

FROM THE COUNSELOR - The conclusion of the first grading period is the traditional time for parent/teacher conferences. The parent/teacher conference is a good time for effective communication between parents and teachers. I have compiled some questions that you might want to discuss with the teacher at the conference:

1. What do I want the teacher to know about my child?
2. What skills will my child be expected to master this year?
3. What is the most important thing I want to learn from this conference?
4. What can I do to support my child's learning?
5. What is the most effective parent/teacher communication tool?
6. How does my child feel about school?
7. Is there anything happening at home that might affect my child's learning or behavior at school?
8. In what areas does the teacher think that my child needs to improve?
9. How can I work with the teacher to help my child have a successful school year?
10. How will my child's progress be evaluated?

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES – Often, one parent will hear from another that if a child is struggling, the parent should have the child evaluated for special education services or ask the school about a 504 plan to ensure assistance. Special Education services and 504 plans are for children who have diagnosed disabilities and cannot access the curriculum without this high level of support. They are not for children who do not have a disability. Most children will find one subject tougher than another, or will be learning a concept he/she finds unusually difficult. Everyone has different strengths and needs. That is natural and normal. School is not easy! When children have difficulties with their assignments and/or with concepts there are many things that the school can do to help them prior to any discussion about the presence of a disability. To prevent children from unnecessarily being identified as having a disability for an issue that could be addressed by the teacher and school support staff, we employ many strategies to bolster students' areas of need. Our staff is amazing at giving children the extras they may need to really soar!

WALK FOR THE HOMELESS – Thanks to all the children and families who helped us raise money for the Stepping Stones Shelter in the mini-walk. Special thanks to **Gail Ebrahimi** for all her hard work!

SATURDAY DISCOVERIES – Montgomery College Workforce Development & Continuing Education Youth Programs is accepting registrations for Saturday Discoveries. This is a one-day enrichment program offered for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5, and is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 8:30 am to 2:50 pm at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College. For additional information and or registration, contact the Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 240-567-7264, or visit the website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth

WOOTTON PRODUCTION – The Wootton High School Center for the Arts is excited to present *You Can't Take It With You*. Show times are: Thursday, Nov. 5th, Friday Nov. 6th, and Saturday, Nov. 7th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 for students and \$10. for adults and can be purchased at the Wootton Box Office Monday, Nov. 2nd through Wednesday, Nov. 4th from 3-6 pm and 2 hours prior to the shows. Ticket forms are available online at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woottonhs/academics/art/YCTIWIYticketorder.pdf>

SPECIAL TIGER TAILS THANK YOU TO:

- **Neetu Kaur Singh and Vira Gonyo** for the fantastic book fair!
- **Dr. Ted Mashima** for his outstanding talk about wildlife!