Dear Garrett Park families,

We hope you find this email version user-friendly and beneficial for staying informed and planning for upcoming school events. 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](mailto:Daniel_K_Tucci@mcpsmd.org) or Melanie at [Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Melanie_S_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org)

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

Parent conferences are well underway as we have ended the first marking period of instruction. We appreciate the time you take to be a part of your child’s education. Ultimate success happens when school and families work together in the best interest of each child. Here are a few tips to help you prepare for conferences:

Before the Conference

* Make a note of what your child has told you about school if you think it would help the teacher.
* Make notes of questions or concerns you have that the teacher can answer.

During the Conference

* How is my child doing in reading, writing, 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 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?

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.

Check out the attached picture to see the addition to our front staircase!! Thank you to the Garrett Park Class of 2018 and the PTA for sponsoring the math facts. The kids love walking upstairs now :)

Interested in volunteering in the lunchroom or at recess? Please call the main office at 240-740-0700. We’d be happy to help facilitate completing the online training and outlining lunch and recess expectations. Thank you!

If at any time you plan on entering the school beyond the office, remember to bring your driver’s license with you for a secure check in process.

**Teaching and Learning:**

Montgomery County Public Schools and educational partners will showcase elementary, middle and high school science, technology, engineering and math opportunities with engaging hands-on activities and dynamic demonstrations at a STEM Festival Showcase on Saturday, Nov. 10. The free, family-friendly event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Northwood High School, 919 University Blvd. West, Silver Spring.

**Safety and Security:**

[http://safeschoolsmd.org/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__safeschoolsmd.org_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=P6-ZaJBKVFdDnWErjpXEQXRjHcdjM5UYuvMKa5aUYpI&e=)

The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is an anonymous reporting system used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of students. Students, parents, faculty, staff, and members of communities throughout Maryland may use this anonymous, app- and web-based reporting system to share their concerns, such as:

* Mental health crises
* Bullying
* School and community violence
* Drug activity
* Abuse
* Harassment
* Other issues affecting our Maryland students

The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is a tool for proactively addressing harmful situations and helping students who need it. By using a variety of communication modes to support the reporting and routing of tips, The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line empowers the citizens of Maryland to create a culture of preparedness, prevention, and school safety for our students.

**Important Dates:**

Nov. 12 and 13                    Early Dismissal (Conferences)                                         1:20 pm

Nov. 19                                 Grade 5 Magnet Testing (only those signed up)              9:30 am

Nov. 21                                 Early Dismissal                                                                1:20

Nov. 22 and 23 No School (Thanksgiving Holiday)     All day

**MCPS Updates:**

**Share Your Thoughts on Parent Portal (English and Spanish)**

MCPS is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new Student Information System. A component of the system will include a new parent/student portal. The district wants to hear from parents on their ideas for using an online parent portal, including:

* account creation and management
* access to schedule, grades, attendance and test scores
* access to content posted by the school/teacher
* ability to complete important forms online
* a mobile or mobile app option
* You can access the survey [here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__docs.google.com_forms_d_e_1FAIpQLSfpIgOjomj77hCltBQDYokS4LtCQGLgsyjyPF5OpZzcqQi1uA_viewform&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=dsZKeqOnAyZNq8sIGgMyBApyxwURDpjKYUzSgCv-3OU&e=).

**Comparta Su Opinion sobre Portal para los Padres**

MCPS esta; emitiendo una Solicitud de Propuestas (Request for Proposals; RFP) para un nuevo Sistema de Informacion para los Estudiantes. Uno de los componentes del sistema incluido; un nuevo portal para los padres/estudiantes. El distrito escolar desea conocer las ideas de los padres para el uso de un portal para los padres en linea, incluyendo:

* creacion y administracion de cuentas
* acceso a horarios de clases, calificaciones, registros de asistencia escolar y puntajes de examenes
* acceso al contenido publicado por la escuela/los maestros
* capacidad para llenar formularios importantes en linea
* una opcion movil o una aplicacion movil

Usted puede acceder a la encuesta [aqui;](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__docs.google.com_forms_d_e_1FAIpQLSfpIgOjomj77hCltBQDYokS4LtCQGLgsyjyPF5OpZzcqQi1uA_viewform&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=dsZKeqOnAyZNq8sIGgMyBApyxwURDpjKYUzSgCv-3OU&e=)

**MCPS Foundation Launches Dine with Dignity Campaign (English and Spanish)**

The Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation launched the Dine with Dignity Campaign October 29 to raise awareness and funds in support of preserving student dignity in the lunchroom.

Last year in MCPS, 34,000 traditional school lunches were exchanged for alternative meals and provided to students who did not qualify for the free lunch program and whose lunch account balances were negative $10 or more. The alternative meal identified the students to their peers as not having money to buy lunch, increasing the potential for the students’ embarrassment.

In response, the Foundation created a fund to help the district settle unpaid lunch balances and to allow students with negative account balances to enjoy traditional lunch choices. Families are still asked to pay off, or to contribute within their means, toward the outstanding balance on their student's lunch account; the Dine with Dignity Fund pays the remainder.

To raise awareness about this special childhood hunger issue and awareness about the campaign, The Foundation enlisted help from Starbucks and now through December 2, messages about the Dine with Dignity campaign will be on [**coffeehouse tables**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.mcpsfoundation.org_file_documents_dine-2Dwith-2Ddignity_0442.19-5FDinewithDignityTable-5FTENTCARD.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=of9jt_vxKVCyVeClWBOfit8S1VKXbMKluIUzcttpthU&e=) and [**condiment bars**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.mcpsfoundation.org_file_documents_dine-2Dwith-2Ddignity_0456.19-5FDinewithDignityCondiment-5FTENTCARD.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=qHmq8aV___yNoKooP8Enk5sZ7v5DXm5QnFWfIqIlNvE&e=) in 46 Montgomery County Starbucks’ locations. Learn more and donate today at [www.mcpsfoundation.org/dine206](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.mcpsfoundation.org_dine206&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=M9yRFyfSydFiBsgAJXvS2g2qmI3TPMz88Uzp2dQ5c2I&e=).

**Fundaci&oacute;n de MCPS Inicia Campa&ntilde;a Comer con Dignidad (Dine with Dignity)**

La Fundacion Educativa de las Escuelas Publicas del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation) inicio; su Campana Comer con Dignidad el 29 de octubre, para concientizar y recaudar fondos para resguardar la dignidad de los estudiantes en las salas de almuerzo.

El ano pasado en MCPS, se intercambiaron 34,000 almuerzos escolares tradicionales por comidas alternativas que fueron provistas a estudiantes que no calificaban para el programa de almuerzos gratuitos y que tenian un saldo negativo de $10 o mas en sus cuentas de almuerzo. La comida alternativa identificaba a esos estudiantes ante sus companeros como que no tenian dinero para comprar almuerzo, aumentando las probabilidades de avergonzar a los estudiantes.

Thanks and have a great weekend!

Dan Tucci

**File attachments:**  
[Steps.jpg](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__connectdocs.blackboard.com_xythoswfs_webui_-5Fxy-2D1062611-5F1-2Dt-5F77jkAZET&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c33J0eO9WTS3WPxoW2ayreDoTKGfsFCLmS21kfJi-Ec&s=q3RWZ1F-f-70oHrktB50ik1xtcrjeebF2y961nxFNuk&e=)