



The Mustang Magazine

January 8, 2010

Darnestown Elementary School

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Www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/darnestownes/

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"As a committed Professional Learning Community our daily goal is to provide children with opportunities to achieve in a learning environment that values, respects and challenges every child, every day.."

Principal's Pen....



Happy New Year! Staff and students have very quickly gotten back to the business of learning and that all important reading instruction! ☺ Reading instruction, as I am sure you know, is a major focus in the elementary school. Please ask your children about what they are reading and working on in their guided reading groups. These small instructional groups meet regularly in classrooms and focus on leveled text selected specifically for the small group. Students read fiction and non-fiction text while learning and practicing strategies to improve word attack skills (decoding), comprehension, vocabulary and fluency. Please continue to support your child's progress in reading by reading with them and to them!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, Jan. 12

PTA Meeting, 7 PM, Media Center

Jan. 11 - 14

Gr. 5 Family Life Unit

Thursday, Jan. 14

Muffins for Mom, 8:30 am, Gym

Monday, Jan. 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, No school for staff and students

Tuesday, Jan. 19

PTA MD Science Center Assemblies, Gym

Friday, Jan. 22

2nd Marking Period Ends

PTA Bingo Night/Staff Raffle, Lakelands Park MS

Monday, Jan. 25

Professional Day for Teachers, No school for students

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Gr. 2 to Woodlawn Plantation, 9:30-1:30

Thursday, Jan. 28

Band and Chorus Concert, Gym

Friday, Jan. 29

Backpack Distribution Day

This issue of the Mustang Magazine was delayed in being sent home last Friday due to copier issues here at school. The next issue will be sent home on Friday, Jan. 22. This issue now contains the Staff Raffle Order Form!

Dismissal Procedures...

Parents are asked to help facilitate safe, smooth changes in their students' dismissal procedures for each student in their classroom. When there is a change to this dismissal action for your student, parents are urged to send a note to the teacher that morning. The teacher then notes this change on a pass to be used at dismissal time, and sends the note from the parent to the Main Office for filing. This is an important piece of the safety of each of our students.

Students who will be attending an after school activity of any kind that would change their dismissal procedure need a note stating the change with the signature of a parent or guardian. *Emails are not accepted as a change in dismissal note.* Students who do not have a note will be advised to follow their normal routine.

After school sports program staff are not affiliated with school staff, and those registrations are not done within the school system. Communication between the parent and the teacher with regarding dismissal plans is key to the student's safety in these instances. Please review and discuss these procedures with your students.

PTA News

PTA News...

Happy New Year! Please take a moment to add our 'www.darnestownpta.com' site to your web bookmarks or favorites list. Since this newsletter is now a biweekly publication, it is important that we all know where to go to get copies of paper forms, etc. for PTA events. Our webmaster, Ted Saunders, has been hard at work this year making sure that all our links are working, and that the information on the website stays up-to-date. All that hard work will pay off only if we all use the site, so check it out!

There is a link on the website to register your e-mail for our '**des-pta' yahoo listserv group**. Those e-mails come in handy for date and time reminders for PTA events. We are committed to maintaining that listserv in a way that limits the number of e-mails, and each message has a clear subject line, allowing for quick scanning for relevance. As we transition to 'greener' means of communications with our Darnestown community, we need all parents to stay connected. If your family does not have an available internet connection, just let me know (301-869-4719), and we will make sure you have access to paper copies of PTA communications that are not included in the Mustang Magazine.

Mark your calendar for '**Muffins for Moms**' on Thursday, 1/14, from 8:30 – 9:00 am. Our wonderful Darnestown dads, led by Gene Sullenger, Rich Kahalas, Larry Skiscim and Steve Crook will be serving coffee and muffins in the gym to Darnestown moms (or mom substitutes), so stop by with your children and start the day off with something sweet.

Check out the fliers attached for our **PTA general meeting** on Tuesday, 1/12, and for **DES Bingo Night and Staff Raffle** at Lakelands Park MS on Friday, 1/22. Staff Raffle ticket order forms will go out next week, so keep an eye on the backpack! Also, we are still looking for a parent volunteer for first grade and fourth grades to help with **Science Day** presentations in early February. If you love science and want to share that with students, please let me know (mjkcrogers@verizon.net), and I'll get you more information.

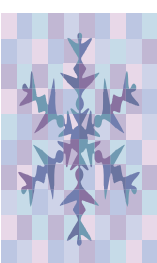
Kelley Rogers, PTA President

News from the School Nurse:

For those who still want to receive a vaccine for H1N1, free H1N1 vaccine clinics are now open to all residents by appointment. If you would like to add this to your bulletin for parents, please advise them to go to this website for all the details. <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/>

Once at this website, scroll down and click on the 'Flu Information' icon. It will tell where/when the clinics are held and allow one to make an online appointment. Phone appointments can be made on Mondays Jan 11 and 25, from 1-4pm by calling the flu appointment line at 240-777-4040.

Public Announcements



Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, cable channel 60 (converter box), cable channel 6 (cable ready), or cable channel 34 (digital), on the internet at mcps.k12.md.us or at schools-out.com, and on a taped telephone message service at 301-279-3673. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or even the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, announcements are made no later than 11:00 a.m.

Parents -

Please be sure to enter the building through the front door and come into the Main Office when visiting or volunteering for any school activity during the school day. For safety and security of staff and students, please do not request access through other doors at any time during the school day.