



The Stonegate SplashRiding the Waves of Success

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR STONEGATE FAMILIES

STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
14811 NOTLEY ROAD
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905
301.989.5668



A Message from Ms. Fladung

Spring is a busy time for students, staff and families! Over the next few months we will receive allocations, host a family reading night, draft a master schedule, administer our state-wide test, welcome incoming kindergartners, sponsor a Career Day, and plan the promotion ceremony for our fifth grade students! So much to do, and so little time to do it in! Please keep your eye out for information regarding each of these important happenings in our school community.

7 Keys to College Readiness

The Seven Keys to College Readiness are building blocks for your child's success. You can help your child along the pathway to college by monitoring the Keys in kindergarten through high school. Below are some actions you can take to stay involved with your child's education:

- Talk to your child about college and the Seven Keys. Discuss the "What Students Should Do" and support and praise your child's efforts to succeed.
- Talk to your child's teachers. Making the best decisions for your child should be a team effort. Listen to what the teachers say and also express your thoughts and concerns.
- Monitor your child's performance regularly. Quarterly report cards summarize your child's performance. Speak with teachers anytime you have questions about your child's performance.
- Meet with a school counselor. You will be able to stay informed about what courses your child should take each year to be on the path for achieving the Keys.
- Encourage your child to use available resources. Schools offer extra help, homework clubs, and other assistance. Your child's teachers and counselors can suggest resources that best meet your child's needs.
- Take advantage of resources for parents. Principals provide information at meetings and through newsletters. MCPS offers Parent Academy Workshops on the Seven Keys and other important topics.

Friday, February 26, 2010

Audra Fladung, Principal

Keena Howell, Assistant Principal

Special Points of Interest:

- *Our Spring Book Fair kicks off on Monday, March 1st!*
- *Please join us for our PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 pm.*
- *Mark your calendar for our annual Reading Night, scheduled for Thursday, March 4 from 6:30-8:00 pm.*
- *MSA begins for students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade on Monday, March 8 and continues through Wednesday, March 17.*



State and County Testing Begins

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) will be administered in grades 3, 4, and 5 beginning **March 8. Testing will begin PROMPTLY at 9:00 am** and will last approximately three hours per day. The MSA measures student performance in reading and math, and includes selected response questions and brief constructed responses (BCRs).

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 com-

putation. 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 prepared. 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 above.**

We are looking forward to continuing the long tradition of success and achievement.

Reading Night Coming Soon!

We will host our annual Reading Night on Thursday, March 4th from 6:30-8:00. Students will work with literacy websites, participate in a cooking project, enjoy guest readers, and play games focused on decoding and comprehension strategies. There will also be a Book Swap, where students can "swap" titles to increase their personal libraries! Parents will leave with a packet of useful strategies to support literacy learning at home. We hope that you can join us for this fun and meaningful event!

Kindergarten Orientation

We will host our annual Kindergarten Orientation on **Friday, April 16 from 9:00-3:00 for families with students who will be 5 years old ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**. A letter with additional information is currently being developed and will be sent home within the next few weeks. Kindergarten Orientation focuses on creating a stress-free, informal experience for parents and incoming students. During orientation,

parents will have an opportunity to meet teachers, complete registration, and learn briefly about the kindergarten program. Students will have an opportunity to work on kindergarten related tasks and to meet other incoming peers. **Classes WILL BE cancelled for current kindergarten students in order to accommodate the orientation day. Please make arrangements for your kindergarten student that day.**

Please note that Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEK) applications will also be accepted for children who will be five years of age between September 2 and October 15, 2010. *According to MCPS policy, consideration will NOT be given for children with birthdates beyond October 15. There will be NO appeal process for children with birthdates beyond the October 15 window.*





Budget Update

The Montgomery County Board of Education approved a \$2.263 billion operating budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2011. The budget proposal funds no new initiatives but, as the state's "maintenance of effort" provision requires, maintains the same level of local per-student funding for FY 2011 as the district received for the current school year.

The budget will now be submitted to Montgomery County Executive

Isiah Leggett, who will issue his FY 2011 budget recommendation to the County Council by March 15. Board President, Patricia O'Neill states, "This budget simply allows us to maintain our current level of service and instruction for our growing student population. We are urging the County Executive and County Council to approve this budget proposal so we can continue to serve our students and continue the progress our students

have made."

Stay informed by visiting the Budget website at:

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/>



Global Screening of 2nd Graders In Process

Each year all second grade students in Montgomery County Public Schools participate in the global screening process. This is not about labeling students, but a standardized process that uses academic information and parent and teacher input to provide the best instructional match for each child. Students recently completed the In-View and will soon take the Raven.

Information from the assessments are used with other criteria such as staff, teacher, and parent surveys to form a complete picture of the child as a learner. Parents will be asked to complete a parent survey from the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction about their child's academic and social skills. When you speak with your child about the testing, please let them

know that it is not about passing or failing. It is about learning more about them as a student so that we can provide the best learning experience possible!

Parent Academy Workshops

The Parent Academy continues to offer families training sessions on relevant topics of interest. One session to check out is, "Straight Talk: Helping Your Child Make Good Decisions". Students today face many complicated issues, including peer pressure, bullying, and impulsive decision making. This session, presented by former MCPS

principal Wayne Whigham, will include role play and discussion to help students solve problems and avoid disciplinary actions. The session will be held on March 9 from 7:00-8:30 at Benjamin Banneker Middle School in Burtonsville. To register for this session and others, and to view the March Academy

schedule, check out the following website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/schedule.aspx>





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SCHOOL HOURS: 8:50 A.M - 3:05 P.M



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.

**Long-Term Substitute
Coming Aboard**

We will soon welcome Mrs. Bartell as a long-term substitute into Mrs. Steadman's first grade class, as Mrs. Steadman welcomes her newest addition! Mrs. Bartell, a widely used substitute at Stonegate, will be working closely with Mrs. Steadman and Ms. Elaraj, Staff Development Teacher, to ensure that quality programming continues.

What is an IEP? What does it do?

Special education services are provided to students when a learning disability is identified. An IEP is a written plan that describes the program(s) and special services that a student requires to be successful in the general education curriculum. It is a plan that ensures that proper programming is in place to help the student with special needs to be successful at school. An IEP is developed collaboratively by school staff and parents as well as medical staff if appropriate. It identifies the curricular areas that will need to be modified or it will state whether the child requires an alternative curriculum. It is a working document that is usually

modified each year based on the ongoing needs of the student. An IEP also identifies the accommodations a child may need to reach their full potential. Such accommodations could include extra time, periodic breaks, or close proximity to the teacher. It is important to note that an IEP and accompanying accommodations help to 'level the playing field', giving students access to a curriculum that may be challenging to their learning style or learning needs; they do not necessarily guarantee high grade level marks.



