

**Cheryl Pulliam**  
Principal

**Debbie Ryan**  
Assistant Principal

**Janet Higgins**  
Assistant School  
Administrator

**October 7, 2010**

## **Oakland Terrace Elementary School**

**Satellite Campus at Sligo MS: 9:05 a.m.—3:20 p.m.**  
1401 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902  
(301)-649-8078

**Main Campus: 9:15 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**  
2720 Plyers Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902  
(301) 929-2161



*Imagine  
the  
Possibilities*

Dear Oakland Terrace Parents and Guardians:

September was a productive month for all students at Oakland Terrace. The Oakland Terrace staff started the school year off with getting to know students through classroom instruction, observation and assessments. During the month of September, the primary reading assessment (MCPSAP-PR) was administered to students in kindergarten, first and second grades. Students in third, fourth and fifth grades completed the Measures of Academic Success in Reading (MAP-R) assessment. The data from these recent assessments, along with other formative data, will be used to determine the most appropriate reading groups for students.

As we begin the month of October, we would like to share with you some very important school, community and county information. Please read the newsletter thoroughly and remember to review the *Dates to Remember* section and mark them on your calendar.

### **MCPS on the Move**

During the school year, Oakland Terrace staff members will have the opportunity to participate in a physical fitness competition sponsored by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Kaiser Permanente. The competition, *MCPS on the Move*, stresses the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through physical activity during a 12-week health and fitness competition among elementary schools. During the competition, individuals and school teams who earn the most points by participating in a variety of physical activities will be awarded prizes. The winners will receive individual and team prizes for their efforts and school prizes for our students. Most importantly, the Oakland Terrace staff will strive to model a healthy lifestyle for our students.

As we create and encourage a work environment where healthy living is promoted, we are looking forward to the staff's active participation in all aspects of the *MCPS on the Move* competition. There is no doubt; Oakland Terrace will bring home the winning trophy for the most hours of physical activity. However, we still need your support. So please, root for your favorite team!

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## **Volunteering and Visiting**

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's teacher. When volunteering at school, we ask that you do not bring younger siblings to school. Students and teachers depend on your focus and attention to students.

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## **Check Your Child's Cafeteria Meal Account**

We have had a number of students who have not had money on their lunch account and they are coming to school without a lunch. Did you know you can use [myLunchMoney.com](http://myLunchMoney.com) to add money to your child's account using a credit card? Depositing funds into the account eliminates the need for your child to bring money to school every day.

You may also prepay at the cafeteria with cash or with a check. If you have a student at the Oakland Terrace **main campus**, please make checks payable to **Oakland Terrace Elementary School Cafeteria**. If you have a child at the **satellite campus**, please make checks payable to **Sligo Middle School Cafeteria**. Checks must include your child's first name, last name and PIN.

Notices will be sent home with students reminding parents when lunch accounts are low or out of money. It is important to replenish lunch accounts on a regular basis so that students always have funds in their lunch accounts.

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## **After School Activities and Activity Bus**

After school activities are off to a great start. All classrooms used for the activities have been identified. Activity buses will run on Tuesday and Wednesday each week during the after school programs. The activity bus stops are:

1. Drumm & Edgewood
2. Virginia & Day
3. Belvedere Place & Ellis St.
4. Arthur & Belvedere
5. McKenney & Dexter
6. Dennis Ave. & Medical Park Dr.
7. Dennis Ave. & Inwood Ave.
8. Everest & Cody
9. Forest Grove & Tilton
10. Kensington Day Care Center
11. Dameron & Myrtle
12. Boys & Girls Club (Forest Glen Rd.)
13. Tenbrook & Raynor
14. Northwood Day Care Center (rear of church)

Please make sure you have identified the stop that your child should get off the bus. Place a note either on your child or in your child's backpack as a reminder and so that the bus driver is aware of the stop your child exits the bus.

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# **Safety and Security**

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

We are concerned about the safety and welfare of **all** students. Please discuss the following precautions with your child:

1. Students should **not** arrive at school before 8:40 a.m. Teachers are not on duty until 8:40 a.m. and there is no supervision until this time. After 8:40 a.m., students may enter the building and line up in a designated place near their classrooms.
2. Our crossing guard and the safety patrols will be available to assist children crossing Plyers Mill Road at the **main campus**. If your child is a walker, please assist him/her in selecting a safe route for walking to and from school. Also, please set a good example for your child by crossing the street at the crosswalk. Your cooperation in teaching your children correct procedures for crossing streets will keep them safe and help us maintain a good school safety record.
3. School is dismissed at 3:20 p.m. at the **satellite campus** and 3:30 p.m. at the **main campus**. Students **may not** remain on school property unsupervised at any time. If your child participates in an after school activity that begins at any time other than 3:45 p.m., they must go home and return at the proper time. **There is no supervision for students after dismissal.**
4. Buses only will be permitted in the bus loop and parking is not permitted in the bus loop. Additionally, please do not walk through the bus loop during arrival or dismissal as this creates a safety hazard.
5. If you transport your child to and from school by automobile, please remember to use the designated drop-off and pick-up areas.
  - At the Oakland Terrace **main campus**, the designated drop-off and pick-up area is in front of the school. Staff and patrols will direct the traffic pattern. Children can only be dropped off in the circle - not on Plyers Mill Road.
  - At the Oakland Terrace **satellite campus**, the designated drop-off and pick-up area is at the main entrance to the kindergarten wing. Children can only be dropped off at the main entrance - not on Dennis Avenue. Staff members will direct the traffic pattern.
  - We also ask that you take time to have your younger children practice getting out of the car quickly and safely on the passenger side of the vehicle. This will alleviate traffic back ups that occur when parents have to assist their children from the automobile. Again, our goal is to keep a safe and orderly environment for our school community. Parents, please be patient when using these areas!

## **Access Control System**

A new access control system (ACS) has been installed at Oakland Terrace as part of the initiative to enhance school security in all elementary schools. The ACS consists of a surveillance camera installed at the main entrance, with a second camera installed at the back door near the playground. A remote locking system, controlled from the main office, will allow entry into the building during the period between students' morning arrival times and afternoon dismissal times. When a visitor arrives during these times, they will be prompted to press an alert button at the main entrance. Office staff will communicate with the visitor and provide controlled entry into the school. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the ACS, all other entrances to the school building will remain secured at all times. We will keep the main entrance doors open during arrival and dismissal times, This initiative is provided to ensure the safety and security of the learning and working environment. We will begin using the ACS on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Please call the school if you have questions.

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## **Open House**

Oakland Terrace Elementary School will hold their annual Open House for parents on Monday, October 11, 2010. At the **main campus**, the Open House will run from 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. The **satellite campus** will welcome parents between 9:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. This is a great opportunity for parents to observe their child's instructional program. We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing you.

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## **Halloween Festivities**

This year, our Halloween festivities will take place on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Individual parties will take place in your child's homeroom class beginning at 2:00 p.m. **Parents not wanting their child(ren) to participate in any of the Halloween festivities must inform their child(ren)'s teacher in writing prior to Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.** Alternative plans for students not participating will include treats and a video in the media center.

Costumes - It is important that costumes send a positive message. Costumes with weapons, blood, or gore must be avoided. Several appropriate costume examples might include storybook characters, dancers, sport figures, or other types of positive role models.

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## **Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless**

Oakland Terrace Elementary School is pleased to be participating in the 2010 Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless! This is Oakland Terrace's 10<sup>th</sup> year participating in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon and the eighth year supporting Housing Unlimited, Inc. (HUI). HUI provides permanent, safe, affordable housing for very low-income adults with psychiatric disabilities in Montgomery County.

This year, the walkathon will be held on Friday, **October 29<sup>th</sup>** at 10:15 a.m. (the morning of the Halloween parties). To qualify as a registered walker, the form must be properly signed. Although a \$15.00 registration fee per student is requested, any student may participate in the walkathon regardless of the amount donated. We want every child to participate, so please make sure that you have completed the attached registration form along with the parent signature by **October 18, 2010**. **Every student who returns a completed and signed registration form will receive an exclusive Help the Homeless Walkathon T-shirt.**

Many times when we think of homeless people, we think of the men and women on the streets. Sadly, many homeless people are children. In fact, most of the homeless people in our area are families. Let's show our community that Oakland Terrace Elementary School cares about homelessness!

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## **Highly Gifted Center Applications**

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) were recently mailed directly to all parents of **Grade 3** students. Applications are also available on the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms).

If you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by **November 8, 2010**, to:

HGC Application  
Division of Consortium Choice and Application Process Services  
11721 Kemp Mill Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

The next parent information meeting about the HGC will take place on **October 26, 2010** at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Seneca Valley High School.

## **Middle School Magnet Applications**

The application materials for the middle school magnet programs at Takoma Park and Eastern Middle School will be available online in mid-October at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms). All fifth graders are eligible to apply. These are exciting opportunities for interesting and challenging experiences in middle school. The program at Takoma Park Middle School focuses on math, science, and computer science. The program at Eastern Middle School focuses on humanities and communication arts. Some important dates to remember:

October 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m.	Eastern Magnet meeting at Eastern MS
October 26, 2010, 7:00 p.m.	Takoma Park Magnet Meeting at Takoma Park MS
November 8, 2010	Application deadline, postmarked or delivered

## **Middle School Magnet Consortium Applications**

Please also visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms) for information about the Middle School Magnet Consortium programs at Argyle Middle School, Loiederman Middle School, and Parkland Middle School. The Choice Form, available mid-October on the website above, is due **November 8, 2010**. Information meetings and Open Houses are as follows:

October 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.	Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology
October 14, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Argyle Magnet Middle School for Digital Design and Development
October 25, 2010, 7:00 p.m.	A. Mario Loiederman Magnet Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts

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## Dates to Remember

<i>October 11</i>	Open House 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.( <b>Main Campus</b> ) & 9:15 a.m.—1:15 p.m. ( <b>Satellite Campus</b> ) PTA Read-a-Thon begins (10/11 through 10/29) Silver Spring Boys and Girls Club <b>Closed</b>
<i>October 13</i>	5th Grade Field Trip to Strathmore Hall 10:30 a.m.—12:50 p.m. ESOL Back-To-School Night 6:00-8:00 p.m. ( <b>Main Campus</b> )
<i>October 15</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (Maryland State Teachers Convention)
<i>October 19</i>	First Grade Reading Night 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. ( <b>Main Campus</b> )
<i>October 20</i>	4th Grade Field Trip to St. Mary’s City 7:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
<i>October 22</i>	PTA Fall Dress-up Party for K, 1, and 2 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.( <b>Satellite Campus</b> )
<i>October 29</i>	End of First Marking Period Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless 10:15 a.m. ( <b>Main Campus and Satellite Campus</b> ) Halloween Parties in Classrooms 2:00 p.m. ( <b>Main Campus and Satellite Campus</b> )
<i>November 1</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (Teacher Professional Day/Report Card Preparation & Planning)
<i>November 2</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (General Elections) PTA Election Bake Sale with Girl Scouts
<i>November 5</i>	Book Fair (11/5—11/11 <b>Main Campus</b> Media Center)
<i>November 6</i>	PTA Family Movie Night 6:15 p.m.
<i>November 8</i>	Application deadline for Highly Gifted Center
<i>November 9</i>	Joint PTA Meeting with Sligo MS Community at Sligo MS 7:00 p.m.
<i>November 11</i>	<b>Early Release</b> (Parent/Teacher Conferences) Magic Show and Book Fair ( <b>Main Campus</b> 6:00—9:00 p.m.)
<i>November 12</i>	<b>Early Release</b> (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
<i>November 16</i>	2nd Grade Field Trip to Strathmore Hall 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
<i>November 24</i>	<b>Early Release</b>
<i>November 25</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (Thanksgiving)
<i>November 26</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (Thanksgiving)
<i>December 6-8</i>	Book Fair for Kindergarten Students ( <b>Satellite Campus</b> Media Center)
<i>December 7</i>	PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. ( <b>Main Campus</b> )
<i>December 13</i>	Interims/Data Notebooks Distributed
<i>December 24</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (Christmas)
<i>December 27-31</i>	<b>School Closed</b> (Winter Break)
<i>January 3</i>	<b>School Resumes</b>

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