Dear Garrett Park Families,

Please find our school updates contained in the message below. If there is information you would like us to share in upcoming editions, please let us know. You can either call the school at 240-740-0700 or email Dan at Daniel\_K\_Tucci@mcpsmd.org or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

I wanted to send an additional shout out to Bridget Manifold who was an incredible co-chair for the Book Fair last month. She was absolutely amazing! Thanks again…

The end of the first marking period signifies that parent conferences are just around the corner. I wanted to give a few tips for your preparation in talking to your child’s teacher about their progress. We appreciate the time you take to be a part of your child’s education. Ultimate success happens when the school and families work together in the best interest of each child.

Before the Conference:

* Make a note of what your child has told you about school if you think it would help the teacher. What are his/her favorite subjects? Why?
* Make notes of questions or concerns you have that the teacher can answer.
* Write down your expectations for your child in school. (Include such things as the subjects taught, the daily schedule, the books, the homework, or the activities in class)

During the Conference:

* How is my child doing in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science?
* What do you see as my child’s strengths? Needs?
* May I see some samples of my child’s work?
* May I see some of the books my child is using?
* Does my child pay attention?
* Does my child follow classroom rules and policies?
* How does my child get along with other children in the class?
* Have you observed any special interests and/or talents of my child?
* Do you have any special concerns about my child?

Follow-Up:  You might want answers to questions such as;

* How can I best help my child with homework? With school in general? Other?
* If my child has a problem in the future, how will I find out about it?
* Talk to your child about the conference – this is probably the most important follow-up of all.

**Teaching and Learning:**

There are many benefits for students interacting with complex text. It deepens understanding, improves concentration and stamina, exposes students to new vocabulary, language, knowledge and perspectives, and ultimately heightens critical thinking. One of the ways we facilitate student interaction and understanding of complex text is through a strategy called “close reading.” During close readings, students undergo a critical examination of previously read grade level complex text through a variety of approaches. They may annotate the text, repeat readings several times, engage in collaborative conversations and answer text-dependent questions. It is important for our students to engage in close readings as we prepare them for critically thinking through the information that will presented to them as they progress through life. In this way, we help students prepared to be successful in college, career and community.

**Safety and Security:**

Montgomery County Public Schools is currently looking into plans for building a canopy from the exit of the new portable classroom to the entrance of the school nearest the Holy Cross side of the building. This will provide students a weather safe entry to and from the classroom when needed. I will keep you updated as I hear more about the plans from MCPS Division on Construction.

**Important Dates:**

November 7                 PTA Meeting at 6:30pm

November 9                 Early Release; Students Dismissed at 1:20 pm

November 10               Early Release; Students Dismissed at 1:20 pm

November 14               Grade 2 to Strathmore

November 17               Early Release; Students Dismissed at 1:20 pm

                                     Principal’s Coffee 9:30am in the APR

Have a great week!

Dan