



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 Mrs. Glawe

All MCPS staff received a letter and accompanying attachment from Dr. Weast listing possible budget cuts for FY12. I haven't seen a list quite like this in the past. We've been hearing that "this year will be worse than last year." We will not have a definitive budget until May and there are many decisions to make between now and then.

The effectiveness and value of our schools rests solely on the people who make our schools and students successful. The Stonegate students, staff and community have always come together in times of need. This year we will certainly have to support each other during these continued difficult economic challenges. This list of targeted position cuts and increased class size guidelines may threaten several of our colleagues at Stonegate.

As a community it is important that you stay involved in the budget process, and most of all be cognizant of the fact that this budget has the potential to change Stonegate in significant ways for the 2011-12 school year. For more information please visit the website:

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

Friday, February 4, 2011

Audra Fladung, Principal

Carla Glawe, Principal Intern

Nancy Evans, Acting AP

Special Points of Interest:

- **Valentine's Parties will take place on Monday, February 14, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**
- **School will be closed on Monday, February 21, in honor of Presidents' Day.**
- **Science Family Night will be Friday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the APR.**





Change of School Assignment

Students in Montgomery County are assigned to public schools based on their place of residence or in accordance with an Individualized Education Program and are expected to attend their assigned school. However, changes from one school to another are permitted for students who are exempt or who are granted a change of school assignment (COSA) based upon their circumstances. The window in which parents can apply for a COSA is between February 1–April 1, 2011. Assignment changes for students from one

school to another may be permitted for the following circumstance:

- An older sibling attends the requested school in the regular program, absent a boundary change
- A documented unique hardship
- A student selected for an exempt program
- A continuation in a feeder pattern from middle to high school, except when affected by boundary changes

By accepting a change of school

assignment, the parent or guardian must accept responsibility to provide transportation.

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request an assignment change form and the Change of School Assignment Information Booklet that describes the process and provides useful information.

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation will be held May 3, 2011 from 9:00-3:00 p.m. for families with students who will be five years old **ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**. 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 at Stonegate. Students will have an opportunity to complete kindergarten related tasks and meet other incoming peers.

Classes will be canceled for current kindergarten students in order to accommodate the orientation day. Please make arrangements for your kindergartner 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, 2011. According to MCPS policy, consideration will not be given for children with birth dates beyond October 15. There will be NO appeal process for children with birth dates beyond the October 15 window. For more information about the policy please visit:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/requirements.aspx>





Report Cards

Report cards were recently distributed on Wednesday, February 2, 2011. Please take the time to review your child's progress and to set goals for the upcoming quarter. We encourage all of our children to celebrate their success and to identify areas for improvement.

We value the home-school connection at Stonegate. If you have any questions regarding your child's academic performance, please contact the teacher via phone or email for an

appointment. We respectfully ask that you do not come to the building without an appointment. Our teachers participate in planning and professional development opportunities before, during and after the school day. We ask that you please make an appointment.

If you would like to visit or observe your child during the instructional day, we also ask that you make an appointment with your child's teacher.

We ask that you give the teacher 24 hours notice when scheduling a child observation.



Time for Updates!!

As we begin the second semester, now is a great time to inform the office of any updates in telephone numbers, addresses, or update your child's SNAP account.

It is imperative that we have current information in the event of an emergency. Please call or send in any updates to the school as soon as you have any changes. Have you

received a bill from the school cafeteria? Please take this time to pay all debts and add money to student accounts if needed. If your child is purchasing breakfast or lunch without your knowledge, please share with them your plan, as many students decide to buy from the cafeteria and end up in debt.

Please remember that students may

apply for free and reduced price meal benefits at any time during the school year. The application for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits is available in many languages and may be found on the MCPS website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/240-30.shtm>

Testing is Right Around the Corner!

The testing dates for the MSA (Maryland State Assessment) are March 7—16, 2011. All third, fourth and fifth grade students will be involved in testing during this time. In addition, all second grade students will be involved in the TN/2 (Terra Nova Second Edition) April 4 - 8, 2011. Please help us by making sure your chil-

dren are in school on time each day. If a student misses a test, the score is recorded as a "0" and counts against our school total.

We ask that you not schedule any family trips, doctor's or dentist's appointments during this time.

Please make sure students have a

good breakfast each morning. As the testing window approaches, more information will be sent home.





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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.

Reminder: Drop Off and Pick Up

To ensure our student's safety during student drop off and pick up, we are asking parents to please pull all the way up to the Student Drop Off Sign 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 important for students to enter and exit the vehicle in a safe manner. Please slow down in the circle.

We appreciate your help in this matter.

Safety is our top priority!

Community Input Sought for New School Superintendent

Dr. Jerry D. Weast, superintendent of schools, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2011. As a result, the Montgomery County Board of Education is conducting a search for a new superintendent of schools. MCPS is working with the executive search firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to identify the best possible candidate for the position.

If you were unable to attend one of the forums in January or early February you can provide input online.

Community members can complete the online survey which will be available mid-January through early February 2011. Please visit the link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/superintendent-search/survey.aspx>

Information from the public forums and surveys will be shared with the Board of Education members.

For more information please go to the MCPS website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/superintendent-search/>

