

# NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

## IMPORTANT EVENTS THE FIRST MONTH OF SCHOOL:

**KINDERGARTEN BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Thursday, 8/22 7-8 p.m. - Multipurpose Room.** This meeting is required by MCPS and is **for parents only**. Babysitting will be provided. This will allow the teachers more time to explain the kindergarten curriculum and procedures to parents and answer any questions you may have. Students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers in a more relaxed atmosphere at Sneak Preview on Friday morning.

### **SNEAK PREVIEW (10-11 A.M.) & NEW FAMILY WELCOME (11 A.M.-NOON): Friday, August 23**



Cashell will hold our popular **SNEAK PREVIEW** for students and parents on Friday, 8/23 from 10-11. Pre-K through Grade 5 students and parents will visit their classrooms and meet their teachers. **Show your School Spirit – Wear BLUE and WHITE to Sneak Preview!** There will **NOT** be a patrol meeting, but patrols should pick up their belts from Mrs. Leber in the gym during Sneak Preview. At 11 a.m. there will be a New Family Welcome Meeting in the Media Center to introduce you to our staff and give you a brief overview of our school.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

During Sneak Preview parents will have an opportunity to join the PTA and to obtain information about volunteering at Cashell. You can sign up to volunteer in classrooms, as well as in other areas of the school program or PTA. We look forward to seeing many of you then! You will also learn more about volunteering in school and for the PTA at Back to School Night and at our first PTA meeting of the year.

**MCPS BACK-to-SCHOOL FAIR: Saturday, 8/24 11 a.m.-2 p.m.** will take place on the grounds of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, in Rockville. This event offers a great opportunity to learn about school system programs and access information about community resources. For more information, call the Department of Family and Community Partnerships at 301-279-3100.

### **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for Kindergarten – Grade 5: Monday, 8/26, 8:50a.m.-3:05 p.m.**

**FIRST DAY PROCEDURES:** School begins this year on Monday, August 26. This will be a regular, full-day session and buses will begin their regular routes on that day. Bus Route information is included on our website. If your child will be a bus rider, please have him/her ride the bus on the first day so that s/he feels comfortable with the routine. Staff will be available at Sneak Preview and on the first day of school to help students find their way.

Students should report to the following locations on the first day of school:

- Kindergarten students **will line up outside their classrooms.**
- Students in Grades 1-5 **will line up in the Multipurpose Room and then go directly to their classrooms when the 9:05 a.m. bell rings.**

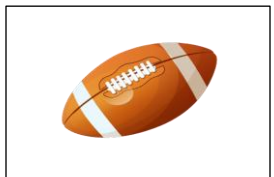
**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT for Pre-K and Grades 1-5: Wednesday, 8/28, 7-8 p.m.** Meet your children's teachers and learn about the curriculum and expectations for each grade level. Babysitting will be provided.

**PTA MEETING and BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT FOR SPECIALISTS: Tuesday, 9/3, 7p.m.** This event has become very popular. We will have information tables set up for both school and PTA programs. Parents say they really enjoy the opportunity to learn about our programs in Art, Music, PE, ESOL, Reading, Resource, Speech, Counseling, and Media. You will also hear about all the fabulous PTA programs and family and fundraising events planned for this year, such as the Family Picnic, Swim Night, End-of-Year DJ Party, Cashell Eats Out, Market Day, and many other wonderful activities sponsored by the PTA. As always, babysitting will be provided.



**WELCOME BACK FAMILY PICNIC: Saturday, September 7, 5-7 p.m. (Rain Date 9/21)** here at school. This is a great time to meet new families and friends. The PTA sponsors a DJ; everyone brings a blanket and chairs along with dinner; families bring desserts and drinks to share; and everyone has a wonderful time!

**FAMILY FOOTBALL NIGHT: Friday, 9/20** at Magruder High School. The entire Magruder Cluster is invited to the football game at Magruder High School. There are lots of pre-game activities, including a **Passing Contest** for the **Magruder Cup**, and all the cluster schools march in the half-time parade. You don't want to miss this! Watch for details after school starts!



## MORE NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**THE SCHOOL DAY**    **K-5: 8:50-3:05**    **Pre-K: 8:50-11:25**    **PEP-C: 8:50-2:00**    **School Office: 7:45-4:30**

- Morning line up will always be in the Multipurpose Room from 8:25 a.m.–8:40 a.m. We expect each of our students to be on time EVERY day. Also, please note that students are not to arrive before 8:25 a.m. as there is no supervision before that time.
- The instructional day is from 8:50– 3:05 p.m. Students are expected to be in their respective classrooms no later than 8:45 a.m.
- Students are dismissed at 3:05 p.m. Thank you for being on time to meet your child. Please limit last minute changes in pick up plans at the end of the day. **We will not dismiss students between 2:55 and 3:05, except in an emergency.**
- **Lunch and Recess Schedule:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Recess</u>
Kindergarten & Grade2	11:40	12:10
Grades 1 & 3	12:10	12:40
Grades 4 & 5	12:40	1:10

Students may not bring in toys or games from home to play with during lunch or recess.

**SECURITY:** Cashell has a set of locked security doors at the Main Entrance. All other outside doors are locked during the school day unless staff members are there to supervise students. All visitors MUST enter through the Main Office, sign in (Driver's License is required), and obtain an ID badge.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES**

Parents are asked to telephone the school prior to 8:30 a.m. when a child will be absent for any reason. We have an answering machine, so you can leave your child's name, teacher, and the reason for the absence. Your child must bring a note from home upon his/her return. Parents should keep children at home when illness is suspected, a communicable disease has been diagnosed, or lice/nits have been found. After five consecutive days of absence, a

physician's note is required when the student returns. All families with absent students who do not call into school will receive a phone call home on the day of the absence. Students with greater than 20% absences will be notified by letter. Continued absences are referred to the Pupil Personnel Worker.

### **CLASS LISTS**

Although tentative class lists have been established, we may have to reorganize classes to accommodate variations from the projected numbers in each grade level. Students will receive a postcard from their homeroom teacher sometime during the week of August 19 and have a chance to meet their teacher at Sneak Preview. If you do not receive your postcard **by Thursday, August 22**, please call the school. Those students unable to attend Sneak Preview will meet their teachers on the first day of school on Monday, August 26. Staff members will be available to greet students and direct them to their classes.

### **DAY CARE ASSISTANCE**

For parents who need assistance with day care arrangements, please inquire in the school office for the number of the Child Care Connection, or call Bar-T (301-948-3172). Bar-T is the day care program which is housed at Cashell.

### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

**RULE #1: NO CARS IN THE BUS LOOP – EVER!!**

**RULE #2: THE PARKING LOT IS NOT DESIGNED TO BE A DROP OFF OR PICK UP LOCATION. PLEASE DO NOT PARK AND THEN WALK YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL OR WAIT FOR YOUR CHILD TO COME OUT TO THE PARKING LOT AT DISMISSAL. We do not have enough parking to accommodate everyone.**

**RULE #3: PLEASE RESPECT THE PATROLS AND STAFF AND FOLLOW THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. THEY STAND OUTSIDE IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE!**

*Please help us stay GREEN and do not leave your engine running when waiting in the car pool line. As cars in front of you leave, move your car forward so that other parents can pull along the curb.*

### **DROP OFF PROCEDURES – the QUICK AND EASY KISS 'n RIDE!**

- Enter via the driveway closest to Cherry Valley Drive.
- Pull up to the All-Purpose Room doors, which are just past the Main Entrance.
- **DO NOT PULL** into the parking lot to park and walk your child in.
- **DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR!** Have backpacks in the front or back seat, not the trunk.
- Let the patrols open the door for your child/ren and direct them to the Multipurpose Room.
- Drive off via the far driveway and have a wonderful day!

### **AFTERNOON PICK UP PROCEDURES – PLEASE follow the directions carefully. This process works well if everyone is patient and polite!**

- Enter via the driveway closest to Cherry Valley Drive.
- Pull up to the All-Purpose Room doors, which are just past the Main Entrance.
- If the driveway is full, **DO NOT STOP ON CASHELL ROAD AND WAIT TO TURN IN.** Instead, drive past the school, turn around and return. If you come to the parking lot closer to 3:10, you are less likely to encounter a backup.
- **DO NOT PULL** into the parking lot to park and meet your child.
- **DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR!**
- Wait for staff to call for your child/children. Patrols will help them enter the car.
- Exit carefully.

**If you do not wish to wait in the car pool line, you need to have your child walk across the street to Cherry Valley or over to Sandy Knoll and meet him/her there. Please cross at the corner with the Crossing Guard!**

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

Children may bring their lunch or purchase a hot meal at school. Prices remain the same this year. **Lunch will be \$2.50 (Reduced: \$.40).** Please make sure to deposit money in your child's SNAP account right away. Also, you can now manage your child's SNAP account ONLINE. WE ARE VERY LIMITED IN OUR ABILITY TO LEND MONEY FOR LUNCH, BUT WE WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE A CHEESE SANDWICH AND INVITE STUDENTS TO TAKE FRUIT OR DRINKS FROM THE SHARE TABLE. *This will never be an issue if you keep money in your child's SNAP account.* Remember that we also offer breakfast. For \$1.30 each morning, you can relieve some of the stress of getting ready for school. **For students on Free OR Reduced Lunch, breakfast will be free.**

## **BUS INFORMATION**

Bus information from the Transportation Office is also enclosed with this newsletter. Please read carefully both letters from the Division of Transportation and the routes for Cashell Elementary as there may be small changes in times and location of stops. Route numbers, not bus numbers, are used to identify buses and are displayed in the second window on both sides of all buses.

I encourage you to have your children ride the bus every day, as this empowers them to start the day independently. Parents are responsible for student safety at bus stops, although safety patrols assist. Please review appropriate behavior and safety rules with your child. Students who wish to ride a bus home with a classmate after school must bring a note to the office first thing in the morning. **Bus drivers are not allowed to transport additional riders without parent/school permission. If the bus is overcrowded, students will not be allowed to ride home with a friend.** For problems concerning bus routes and bus stop locations, call Transportation at 301-670-8274.

Please be aware that road construction, poor weather conditions, and accidents are real traffic stoppers in our area, so buses may be legitimately delayed when picking up students in the mornings. School buses experience the same traffic delays as the rest of us -- sometimes even more since bus drivers tend to be even more cautious than the average commuter.

**HEALTH ROOM:** Our health room technician is Mrs. Ana Stives and our nurse is Mrs. Nancy Ruffner. Medication cannot be administered in school without the completion of MCPS Form 525-13, "Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication." This form requires both the written permission of the parent/guardian and a physician's statement. Forms are required for each prescribed medication. The required form is available in the school office, and there is a link to the form on our website.

## **CASHELL PTA**

Under the guidance of President Patrick Dunn and many awesome volunteers, the PTA has planned an exciting year of events, which will include cultural arts programs, adult informational programs, and family-oriented programs. We could not do all that we do for students without their support! Please support them by becoming a member and volunteering for events. To keep informed about the most current school and PTA events, I encourage you to join the PTA ListServe. It is one of the most effective ways to communicate within the Cashell community. To join the ListServe and receive CASHELL-PTA-NEWS, please email Mr. Patrick Dunn at [patrickdunn65@yahoo.com](mailto:patrickdunn65@yahoo.com) and send a message with the subject 'subscribe' and in the message include your 'firstname' 'lastname'.

Additionally, the PTA is preparing the Cashell Student Directory. Please make sure to fill out a Directory Form at Sneak Preview if you haven't done so already. This **invaluable** resource not only has contact information for your children's friends and their families, it also has useful information about the school. **PTA members will receive Student Directories as part of their membership; others may purchase one.**

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