



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

Parents and teachers may look at children's learning from different perspectives, but they share a common goal: making sure that children receive the best possible education. Mutual respect and communication between schools and families takes advantage of both perspectives to provide children with the kind of care and education that will help them thrive. Today's family members and teachers have many responsibilities and time constraints. It takes extra effort on both sides to build strong partnerships.

Teachers at Stonegate strive to listen carefully to parents and to use the information shared to better support children both academically and socially. Staff members are continuing to share pertinent information through newsletters, emails, data notebooks, planners, and contracts. Such information can be used to help prepare children for the next levels of their education. Parent volunteers are welcome in classrooms and parents are encouraged to ask questions when they are unsure of programs or policies.

We ask that families listen carefully to what the teachers have to say as well. Remember that they spend a significant amount of time with children and share expertise about their development. They work hard to plan and to differentiate for the wide-range of student needs. If you have questions or concerns about your child, speak directly to your child's teacher. Ask, don't demand. Try not to jump to conclusions. Think how receptive you would be if someone consistently questioned your ability or regularly told you how to do your job. Remember, too, that many teachers have families of their own and outside commitments, and may share similar responsibilities and time constraints as you do. Be as respectful of their time as you wish them to be of yours.

When teachers and parents work together respectfully, **all** children benefit from the best possible learning experience!

Friday, November 13, 2009

Audra Fladung, Principal
Keena Howell, Assistant Principal

Lucille Ellis, Acting AP

Special Points of Interest:

- **Family Fun Night and the Silent Auction will be held tomorrow, November 14th at Blake High School from 6:00-8:30 pm.**
- **Child ID pictures will be taken on November 18th for interested families.**
- **The Principal's Coffee will be held on Friday, November 20th from 8:30-9:30 am.**
- **Students will be released on Wednesday, November 25th at 12:35 for the Thanksgiving holiday. THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON NOVEMBER 26 AND NOVEMBER 27.**





Town Hall Meetings

We recently met as a school for a brief “town hall meeting”. At this meeting, we reviewed our many quarter one successes, including: earning two peace day goals, increasing the number of classes to earn the Silver Spork award, and acknowledging students who have consistently demonstrated their core values! In addition, we discussed the importance of always doing quality

work, asking questions, completing assignments, and trying our best. We took time to redefine the purpose of our behavioral card management system as well. The card system is a tool to encourage positive choices. We want students to understand that mistakes will be made and that flipping a card is merely a reminder to students to get back on track. Our hope is that students

will learn from the mistake, use teacher feedback to make adjustments, and move forward! Finally, we set goals for the upcoming quarter, including: meeting our peace day goal of 50, decreasing office referrals for bus behavior, and putting forth maximum effort in our studies.

Drop Off/Pick Up Circle

Our students’ safety is a top priority! We are continuing to ask families to practice patience and good manners when dropping off and picking up students in the front circle area. It is important that drivers pull all the way around the circle to help decrease the congestion and unsafe conditions on Notley Road. Please follow the cues and directions of the adults and patrols on duty. It is equally as important that students are ready to exit and enter vehicles as appropriate. Their readiness can help to ensure a quick and timely arrival and dismissal. Finally, visitors are asked NOT to park in the circle area, even for a quick minute. By parking in the circle, cars are unable to enter the circle, pass safely, or exit with ease. It is a major safety concern and it is illegal. Cars illegally parked in the front circle area will be fined or towed at owner’s expense. We are asking for your cooperation.

Principal’s Coffee

Our Fall Principal’s Coffee will be held on Friday, November 20th from 8:30-9:30 am in the Media Center. This coffee provides an opportunity for families to meet with the principal to learn more about Stonegate’s programming and policies. It also provides time to discuss issues of importance. A flyer was sent home on

November 6th advertising the event. Please return the form if you plan to attend. The agenda will be built around your input and ideas. Sweet treats and coffee will also be provided. I hope you are able to join us.





Child ID Program

The Child I.D. Program is coming to Stonegate on Friday, November 18th. Child I.D. cards are wallet-sized cards that contain valuable information, including your child's color picture, height, weight, fingerprint, and medical or other special needs facts. Such a card can help a parent immediately provide Law Enforcement with the proper information needed to help locate a

missing child. The Child I.D. cards are for parents to carry at all times. Please look today for the registration form. If you wish to have your child participate, please fill out the application envelope and return it to school on or before the program date. Participation in the program is totally optional and package prices begin at \$9.00. For more information, feel free to

email:
richard@4childid.com.



MCPS Parent Academy Workshop: Helping Your Child Make Better Decisions

Students today face many issues, including peer pressure, bullying, impulsivity, misuse of social networking sites, and poor decision-making skills. The MCPS Parent Academy is offering a session to address some of these issues. The session will use role play and discussion to provide strategies to help children solve problems ef-

fectively and avoid discipline referrals and suspensions. The session will be held on November 16th from 7:00-8:30 pm in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center.

Simultaneously, there will be a workshop on bullying held at John Poole Middle School. This session provides information to

help raise awareness about the impact of bullying, identify the health risks for all involved, and identify steps for prevention. For more information, visit:

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

Operation Warm Up Continues



We are working in conjunction with Brownie Troop 2691 and

Linkages to Learning to warm the hearts of deserving kids by donating new and gently used children's coats. Linkages to Learning provides school-based mental health, health, and social services for children and families in 27 elementary and middle schools.

Just drop off CLEAN coats in our

collection box in the main entrance of the school from now until November 25th. Children's and teens' sizes needed!

Questions? Want to help? Call Haifa Krakaur at 301.924.0149 or email her at:

Haifa.Peter@montgomerycounty md.gov





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.

Good News

We received a part-time paraeducator allocation to support our primary LFI program! We are currently interviewing and hope to have someone on board very soon!

Thank You!

Thank you to the PTA for the wonderful "conference survival kits"! Our staff was very appreciative!

Supporting Good Writing

Writing is more than putting words on paper. It's a final stage in the complex process of communicating that begins with "thinking." Writing is an especially important stage in communication, the intent being to leave no room for doubt. Writing well requires:

- **Clear thinking.** Sometimes the child needs to have his/her memory refreshed about a past event in order to write about it.
- **Sufficient time.** Children may have stories in their heads but need time to think them through and write them down.
- **Reading.** Reading can stimulate a child to write about his/her own family

or school life. If your child reads good books, (s)he will be a better writer.

- **Interest.** All the time in the world won't help if there is nothing to write, nothing to say. Some of the reasons for writing include: sending messages, keeping records, expressing feelings, or relaying information.
- **Revising.** Students need experience in revising their work-- i.e, seeing what they can do to make it clearer, more descriptive, more concise, etc.

In helping your child to learn to write well, remember that your goal is to make writing easier and more enjoyable. You can help when you:

Provide a place. It's important for a

child to have a good place to write--a desk or table with a smooth, flat surface and good lighting.

Have the materials. Provide plenty of paper--lined and unlined--and things to write with, including pencils, pens, and crayons.

Allow time. Help your child spend time thinking about a writing project or exercise. Good writers do a great deal of thinking. Your child may dawdle, sharpen a pencil, get papers ready, or look up the spelling of a word. Be patient--your child may be thinking.

Respond. Do respond to the ideas your child expresses verbally or in writing. Make it clear that you are interested in the true function of writing.

