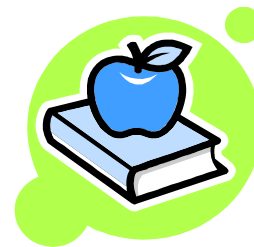


DuFief Elementary School
15001 DuFief Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878



DUFIEF NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 2

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

September 17, 2009

NEWS...

September - Off to a Great Start!

Early Release Day

Did You Know?

Snacks for Sale

Lunch Accounts

Recorded Phone Messages

Recycling at DuFief

Reminder from the Media Center

Dazzling Dragon Work

Peanut/Food Allergies...

Counselor's Corner

Mark Your Calendars

Friendly Reminders

Attachments

September Calendar

Online Resources

Health Information

Pee-Wee Pom Clinic



Early Release Day!

Friday Oct. 2

Dismissal at
12:35
Lunch will be served!

September - Off to a Great Start!

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Back-to-School Night! Approximately 90% of our children were represented by a parent or grandparent. Thank you so much for making the evening a great success. Meeting your child's teacher, learning about the curriculum, and hearing the high expectations we have for your children, were the highlights of this special evening. We hope you will be able to join us for the PTA Back-to-School picnic which has been rescheduled to Friday, Sept. 25, starting at 5:30 p.m.

If you have already completed and returned the yellow student emergency information sheets and the yellow "Emergency Parent/Child Reunification Information", THANK YOU! If you have not completed and returned these **two** very important papers, please do so right away.

Don't forget! We are giving the seasonal *FluMist* (nasal vaccine) to students at DuFief this Wednesday, Sept. 23 if we have received parent consent. As soon as we know the date for the seasonal flu shot, we will notify those parents whose children will be receiving the shot instead of the *FluMist* (nasal vaccine). At this time we have not received any information about the H1N1 vaccine.

HELP! We have a few safety issues concerning your children. We are asking parents who drive their children to/from school to use the designated drop-off/pick-up area which we refer to as *Kiss and Ride*. It is unsafe for children to be dropped off in front of the school, along DuFief Drive, or on the side streets. In the *Kiss and Ride* area, cars may only load or unload children when the car is along the sidewalk. Parents, please do not leave your vehicles. The line is continuously moving in order for children to be picked up or dropped off quickly. If you are walking across the lower parking lot, please use the crosswalk. There are pedestrian crossing signs marking the crosswalk area. Please adhere to the signs and do not drive through the **bus lane** in front of the school between 8:15 - 9:15 a.m. and between 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. We have early and late buses that arrive between these times. Passing a school bus in a loading/unloading area may result in a traffic ticket. Please help us to keep our children safe!

While we are enjoying the beautiful fall weather, please remember that all children who ride a bicycle to school must wear a helmet for safety. We do have two bike racks in the back of the school for students to lock their bicycles. One last request! Please be certain your children know how they are going home each day before they come to school. This will avoid interruption of classes! Thank you all for your continued support! Happy Autumn!

Sincerely,



Did you know?

Each day three meals are offered in the DuFief cafeteria, a regular, an alternate and a grilled cheese sandwich. Each meal is \$2.50 and it includes the main entree with side dish, milk, fruit, vegetable and/or dessert.

Students may purchase a second entrée (if there are extra meals) for \$2.75. (The side dish, milk, fruit, vegetable and/or dessert do NOT come with the second entrée.)

A monthly menu is sent home with each student and information is also available on the MCPS website at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org>

If you prefer that your child not purchase any snacks or a second meal, please contact Mrs. Lee, cafeteria manager, in writing so she can block snacks, and/or a second meal. Mrs. Lee can also set up your child's account to allow snacks on specific days.



Lunch Accounts

Please monitor the balance in your child's lunch account carefully. Mrs. Lee will send reminder notices when the account balance is low. This year, MCPS will only allow a negative balance of \$10.00 in each

account. If your child is purchasing a lunch that will cause the negative balance to be greater than \$10.00, your child will be given a cheese sandwich without milk or any of the extra food items until more money is added to the account.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you!

Snacks for Sale

Time permitting, children can purchase snacks in the cafeteria at lunch time according to the following schedule. The selection of snacks varies from week to week. At this time, our kindergartners are not able to manage snacks.

<u>1st Lunch</u>	Kindergarten	no snacks
	Second Grade	Mon. & Wed.
<u>2nd Lunch</u>	First Grade	Mon. & Wed.
	Third Grade	Mon. & Wed.
<u>3rd Lunch</u>	Fourth & Fifth Grade	Mon., Tue., Wed., Thur.

What is available?

Chips	\$0.65
Ice Cream	\$0.50
Water	\$0.50 & \$0.75
Milk	\$0.60
Flavored Water	\$1.25
Juice Can	\$1.25
Juice Bottle (16 oz.)	\$1.50

Recorded Phone Messages



DuFief has the capability to send recorded phone messages to all DuFief families and/or staff. Listen to all messages carefully for important information. Please do not hang up on the recorded message and then immediately call the school and ask us to repeat the message. Thank you for your support.

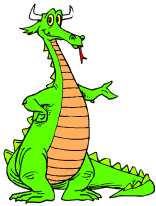
Recycling at DuFief

Congratulations to our students and staff for the great job recycling bottles, cans, and paper! New this year in the cafeteria we are recycling the containers serving the hot food lunches. Everyone is making a conscious effort to recycle! Our 5th grade SERT team has many ideas to help us stay GREEN and save our environment. Thank you all!

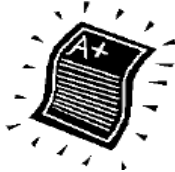


Reminder from the Media Center...

Each year MCPS spends money to get the most up-to-date computer based reference encyclopedias and databases for student use. EXTRA subscription fees are paid so that families with home Internet access may use the same products at no cost. I have attached a sheet with all of the MCPS Online Services URL's, Login/User ID's, and Passwords. I hope that these will be helpful to DuFief students who are working on homework, projects, or just their day-to-day needs for information. Please do not give/publish these passwords to anyone outside of MCPS. Thank you!



Dazzling Dragon Work



Please stop by to see evidence of what our students are learning on our "Dazzling Dragon" bulletin board. Twice a month, teachers will select outstanding work to be highlighted on this special "Dragon" bulletin board. Students will be congratulated through morning announcements and recognized in our bimonthly newsletter.

1st Grade: Chris M., Jamie S., Alex S., Hana K., Jenna S., Iris G., Cy B., Svetlana S., Erin C., Patton H., Jenna R., Yousef S., John D., Leah W.

2nd Grade: Jordan R., Nicole U., Claire W., Kenny C.

5th Grade: Jessica W., Nive R.



Peanut/Food Allergies How can we ALL help?

Many of our students have severe peanut or other food allergies. At DuFief, we do not isolate children with food allergies at a separate table in the dining room. Children can support their classmates with allergies by following these rules:

- *Move away from a friend with a peanut allergy if you have peanut foods in lunch.*
- *Do not share food with anyone.*
- *Keep food on napkin placemat or lunch tray. Keep hands to self.*
- *Food allergies are serious. Say "no" to teasing and tricks.*
- *If your friend has an allergic reaction or seems ill, tell an adult quickly.*

Please discuss these rules with your children so that all children can be safe and enjoy lunch in our dining room. Thank you!

Counselor's Corner...

Mrs. Pape's fun family tip of the week:

Encourage your children to include each other in their games and fun. Sibling rivalry and disputes are normal, but siblings should try to support one another.

Talk to your child about a time when you were not included in an activity. Talk about the way you felt. Ask your child if he/she has ever felt this way and talk about ways to ensure that we include others.

Praise your child for efforts he/she makes to include brothers, sisters, or classmates in activities.

DUFIEF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

15001 DuFief Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-279-4980

Mrs. Dorothy J. Reitz, Principal
Mr. Harry Williams, Assistant Principal

*LEARNING TO LIVE,
LIVING TO LEARN*

We envision a DuFief Elementary School community where staff and parents enthusiastically support students in mastering academic and social skills that guide them to become productive, lifelong learners.



Mark Your Calendars!

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sept. 23 | Books and Bagels |
| Sept. 23 | Seasonal Flu Vaccine |
| Sept. 25 | PTA Picnic 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 28 | No School |
| Oct. 2 | Early Release Day |
| Oct. 3 | PTA Family Fun Night |

Friendly Reminders

- **Box Tops for Education** - Please save your box tops! There will be a drawing very soon at the end of the month for a student to earn a prize. Students should write their name on the back of the box tops and send them to the office. Each box top is worth 10 cents! Thank you for your support, every dime counts!
- **HELP!** Please write your child's name on his/her lunchbox, thermos, containers, etc. that are sent to school. This will help us to get the lunchboxes in the correct teacher basket. Thank you!
- Please check Thursday folders for important information each week.
- A September calendar, Online Resources, health information, and a flyer for Pee-Wee Pom Clinic at Wootton are attached for your reference!