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:**

We are such a caring and generous community! There has been such a great response to our original request of donating to families in need during the winter holiday season. More snowmen have been added to the original list. See below for the original message and the link.

As many of you know, it has been a tradition at Garrett Park Elementary School to help children who are in need during the winter holidays.  This year we have the opportunity to bring a smile to children if we all work together. The school counseling team and SGA would like to collect gifts for children in our school whose families are experiencing economic hardship.

This year, we will have the opportunity to select a “snowman” from ***the SignUp Genius link below*** to include a child’s age, gender, size, and wish list.  We encourage you to go shopping with your child(ren) to pick the items for the child you are helping.   We will make arrangements to get the gifts to our friends before Winter Break.  You can also bring in gift certificates from area stores; i.e. Target, Toys R Us, etc.

Some things to remember:

* Do not wrap gifts.
* Return gifts to Ms. Catucci's office ***LABELED with your SNOWMAN number.***
* Gift drop off is between Monday, ***December 11th and Wednesday, December 13th***.
* Students/parents may bring gifts to Ms. Catucci's office anytime, or there is a late option to drop off between ***4-6 pm on 12/11/17***.

[**2017- GPES Winter Holiday Giving SNOWMEN**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.signupgenius.com_go_4090b48acad229-2D2017&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=vzPdOjGvI_zv7_lLyLQlWRhOYx-8ZTUJmh-ppoRkajQ&s=nnURU-WWXBpwtz8PXIWIAk2AKLoalAU_tIhZKTV6DTU&e=)

The winter Flex Academies after school sessions are set to begin in January. Registration opens December 6th. Please see the link below for registration and session information.

REGISTER AT: <https://flexacademiesgarrettpark.jumbula.com>

**Teaching and Learning:**

We are committed to providing a rigorous instructional program that encourage all students to realize their full potential as learners. A continuum of programs and services are provided in Montgomery County Public Schools. Students’ learning may be enriched and accelerated; and, students may participate in advanced-level coursework at their local schools. At Garrett Park, instruction is differentiated to provide all students appropriate pacing and support necessary for advanced-level learning. Please visit the link provided for a snapshot of how our curriculum and other programs supports the needs of all learners.

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/enriched/about/ES-Supporting%20the%20Needs%20of%20All%20Students%20Elementary%20ENGLISH-2017-2018.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_curriculum_enriched_about_ES-2DSupporting-2520the-2520Needs-2520of-2520All-2520Students-2520Elementary-2520ENGLISH-2D2017-2D2018.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=NjlpPtj8p2V2DLoJTM7p1pCxrXVqXzQamDhJ-9M4eI8&s=a49R3jLaQBMmo9bsTo0WtpdzrQrtzwi4KvpE8-jA_Dg&e=)

**Safety and Security:**

The canopy for our portable classroom is currently being built and will be completed this week. It will provide a covered walkway from the portable to the school building. Pictures of the project will be posted on our website.

**Important Dates:**

December 5                  4th/5th Grade Chorus Concert (APR) 7:30 p.m.

December 11                5th Grade In-School Field Trip (Radios) 11:00 am-3:30 pm

December 13                5th Grade In-School Field Trip (Radios) 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

                                    K Field Trip to Adventure Theatre 9:45am-12:00 pm

December 14                2nd Grade In-School Field Trip (Mad Science)

December 15                2nd Grade In-School Field Trip (Mad Science)

**MCPS Updates:**

**Free Microsoft Office 365 for Students**

The Maryland Department of Education and Microsoft have entered into a collaborative partnership that allows all students and all school system staff to get the latest version of the Microsoft Office software suite, Office 365 ProPlus, at no charge. Office 365 ProPlus includes the full suite of Microsoft applications such as Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as the ability to create, save, and share Office files online. Under the program, students and staff are able to download and install the Microsoft Office software on up to five devices free of charge.              The devices may be PCs, Macs, tablets, or phones. For FAQs and download instructions in multiple languages, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_parents_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=NjlpPtj8p2V2DLoJTM7p1pCxrXVqXzQamDhJ-9M4eI8&s=COva0_yFfVgqTirnX2I_OUsognuKfHKRRI0nWgQZdoA&e=).

**Microsoft Office 365 Gratis para los Estudiantes**

El Departamento de Educación del Estado de Maryland y Microsoft iniciaron un convenio colaborativo que permite a todos los estudiantes y a todo el personal del sistema escolar obtener la última versión de la suite de software Microsoft Office, Office 365 ProPlus sin costo alguno. Office 365 ProPlus incluye las aplicaciones completas de la suite de Microsoft, tales como Outlook, Word, Excel y PowerPoint, así como también la capacidad de poder crear, guardar y compartir archivos de Office en línea. Bajo el programa, los estudiantes y el personal pueden descargar e instalar el software de Microsoft Office en hasta un máximo de cinco dispositivos gratuitamente. Los dispositivos pueden ser PCs, Macs, tabletas o teléfonos. Para ver las preguntas frecuente y descargar las instrucciones en múltiples idiomas, visite [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_parents_-23-5Fblank&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=NjlpPtj8p2V2DLoJTM7p1pCxrXVqXzQamDhJ-9M4eI8&s=oFtZ7YkmOLIlVeEj7IL0HqC8Kfm9r6OuOFR3Y0aDA7s&e=)

**MLK Visual Arts Contest Open to MCPS Students**

Students at all grade levels are encouraged to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary Contest and Visual Arts Show. The 2018 theme is “Fulfilling the Dream—A Celebration of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.” Students are asked to interpret what their dreams are for the future. Prints, posters, collages, murals, photographs, and all other two-dimensional visual art forms may be submitted. Group projects are welcome. Send entries to Linda S. Adams, supervisor, Pre-K-12 Fine Arts, Carver Educational Services Center, Room 258, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 15.

**Concurso de Artes Visuales MLK Abierto a Estudiantes de MCPS**

Se alienta a estudiantes de todos los niveles de grado a que participen en el Concurso Literario y Programa de Artes Visuales Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. El tema de 2018 es “Cumpliendo el Sueño—Una Celebración de Ayer, Hoy y Mañana”. Se pide a los estudiantes que interpreten cuáles son sus sueños para el futuro. Se pueden presentar impresos, afiches, collages, murales, fotografías y todas las demás formas de arte visual bidimensional. Se aceptan proyectos en grupo. Envíe su trabajo concursante a: Linda S. Adams, supervisora, Pre-K-12 Fine Arts, Carver Educational Services Center, Room 258, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850. El plazo límite es a las 5:00 p.m., del día viernes, 15 de diciembre.

Have a great week!
Dan