

THE FARQUHAR NEWS

William H. Farquhar Middle School

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www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharm/

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Nov 19 & 24 & Dec 1: Girls & boys basketball tryouts 2:45-4:30 p.m., sports bus departs 4:35 p.m.

November 20: Sixth grade science assembly: Under the Sea, 9 a.m.

November 20: PTA Variety Night: Night of 1,000 Stars, 7 p.m., free admission

November 24 & 25: No after-school activities (except for basketball tryouts on November 24)

November 25: Honor Roll & Straight A celebration and picture, 1st, 2nd, 3rd periods

November 25: Early release: day before Thanksgiving, 12:10 p.m. dismissal

November 26 & 27: Holidays: Thanksgiving

November 30-Dec 4: Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy (MMSTL)
Technology Assessments, 7th grade, during p.e. classes

December 1: Eighth grade parent meeting at FMS, for parents of students going to
Sherwood next year, 7 p.m., library media center, see attached flyer

December 4, 7, & 8: Hearing and vision screening 8th graders and students new to MCPS,
during science classes

December 7-11: Book Fair, extended hours for parents 2:40-4 p.m. & 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday,
December 8, library media center

December 8: PTA general meeting 7-8:30 p.m., cafeteria

December 10: No after-school activities

December 11: Carer Café, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

December 11: Interims mailed home

December 11: PTA newsletter deadline

December 16: Winter Music concert, 7-9 p.m., Sherwood HS

December 18: Cultural arts assembly--History of Hip Hop

December 24 & 25: Holiday: Christmas

December 26-31: Winter break: no school for pupils and teachers

January 1: Holiday: New Year's Day

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT – DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE OR SHE MISSED? USE EDLINE!!!

Farquhar teachers are posting assignments, due dates, weekly updates, and supplementary lesson materials on their Edline sites. Please be sure to check Edline **daily** for assignments when your child is absent. Students are also encouraged to check Edline to stay up to date. After checking Edline, if an assignment is not posted, please call the main office for assistance. If you are having trouble accessing Edline, please email [Beth A Hopkins@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Beth.A.Hopkins@mcpsmd.org). Let Edline help you to stay informed! Thank you

MARYLAND MEASURE OF STUDENT TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

Grade 7 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will take the Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy (MMSTL) between November 30 and December 4, 2009 in the computer lab during physical education classes. This measure is an online, web-based tool that blends multiple choice questions and interactive performance-based items. It is designed to be completed in one 45-minute class period and is untimed. Results of the measurement are NOT for individual student accountability, but will give schools, the district office and the State a snapshot of where we are with regard to student technology literacy. Scores will not be placed on report cards or high school transcripts. The school results do not affect Adequate Yearly Progress since it is a “measure of literacy” and not a high stakes assessment.

One of the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is to ensure that every student has the technology skills to succeed in school and in their future lives. By June 2009, all states are required to report to the U. S. Department of Education the number of students who have met this goal. We also recognize the importance of this measure to help us ensure that all students have the technology skills they need, and that our schools have teachers and administrators who have the knowledge and skills to inform and deliver quality instruction.

If you should have further questions, please contact Mr. Gitchell to talk about the MMSTL. Parents and students may view a sample of the measure at the following website:
<http://www.lerning.com/tla/20itemsample/fall06/middle>.

FARQUHAR YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are now on sale for \$30 through December 4, and order forms were sent home with students October 21. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please put the completed order form along with your check made payable to Farquhar Middle School in the yearbook envelope. Order forms may be given to Mrs. Grandin (room 26), Ms. Lazarick (room 15), or the main office. After December 4 the price will be \$33. Extra order forms are available in the main office and posted on the FMS website. If you have any questions please contact Becky Grandin, co-yearbook sponsor, at [Rebecca A Grandin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rebecca.A.Grandin@mcpsmd.org) or Rachel Lazerick, co-yearbook sponsor, at [Rachel Lazarick@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rachel.Lazarick@mcpsmd.org)

MCPS PARENT ACADEMY

To see workshop topics, dates, locations, and registration form, click on www.mcpsparentacademy.org

H1N1 PREPARATIONS AND EDLINE

As you may know, flu is spreading easily from person to person and school-age children are among the groups most affected. As a result, student and staff absences from school will fluctuate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that flu is widespread in

many states, including Maryland, and that almost all of the flu viruses they have identified so far across the country are of the H1N1 strain. Although the school is unable to verify whether sick students and staff have H1N1 (swine) flu, we do know that people are reporting or exhibiting flu-like illness.

Please be assured that we are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu in our school. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) continues to work closely with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor student and staff absences due to illness. Students and staff who exhibit flu-like symptoms are staying home or being sent home in accordance with guidance from the CDC. Staff continues to model and encourage students to practice good hygiene—washing hands frequently; coughing into a tissue or sleeve; and avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth—and our school is being routinely cleaned following guidelines approved by county health officials.

We want to keep the school operations on a normal schedule and minimize any disruption to teaching and learning. You can help us in our efforts to prevent the spread of flu by:

Knowing the symptoms of the flu. These include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired.

Keeping children home from school if they are sick. Individuals who have been sick with the flu should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours. Any children or staff who are sick at school *will be sent home*.

Reminding your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.

Encouraging your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or utensils.

Telling your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If they don't have a tissue, they should cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands.

For more information, visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, the Montgomery County government website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu, or call the County flu hotline at 240-777-4200.

Parents-- we need your help. Please be sure that your emergency contact information is up-to-date in the main office, and please contact us immediately if a phone number or email address changes. Also, please be sure to sign-up for the PTA Email Listserve (<http://farquharpta.org>) and activate your Edline account, which will be used for communication. Edline can be used to find out assignments that your child missed when absent, and it will also be used to continue instruction should there be a major disruption to school operations. Finally, please continue to reinforce good hygiene habits and keep your children home if they have a fever or show any flu-like symptoms. We will continue to keep you updated on this situation and thank you for your support.

HELPFUL LINKS

Updates News & Information: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/

Calendar: <http://coldfusion.mcps.k12.md.us/cfms/webteam/calendar/calendar.cfm?calendarID=farquharms>

Staff Directory: <http://coldfusion.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/directory/index.cfm?s=dbd&pl=03507>

Edline: www.edline.net

Sign Up For the Email List: www.farquharpta.org

PTA Information: www.farquharpta.org

Lunch Pre-Payments: www.myLunchMoney.com

Daily Cafeteria Menu: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv

H1N1 Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/>

Student Service Learning: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

Bullying: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

PrepTalk: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/resources/preptalk.aspx>

NEC Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec>

Parent Academy: www.mcpsparentacademy.org
