



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

As we begin the second semester, please take time to review the Rules of Conduct for behavior in school. We continue to emphasize our core values and expect the best from our children, both academically and socially. When children are in a nurturing and positive learning environment, they will excel! A few expectations to highlight and reinforce include, but are not limited to:

- Students should bring only necessary materials to school. Cell phones, toys, trading cards, and electronic games are not appropriate for the school environment and will be taken from the student and held until a parent comes to pick them up.
- Students will use positive and respectful language and actions at all times. The use of profanity, put-downs, name-calling, threats, or the spreading of rumors is grounds for disciplinary action. In addition, teasing, threatening, sexual harassment, and bullying are not tolerated in the school environment and could result in consequences.
- Students will keep their hands, feet, and all body parts to themselves. Any physically aggressive action, *including spitting*, towards another student or staff member is grounds for suspension and possible expulsion from school.
- Students will respect the authority of all adults in the school. The rolling of eyes and the use of inappropriate body gestures are disrespectful. Refusal to comply with adult directions may result in dangerous situations and is grounds for disciplinary action.

Please help us to develop good citizenship skills in our students by modeling and supporting our core value behavior: respect, responsibility, commitment, and collaboration. **Another copy of the discipline policy has been provided for your use in today's backpack.**



Friday, January 22, 2010

Audra Fladung, Principal
Keena Howell, Assistant Principal

Lucille Ellis, Acting AP

Special Points of Interest:

- *January 25th is a Professional Day for staff. NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.*
- *The Peace Day Reward Dance will take place on Friday, January 29th. Students in K, 1, and 3 will attend from 1:20-2:05. Students in 2, 4, and 5 will attend from 2:10-2:55.*
- *The PTA Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 pm. Information on Stonegate's math program will be shared.*
- *Report cards will be distributed on Wednesday, February 3.*





Farquhar Middle School Meeting: Save the Date!!



Farquhar Middle School will host a Registration and Course Information Meeting for Parents of Incoming 6th Grade Students. This meet-

ing will be held on **Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 7:00-8:30 in the Farquhar Middle School cafeteria.** Attendees will be given the opportunity to meet Mr. Murphy, the principal, and the administrative team, as well as the 6th grade team leaders, counselor, department chairs, and current 6th grade students. In addition, parents will learn about courses, registration processes, the math curriculum and

Honors courses. Participants will also hear about a typical day for a sixth grade student and will be given the opportunity to pose questions to teachers, counselors, and administrators. The snow date for this event is February 18, 2010. For more information regarding this meeting, please contact Mr. Jason Ingram at

Jason_R_Ingram@mcpsmd.org.

Wow! What a Concert!

Mr. Frassrand and the 5th Grade Chorus have done it again! The students gave a magnificent performance as they entertained a full house. All of their hours of practice certainly paid off. We thank Mr. Frassrand for his leadership and Ms. Elaraj for her accompaniment. Well done!

H1N1 Clinics Coming to Stonegate ES in March

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to recommend that everyone be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) currently has a limited amount of the H1N1 flu nasal spray vaccine that it will make available for free to elementary and special school students at their schools. Vaccinations will take place at Stonegate after school on Tuesday, March 23, Wednesday, March 24, and Thursday, March 25. DHHS has a total of 150

doses of the H1N1 flu nasal spray vaccine for our elementary school that will be administered over the above three days. *The vaccination for H1N1 is COMPLETELY voluntary and is NOT required for school.* Appointments will be required as will a completed and signed consent form. More information will be sent home regarding the specific details of the vaccination clinic. Please be on the lookout for these materials in early March.





Budget Information: Stay Up-to-Date!

Our Superintendent, Dr. Weast, has released his proposed operating budget for next school year. The recommended budget proposes no new initiatives but allows our school and our school system to maintain the services and programs we are currently providing. The only increase – about 1 percent – is to help fund MCPS’ continued growth in enrollment. Given the economic challenges at the state and county levels, the future of Dr. Weast’s proposal is very uncertain and before the budget receives final approval from the County Council and the Board of Education, the district could be forced to make

some very difficult cuts. With his recommendation, Dr. Weast and the budget team – which included our employee associations and PTAs – released a list of areas that could be impacted should cuts to the budget need to be made. These are not final recommendations and we are hopeful that we will not need to make any reductions. We want to maintain the high level of service to our students that has yielded such outstanding results in our school and our system. However, we must be prepared. With all of this uncertainty, it is more important than ever that our parents and community members are fully in-

formed about the budget and know exactly how to make their voice heard. A budget website has been created that includes a video presentation by Dr. Weast; the full budget book, as well as a summary; frequently asked questions and much more. Please take the time to learn more about Dr. Weast’s proposal and make sure the members of the Board of Education and the County Council know your priorities and your concerns. You can visit the website at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/>.

Interruptions to School Day Continue—We Need Your Help!

Getting up and out in the morning can be a challenge. There are so many things for children to remember...homework, backpacks, lunch boxes, and musical instruments. We encourage you to develop a system with your children so that these items are organized and ready to go each day. Consider generating a checklist before bed to ensure that all necessary materials are in a visible location for morning departure. Let everyone in the family know where that spot is and place the bags there immediately, if possible. You

might choose a countertop or shelf near the door, or hang a few hooks or pegs for these items. Some families use a picture board where kids can move a felt or magnet cutout down a ladder of activities that ticks off the morning schedule. It is also important to get up on time. Purchase an alarm clock for each bedroom and show the children how to use them. Get used to getting up at the same time every morning. Unfortunately, we continue to have an inordinate number of forgotten lunches, backpacks and instruments

brought to school each day. The entry railing is often lined up with lunch bags and backpacks for student pick up. Each time we call into a classroom to inform a student of the arrived item, we interrupt the instructional program. ***Therefore, we will no longer call into the classroom for forgotten materials. Children will need to check in the office during their lunch/recess time for such items.*** Please help us to encourage and to promote responsible student behaviors.

Quarter 2 Discipline Data

We continue to make good strides in demonstrating our core value behavior! Students have been honored through the distribution of “Sharks”, core value certificates, Silver Spork rewards, and Peace Day celebrations! We reduced the number of office referrals from quarter 1 to quarter 2 by 7, with only 20 referrals. Our third grade students showed the greatest

improvement, reducing their referral rate by 6. In analyzing the data, we found that nearly half of the referrals (10 out of 21) were a result of inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria and on the playground. Please take the time to review and reinforce the expectations for appropriate lunch and recess behavior. Students are reminded that aggressive play will not be tolerated

and repeated instances of inappropriate physical contact can and will result in a suspension from school. Students are also reminded that inappropriate and abusive language are not acceptable. We appreciate your support as we instill good citizenship skills and practices in our children.





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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.

Update on Mrs. Howell

We are very happy to report that Mrs. Howell continues to make good progress with her health. She is scheduled to return to Stonegate on Monday, February 8th. She is excited to return and looks forward to working with students, staff, and families once again!

Music Mondays at Stonegate!

Did you know that we start off each school week with a sampling of music for staff and students? Mr. Frassrand, our music teacher, introduces students and staff to a variety of composers and music from around the world every Monday morning. We began the year celebrating the music of Hispanic composers and singers. We were then introduced to the music stylings of the Native American culture. Most recently, we had "Staff Picks". Staff members selected songs that were significant or inspirational in their

lives. Each song is accompanied with a brief description and explanation as to why it is noteworthy. We look forward to enjoying music from African and African-American heritage during the month of February. Ask your children about the music they are hearing and learning about!



