



# The Stonegate Splash .....Riding 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 Mrs. Glawe

Friday, December 3, 2010

Audra Fladung, Principal

Carla Glawe, Principal Intern

Since September, we have discussed what Grading and Reporting looks like in Montgomery County Public Schools and Stonegate. At our November PTA meeting, Ebony Langford-Brown, Director of Elementary Instruction and Achievement, presented the MCPS vision of grading and reporting. Some of the key points included:

- **The MCPS Policy, IKA, Grading and Reporting**, as it pertains to Grading and Reporting includes:
  - Accurate reflection of student achievement outlines in the MCPS curriculum*
  - Formal reporting, indicated by O/S/N (grades 1-2) or by letter grade in grades 3-5*
- **MCPS believes** that all students are held to high expectations, grades are based on multiple data points; grading practices are fair and manageable and support effective teaching and learning; teachers exercise professional judgment within the parameters of the required procedures and grading procedures are monitored and supervised.

At Stonegate we continue to refine our Grading and Reporting policy. As discussed at the PTA meeting and Principal's Coffee, it is a local school's decision on what the policy looks and sounds like under the MCPS guidelines. The procedures we currently have in place will be a part of the policy. At this time our policy is being reviewed by staff members and then will be presented to the MCPS Office of Curriculum and Instruction. We hope to have our policy approved and ready to be published for the second semester.

***\*\*Please be sure to read the important letter sent home today from Ms. Fladung regarding safety procedures during drop-off and pick-up times.***

### Special Points of Interest:

- **Grade 5 chorus winter concert, K-5, December 14, 10:00-10:30, APR**
- **Grade 5 chorus winter concert for parents December 14, 7:00-7:30, APR**
- **Winter Break: December 24-January 2nd**
- **Return to school January 3rd**





## Tardiness and Absences

### Reminder:

The following changes in recording attendance in Montgomery County Public Schools are being implemented in accordance with the *Maryland Student Records System Manual* revised effective July 1, 2007, by the Maryland State Department of Education. Please read the bulleted items carefully.

### Tardiness

- If your child arrives to school after 8:50 a.m. he/she needs to stop in the office to receive a tardy slip. It is important for students to arrive on time each day.

### Absences

- Students will be recorded as *a.m. absent*, if they arrive at school more than two hours late.
- Students will be recorded as *p.m. absent*, if they leave school more than two hours early.
- Students will be recorded as either *a.m. absent or p.m. absent*, if they are absent from school for more than two hours but less than four hours during the school day.
- Students will be recorded as *full-day absent*, if they are present for less than two hours of the school day.
- Students will be recorded as *full-day present*, if they are present for more than four hours of the school day.
- The state of Maryland requires us to "code" absences for each student. For this reason it is **IMPERATIVE** that you write a note providing the reason for the absence **EACH** time your child returns to school following an absence.

## Winter Weather

Information about the weather is gathered from many sources, including The National Weather Service, AccuWeather, the news media and by inspection of the roads, school driveways and sidewalks throughout the county. Information from these various sources is factored into decision making for school closures and delays. A uniform procedure to close all schools is maintained so that the school system can respond quickly to emergency weather conditions.

There are many ways in which you can find out about school closings and delays. Below is a list which can also be found on the Montgomery County Public Schools website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org> .

- Comcast Channel 34
- Twitter <http://twitter.com/mcps>
- Local news and radio stations



Parents can also sign up for Alert MCPS. Alert MCPS provides you with emergency information about school operations via text messages (i.e. SMS text or email messages) to devices you register. Signing up for Alert MCPS is free, but your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive text messages. This service is provided in collaboration with the Montgomery County government. Weather-related messages are sent in English and Spanish.





## The Giving Tree

During these harsh economic times, it seems a little harder for some of our families to purchase holiday gifts for their families. There are over 20 families in our community in need of our donations. If you would like to help our families, please pick up a snowflake(s) from off the Giving Tree in the main hallway. Each snowflake has a gift item printed on it. All you need to do is pur-

chase the item, wrap it, attach the gift snowflake(s) and return it to Ms. Berning by December 15th.

Ms. Berning will ensure that the gifts go to the appropriate families in our community.

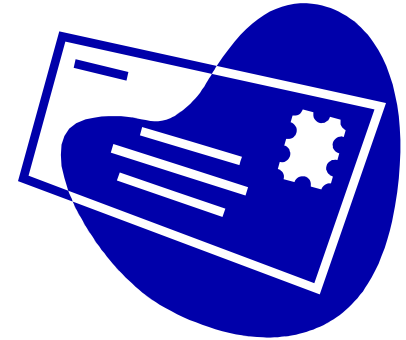
We thank you for your continued support.



## Interim Reports

Teachers distribute interim reports mid-way through the quarter. Interims will be sent home the week of December 6th. The purpose of the interims is to inform parents of student performance. The interim will be given if the student drops two letter grades in any subject area. If your child receives an interim, we

strongly recommend that you contact your child's teacher. Contacting the teacher will ensure that you have the necessary information to help your child improve. Data Notebooks can also be utilized as students record progress that has been made towards certain goals.



## Principals Coffee Update

Our Fall Principal Coffee was held, Friday, November 19, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Room 22. We would like to thank the parents who came to discuss important issues, to provide feedback and to problem solve. We discussed various topics including: grading and reporting, arts integration, field trips, Seven Keys to College

Readiness and Data Notebooks. Another coffee will be scheduled for the spring. At that time families will once again be invited to submit agenda items for discussion.





THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR STONEGATE FAMILIES

STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

14811 NOTLEY ROAD  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905  
301.989.5668

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.

**Tips for Headache-free Homework:**

1. **BE encouraging!** If your child seems frustrated, ask what's wrong, stay calm and try to help your child feel good about his/her efforts. Contact the teacher if your child continues to be upset by his/her homework.
2. **BE consistent!** Have a routine in place for homework time! Stay on top of homework, do not procrastinate!
3. **Stay positive!** If your child complains about homework or school, avoid joining in. Talk with your child about why school and homework are important to ensure college and career readiness!

## MCPS wins Baldrige National Quality Award

Baldrige is a systematic process for helping organizations make systemic change. Baldrige is all about performance excellence. The Baldrige Categories are linked to create an integrated management system that enables organizations to focus systematically and on **performance excellence and continuous improvement**. This integrated management system works at the **district, school, and classroom levels**.

MCPS is the sixth public school system to receive the award and is by far the largest school district to be a re-

ipient.

The Criteria were created in 1987 and named after Malcolm Baldrige. The Criteria is comprised of eleven [Core Values/Best Practices](#) and seven [Categories](#), which provide a dynamic framework for continuous improvement.

*\*\*Taken from MCPS Web Page*

We use many of the Baldrige best practices including:

- Stonegate Core Values
- Data notebooks

- Mission and Vision Statements

President Obama will present MCPS with an award at a ceremony next year!

