dragon News, please send the information and a picture (if possible) to Kelly Sennewald at DSennewald@aol.com
