



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

As you know, this year in my dual capacity of assistant principal and principal intern, I will transition into Ms. Fladung's position in January. This transition will be gradual, beginning with informing the staff, parents and then students. Our timeline includes relaying specific information to the staff at our December staff meeting, parents in December through the Stonegate Splash, and lastly, our students during an assembly in December.

The anticipated takeover will occur in January and last until the end of February. During the takeover time, I will be in contact with Ms. Fladung, our Performance Director and Community Superintendent. The school will also be assigned an assistant principal during the takeover period. We do not know who this person will be, however, we do know that it will most likely be a retired Montgomery County Public School principal. I look forward to refining my leadership skills and learning from our students, staff and community. As we receive more information about the transition, we will pass that on to you.

A Message from Ms. Fladung

As a part of this year's school improvement efforts, staff members are participating in training and development opportunities in three main areas:

- Implementing the writer's workshop process and differentiating writing instruction as appropriate,
- Developing increased understanding of culture and race, and how they impact learning, and
- Recognizing and addressing the strengths and areas of weakness of our special needs population.

We recently explored the four most prevalent special needs profiles at Stonegate—students identified with a learning disability, with autism, with ADD/HD, or as GT/LD. Through the research, we are learning more about each of these populations, student characteristics, and the strategies identified for long-term success.

Friday, November 12, 2010

Audra Fladung, Principal

Carla Glawe, Principal Intern

Special Points of Interest:

- **Picture Re-Take Day is scheduled for November 18**
- **Principal's Coffee is Nov. 19 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. There will be a Grade 3 parent meeting about Grading and Reporting 9:30-10:00 a.m.**
- **Early Release Nov 24. Students will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m.**
- **Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25-26**





Grading and Reporting Follow Up

At this month's PTA meeting we discussed the Montgomery County Public School's (MCPS) vision on Grading and Reporting, as well as what grading and reporting looks like at Stonegate. We heard from Ms. Ebony Langford-Brown, Director of Elementary Instruction and Achievement, and from Ms. Elaraj, our Staff Development Teacher .

In 2004, Montgomery County Public Schools revised their Grading and Reporting policy to include Standards Based grading. Since this revision, there have been a few changes, and more changes to come.

Key points from our PTA meeting include:

- Grading and Reporting is important for Consistency, Congruency, Clarity

and Communication.

- Academic grades are separated from Learning Skills grades.
- All Stonegate students in grades 1-5 continue to receive the traditional report card.
- **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 this looks like:

- For Grades 1-3: MCPS has provided materials, resources and training; however, there is on-going work in progress.
- For Grades 3-5: MCPS has provided Essential Learnings.

In our next edition will have a question answer portion about Grading and Reporting.



GT/LD Program and Services FAQs

We recently received a GT/LD "Frequently Asked Questions" document. We thought we would share some of the information with you.

What resources are available regarding GT/LD students, programs, and services?

Most resources are available on the GT/LD website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/mcpsprograms/gtld/index.shtm>

What are the current locations for GT/LD Programs?

- **Elementary:** Wyngate and Lucy V. Barnsley
- **Middle:** Colonel E. Brooke Lee, North Bethesda, and Roberto Clemente
- **High:** Walter Johnson and Watkins Mill

Which students are good candidates for the GT/LD Program? The GT/LD Program serves students who are highly intelligent, curious and creative who have an educational disability impacting the area(s) of reading, writing, and/or mathematics. Often students are also impacted in the areas of organization/executive functioning, self-esteem, and attention. IEP teams may determine that students whose needs are primarily behavioral may be better served in a setting other than the GT/LD classroom.

What is the process for referring a student to the GT/LD Program?

 The process will include:

- Observation(s) of the student and a record review
- A school-based IEP team meeting will be held, to review all information and to determine the appropriate placement for the student





Principal's Coffee

Our First Principal's Coffee will be held November 19, 2010 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. This coffee provides an opportunity for parents to meet with the principal to learn more about our programming and policies, and share and discuss hot topics or issues of importance. Coffee and treats will be provided.

This year from 9:30-10:00 a.m.,

third grade parents will be invited to stay for a brief meeting about third grade grading and reporting procedures.

A form was sent home November 5 with the Principal Coffee information. Please return the form to school if you plan to attend.

We hope you will join us!



Weather Outside

As winter approaches, please be sure your child has the appropriate clothing for school. Although it may be chilly outside, our students will go out for recess.

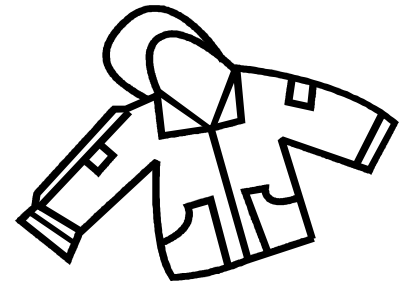
We need your help in ensuring that students have a coat, hat and mittens if appropriate.

There are times where your child

may be warm in the building, so please make sure he/she is dressed in layers, so that if it becomes warm, he/she can peel off one of the layers and be comfortable.

If your child is missing a jacket, please check the lost and found! We have many unclaimed coats, sweaters and jackets.

Those items that are not claimed will be donated to the needy.



The Montgomery County NAACP Parents' Council

The NAACP Parents' Council was organized during the 1995-96 school year. Its purpose is to provide a forum to assist and support African American students to achieve the highest quality education possible. County-wide Parent Councils work with their principals, PTAs, parents and volunteers to empower parents and guardians to advocate for and

take a more proactive role in the education of their children.

The Stonegate Council and the administrative staff are currently working together to promote excellence in the development of early literacy skills and to provide mentorship to students through possible after-school tutoring opportunities.

Additional information will be available soon.

Please contact Clarence Snuggs at cjsnuggs3@msn.com with any questions or for more information about the Stonegate Elementary School's Parents' Council.





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

Reminder: Pick Up

To ensure our student's safety, we are asking parents to please pull all the way around the traffic 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 important for students to enter and exit the vehicle in a safe manner.



We appreciate your help in this matter.

Organization

The transition from kindergarten to first grade, second grade to third grade, then from fifth to middle school, can be stressful for students and parents. In one of the October editions of the Stonegate Splash, we shared some strategies that might be helpful as students try to "get organized".

Here are a couple more strategies we find to be helpful:

1. Teach your child how to compile a "To Do" list or checklist.
2. If you make a grocery list, have your child cross out the items as you place them in the cart or basket.
3. Use different colored folders to file school work, newsletters or parent papers at home. Teach your child how to use the folders.
4. Organize your child's books. You can place them in bins or boxes with labels such as: fiction, sports, science.



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.



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