



The Stonegate SplashRiding the Waves of Success

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR STONEGATE FAMILIES

STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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A Message from Ms. Fladung

I'd like to encourage you to nominate an outstanding Stonegate teacher for one of two distinguished awards available for elementary teachers this school year. Our teaching staff is exceptional and nominating a favorite teacher who is currently working with your child or who worked with your child in the past is a great way to show your appreciation. This year, there are two different awards to consider.

Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards

The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education *Veteran Teacher Award* recognizes fulltime teachers in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who have demonstrated a record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap. One of the veteran teacher award winners is chosen as the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Teacher of the Year and goes on to represent MCPS as a contender for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year award, and could become the National Teacher of the Year. The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education *First Year Teacher Award* recognizes a full-time teacher in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who has a demonstrated record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap. This teacher contributes to a professional learning community of students, staff, parents, and community.

The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

The *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher award recognizes a full-time teacher in Pre-K through Grade 12 who instills in students a desire to learn and achieve. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, three of which must be in the school system he or she is currently serving. This teacher must also understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents, and foster their self esteem, demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students, foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community as well as demonstrate outstanding leadership.

To access nomination materials and specific guidelines, check out the link below or visit the MCPS website on the Office of Human Resources webpage under "*Awards and Recognition*":

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/awards/>

Friday, December 18, 2009

Audra Fladung, Principal
Keena Howell, Assistant Principal

Lucille Ellis, Acting AP

Special Points of Interest:

- **The LFI Snack Sale ends on Tuesday, December 22nd.**
- **Winter Break begins for students on Thursday, December 24th. Students return to school on Monday, January 4th, 2010.**
- **There is NO January PTA meeting scheduled.**





Sunday Scholars Program

The Sunday Scholars and Montgomery County Department of Recreation present the Sunday Scholars MSA Study Group for students in Grades 3-6. The session runs from February 7th through March 7th on Sundays from 2:00-4:15. Students meet at the Ross Boddy Community Center and receive support in testing strategies and content development. Parent participation is a key component of the program and is required. During tutoring sessions, parents are

encouraged to attend weekly discussions and dialogue sessions. The cost is only \$40 and each student is provided with a workbook for their personal use. Registration is based on a first come, first served basis, and ends on Tuesday, December 22. Please look for registration forms in today's Friday folders. For more information, contact Jackie Bromfield at 301.602.0826.



Stonegate Recognized for Equity and Excellence in Math

Stonegate was recently asked to present its strategies and successes in promoting equity and excellence in mathematics. Participants in the session were attendees at the county-wide Administrative and Supervisory meeting and included elementary principals from around the county. Third grade teacher, Emily Madan, and Staff Development Teacher, Anita Elaraj, joined me in sharing the evolution of math programming at Stonegate by emphasizing data collection and monitoring, small group instruction and parent communication. The session received positive feedback from all attendees! We are very proud of our children and the commitment of our teachers!

Starting off the New Year Right!

December provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the year and to set new goals for future. As you relax and spend time with family over the Winter Break, encourage your children to use the New Year to get a fresh start on the remaining six months of the 2009-2010 school year. This is an excellent time to identify an area needing improvement and then work towards a par-

ticular goal. Whether the goal is to further develop organizational skills; practice basic facts; apply a variety of reading strategies, arrive to school on time consistently; or to improve upon a variety of other academic or learning skills, there is no time like the present. Please work with your child to establish goals, collaborate with his or her teacher(s), and assist with an action plan for improve-

ment. I know together, we can make the New Year a productive one for each and every child!

On behalf of the Stonegate staff, we wish you a wonderful Winter Break and a happy holiday season!





Core Values

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Collaboration
- Commitment

Mission Statement

Stonegate's mission as a caring community is to foster the growth of life-long learners by communicating high expectations and standards through respect, flexibility, and collaboration.

Vision Statement

The Stonegate Community will be committed to a multicultural learning environment that motivates and supports all learners to achieve their greatest potential. We will collaborate respectfully to develop a standard of excellence that promotes high expectations for all learners.

Wishing a Speedy Recovery

Mrs. Bailey, Reading Initiative Teacher, has recently been out on emergency medical leave. We are anticipating her return during the week of December 21st. Until then, students are in the capable hands of Mrs. Battou, who is working closely with the first and second grade teams.

Welcome Back, Mrs. Thebaud

We welcome back Mrs. Thebaud, who is returning from emergency medical leave. She rejoined her students on the 17th and is happy to be back!

State Testing Around the Corner

As we look ahead to 2010, please check your calendars for important dates. In less than three months, students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 will participate in standardized assessments. The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) will be administered in grades 3, 4, and 5. Testing time will be approximately three hours per day and will include periodic breaks. The MSA measures student performance in reading and math, and includes multiple choice and brief constructed responses (BCRs). It begins the week of March 8th.

In April, second grade students will

take the TerraNova Second Edition. The TerraNova2 or TN/2 measures student performance in reading, language, language mechanics, math, and math computation. The format of the test is multiple choice only. The TN/2 testing window begins April 26th. Testing time each day will vary from approximately 45-75 minutes.

The preparation for these tests has been ongoing. Teachers administering the MSA are targeting specific skills and concepts, and are administering formative assessments to ensure that all students are well pre-

pared. Our second grade teachers are focusing on improving students' proficiency with basic math facts and language. Since both MSA and TN/2 are considered "high stakes tests" and are measures of individual student performance as well as our school's performance, it is imperative that all students are present for each day of testing. We ask that you schedule any appointment for your child outside of the testing window listed.

We are looking forward to continuing Stonegate's long tradition of success and achievement!

