

DuFief Elementary School
 15001 DuFief Drive
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878



DUFIEF NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 4

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

October 22, 2009

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A Successful First Quarter!

Many thanks to the PTA Sunshine Committee for spreading some "sunshine" to our staff this past week. We enjoyed the delicious harvest treats, snacks, and cider prepared by our parents. Thank you for making us feel so special and appreciated!

Can you believe we have almost finished the first quarter of the school year? I am so proud of our children and grateful to our staff. A rigorous academic curriculum, high expectations, sincere effort, and commitment are contributing to our students' success. I know you will be pleased to see the progress your child has made when you meet with your child's teacher during the parent-teacher conferences on November 11 and 12. These two days are early release days for students with parent-teacher conferences scheduled in the afternoons.

We do recognize and appreciate the importance and value of parental support, involvement, and communication in achieving student success. During the parent-teacher conferences, you will be able to talk about your child's achievements, areas of strength or concern, and ways to support continued success. All of us are committed to the success of each and every child, and we are grateful for the opportunity to know and teach your children.

Recently, we welcomed over 250 parents and grandparents during our Columbus Day Open House. Thank you for taking the time to visit your children in school. They were so excited to see you! Many thanks to our kindergarten parents who volunteered for "Apple Day"! The children enjoyed the many activities, including the apple tasting.

Congratulations to Linda Trusilo, our art teacher! Mrs. Trusilo received an "Outstanding Achievement and Exemplary Service" award from the Maryland Art Education Association for her contributions to Montgomery County and the art education profession. Way to go, Mrs. Trusilo!

We hope you will be able to join us next week for our annual Halloween parade! Enjoy the beautiful fall weather with your families.

Sincerely,

October 30
 Halloween
 Parade
 Parties 
 1:45 p.m.

Books for DuFief



A **BIG Thank You** to Elizabeth Carlson for donating Umbrella Summer to the DuFief Media Center.

Montgomery College YOUTH PROGRAMS

Saturday Discoveries

A one-day enrichment program offered for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5, scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. on the Takoma Park campus.

Students will have an opportunity to select four workshops to participate in during the day. Workshops cover a variety of topics including science, problem solving, creative writing, computer gaming, and much more.

Workshops fill quickly, so register soon!

For additional brochures or registration information, contact Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917 or access our website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.

Montgomery College YOUTH PROGRAMS

KIDS COLLEGE

After school and Saturday courses for students in grades K - 12 held on the Rockville and Germantown campuses. These courses provide enrichment and advancement and cover a wide range of topics including science, math, art, drama, game design, music, study skills, and keyboarding,

Courses fill quickly, so register soon!

For brochures or registration forms, access our website at:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.

For additional information, contact **YOUTH PROGRAMS** office at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917.

Media Center News

Mrs. Williams has begun to introduce the website "Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government for Kids" to the 2nd graders and will show the appropriate parts of the site to the other students in the next few months. It is a great place to find age appropriate information on all facets of our government.

Do you know why our elections are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November? Find out lots of interesting facts!

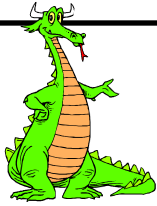
<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/k-2/index.html>

Attention 5th Grade Parents!

Please see the attached flyer for information about a MATH Night at Robert Frost Middle School. Very soon our 5th graders will be registering for courses in middle school. This is a great opportunity to learn about the middle school math sequence!

November 5 at 7:00 p.m.

All elementary parents are welcome!



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 newsletters. ***Congratulations to the following students for their excellent work which is currently on display.***

Kindergarten: Ethan M., Ella C., Samantha K.

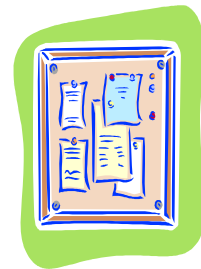
1st Grade: James W., Madelyn E., Alexander S.

2nd Grade: Auva A., Stephanie P., Camryn Y., Stacy L., Sarah L., Katherine M., Owen S.,
William K., Aryana A., Allan S.

3rd Grade: Hope R., Noah G.

4th Grade: Michelle T., Hamzah S., Eleni P., Gaby V.

5th Grade: Paige M., Malik B., Lauren M., Max G.



Congratulations, Students!

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as winners for their posters or essays in the Gaithersburg 2009 National Character Counts Week contests.

Character Counts!
Poster Contest:

Vanya G.
Michelle T.



Adult Hero in our Community
Essay Contest

Mythili G.
Gaby V.



Halloween Parade/Parties

We hope you will be able to join us for the Halloween parade and parties next week on Friday, October 30! The parade will start at our front doors, proceed left in the bus lanes, and circle the lower parking lot. For the best photo opportunities, parents should stand on the sidewalks near the front of the building and along the grassy hill. We will close the parking lots to traffic at 1:30 p.m. and our parade will begin at 1:45 p.m. followed by the classroom parties.

We ask that children do not wear their costumes to school. They will have time to change into their costumes before the parade. Please do not select super scary costumes or send toy weapons to school as props for costumes. Thank you!



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!

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|---------|---|
| Oct. 30 | Halloween Parade and Parties 1:45 p.m. |
| Nov. 2 | No School - Professional Day |
| Nov. 11 | Early Release Day 12:35 p.m. |
| Nov. 12 | Early Release Day 12:35 p.m. |
| Nov. 25 | Early Release Day 12:35 p.m. |
| Nov. 26 | Happy Thanksgiving (No School) |
| Nov. 27 | No School |

Friendly Reminders

- An October calendar, information about Math Night at Robert Frost Middle School, a letter from Mrs. Reitz about best health practices, and information from the Department of Health and Human Services are attached for your reference.
- **Box Tops for Education** - Please save your box tops! There will be a drawing next week at the end of October!
- The first quarter ends on October 30.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN