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***Gator Gazette***

***September 2013***

### Glenallan Elementary School

**“*Every Gator Rises to Extraordinary Excellence”***



Dear Glenallan Families, *Follow Glenallan on Twitter at Glenallanes[](http://twitter.com/#!/glenallanes)*

What a great first two weeks of school! It is so important to set a tone that is positive, focused on learning, and instills confidence and excitement in your children. Your children are enthusiastic, energetic and motivated to learn and get smarter each day. This is a reflection of your efforts at home and the Glenallan staff is appreciative of our partnership to instill a love of learning. The atmosphere throughout the building is very positive and the hallways and classrooms echo with not only positive feedback from teachers, but also from visitors to our building. It is clear that the foundation has been built by our staff and students working together to carry on the academic and social successes of last year.

This year our focus will be on providing a well-rounded, creative, and exceptional academic experience for every student. We will achieve this through continuing to have one of the most engaged group of students in Montgomery County as demonstrated by the recent Gallup Survey data. This engagement is a result of building positive relationships with each student, learning what their interests are, and understanding how they learn. We will focus on using 21st century technology as a teaching tool to build students global understanding and allow them to take ownership of their learning by researching topics that peak their interest. It is important that we understand that technology is a teaching tool but that it doesn’t take the place of great teaching. Teachers will continue to build students critical thinking skills by having students participate in discussions that require them to solve problems by evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing information. The expectations for this year are clear and high, to have the best instructional program in the county that meets the learning needs of every student.

In addition to the importance of academic achievement, we will be emphasizing character. We believe that, “Who you are is more important than What you know.” There is no doubt a direct correlation that exists between character and academic success. Over two weeks of school, visitors have commented on the level of maturity, respect and ownership the students have for their school. The components of character will be a focus of Mrs. Lyons, our school counselor this year. At Glenallan, we will be people of high character.

From the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:05 p.m., we are dedicated to our school having a family atmosphere. A place where we can depend on one another, encourage each other, and learn from one another. Learning can take place anywhere, in any situation. Everyone you meet knows something you don't know. We need to be willing to learn from each other. The dictionary defines family as a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation. Our common purpose that unites us is that every student succeeds. Since we are now in a new building, I welcome each of you to the Glenallan Family!

I encourage you to continue to stress the importance of hard work, persistence and setting goals so our **Gators** are always moving in the right direction, to the top! Together, let’s make this the year Every Gators Rises to Excellence!

Respectfully,

Peter Moran

Principal



**STEM Academy**

A major component of our instructional program this year will be the addition of our STEM academy. Once a week each student will attend the academy and participate in hands-on activities that focus on problem-solving through critical thinking and working in teams. This approach to learning will build the foundation for skills that are connected to being successful students and workers in the 21st century. This teaching approach will be present in classrooms as well, as we become a

**STEM centric school.**



**Glenallan Vision Statement:** We are a united, multi-cultural community of students, families, and educators committed to: •Cultivating a love of learning •Developing the character of great people• Empowering children with the knowledge and skills to become productive citizens in the 21st century.

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**News from First Grade – *Mrs. Correa, Mrs. Ralph, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Lozzi, Mr. Cord***

The first grade Gators are off to a fantastic start and we are really working hard in all areas of our classrooms!  Thanks so much to all of the families that could make it to Back to School Night; we really appreciate your support and dedication to your children.  Please make sure you check and clean your child’s folder out every night.  We have really been diving into some great books so make sure you are reading and discussing books daily at home.  The students are working so hard to read, write, and spell the new first grade word wall words so please practice the 5 new weekly words with your child.  In math we are counting, writing, and identifying numbers from 1-120 which can also be reinforced at home.  Thank you and we’re looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

**Parents Guardians:**

**Please visit the Public Library. You can borrow books for free and sign up for a free hour of internet use!**

**Wheaton Library**

**240-777-0678**

**11701 Georgia Avenue**

**Wheaton, MD 20902**



**News from Second Grade – *Mrs. Navas, Mrs. Treichler, Mrs. Grotewold, Ms. Muhammad, Ms. Shider***

Welcome to second grade!  The students have been busy already learning the routines and expectations for second grade at Glenallan.  They have been building relationships with their classmates and teachers.  Second graders are already examining properties of rocks, writing personal narrative pieces and identifying rules and laws in society.  We haven’t wasted any time getting to the good stuff!  Please support your child by listening to them read every day and reading to your child every day.  Math homework is assigned nightly and homework journals must return to school each day.  Thank you for your help in making this a great start of the year!



**News from Third Grade – *Ms. Davies, Ms. Edhegard, Mrs. Ghee, Ms. Nansimbi***

Welcome to 3rd Grade! We are really excited to be teaching your children! This month, our focus is on the following:

**Math**

\*Rounding to the nearest ten and hundred \*Adding within 1000

**Reading**

\*Making Inferences \*Asking and answering questions before, during, and after reading

\*Our genre for this month is Realistic Fiction

**Social Studies/Science**

\*Collaboration \*Dealing with Stress

**Writing**

\*Students are writing narratives about a time they showed compassion, concern, or respect towards the Common Good.

**General**

We are encouraging students to participate in whole and small group discussions each day.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns! Thank you for all of your support!



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### Glenallan Elementary School

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**News from Fourth Grade – *Mrs. Mayer, Ms. DeFrehn, Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Walsh***

**Reading** — This quarter we are studying Historical Fiction. Students have begun their task of completing 25 book recommendations. They must read a “just right” book and write a summary for each one. There are forms in the classrooms for children to fill out and on the back of the reading log. Please monitor your child’s reading at home. They should be reading for at least 25 minutes each night and recording what they read on their reading log.

**Math** — Children should master their addition and subtraction facts by the end of the first quarter by practicing at home. This is important because students will need to know multiplication and division facts by mid-year.

**Writing** — Students will write a historical fiction story.

**Science** — We are learning about living and nonliving things, categorization in nature, and ecosystems. We will be creating classroom ecosystems complete with plants and critters!



**News from Grade 5 – *Ms. Gottshall, Ms. Jameson, Mrs. Billings***

The 5th graders have settled into our new home. They are super excited about the technology in our classrooms, and of course they love having their own locker. The lockers do not have locks, so students are not to put anything of value in their locker. If a student needs to bring a cell phone to school, please see Mr. Moran. In reading, we are studying the plot in an adventure novel Fearless by Elvira Woodruff. We are analyzing the author’s writing style to incorporate her techniques in their own adventure story. In math, we are applying understanding about place value and properties of operations to help use the standard algorithm to multiply multi-digit numbers. The students are excited about the Inquiry Project they will be working on in Science. The students will test, refine and determine solutions by applying new knowledge and skills about force, motion, and an efficient source of energy to the design of an amusement park ride. Students will design and create a multimedia product that will include audio and visual components. Our first field trip will be to Georgetown University on October. Please let your child’s teacher know if you are interested in being a chaperone.



**Reading Strategies and Tips from the Reading Team**

***Mrs. Monti- Reading Specialist/Ms. Ziadi – Academic Intervention Teacher***

Welcome back to an exciting school year and a beautiful new building! We are so proud of the many participants of the summer **Read to Succeed** challenge. Our gators read a grand total of 240,056 minutes! Go Gators! **Glenallan also logged the highest number of minutes read in the state of Maryland!** Please applaud your children for their persistence and motivation to read this summer. Please continue to encourage your children to read daily because this will promote lifelong readers.

Congratulations to the following students for logging the most amount of minutes in their grade level:

**Hailey Y., Alex V., Hayden S., Tristan C., Kayla G., Lia V., Candia M., Ramiya M., Rut B., Eleazar J., Stephanaya S., Sam S., Niklas C., Zaire E., Arthur N., Ryan R., Daniel N., Stefani R., Christian R., Aileen B., Steven H., Kailey S., Matthew B., Philip D., Jackson N., Elizabeth L., Rhashad D. Ezra G., Dyson H., Emily M., Reena S., Letu R., Asini G., Sophie P., Brad V., Andrea V., Olivia R., Valeria M., Tafawa P., Ashley N., Sonia V., Amy S., Isaac T., Maggie W., Crystal Y., Ana S., Tiffany B., Fatima M., Beatriz P., Melaak T., Agiira N., Fabiola L.**



**Physical Education Program Updates –** *Mr. Kogok*

Physical Education classes are off and running in the beautiful new Glenallan Gymnasium!   Our older students are focused on cardio fitness while our younger students are learning their locomotor skills and individual special awareness.  We have an exciting event coming up in October that all Glenallan families are invited to.  We will be having a Glenallan Fun Run , Jump Rope for Heart  and Hoops For Heart …all on the same day.   Please mark Saturday October 19th on your calendar as a day to celebrate healthy lifestyles, raise money for the American Heart Association  and enjoy our new building/gymnasium.  More details will be coming soon…..



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**MUSIC – *Mr. Tilkens* ** 

The music room is bright and beautiful with a great view of the playground. I am thrilled to get such a wonderful room. The room was custom designed for music with special acoustic panels to promote good listening skills. My goal for this year is to create open minded- musicians that are capable of singing, playing and appreciating many types of music. Auditions for the school chorus will be held on September 10th from 10:50- 11:40. Fourth and Fifth grade students that are interested will be asked to practice a short piece of music for the audition. The chorus handbook/contract which has all that information will be coming home soon.



**ESOL – *Mrs. Chavis, Mrs. Alvarado, Mrs. Wagner, and Ms. Frye***

The ESOL department is preparing to assess our new and Kindergarten students for ESOL services. Potential ESOL students are students:

* who communicate in a language other than English; or
* whose families use a primary language other than English in the home; or
* who use a language other than English in daily non-school surroundings.

Not all potential (ESOL) students are automatically eligible for ESOL services. A student’s eligibility for ESOL services is determined by the results of a state-mandated English language proficiency test. The test we use in Montgomery County (and the state of Maryland) is World Class Instructional Design and Assessment ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT). If a student is identified as eligible for ESOL services, we will send home a state mandated letter of information. Feel free to call the school with any questions you may have about the ESOL identification process. Any one of our ESOL staff will be able to help you. We are looking forward to an exciting year full of learning and fun in ESOL.



**ART – *Mrs. Vanegas***

Wow!!! Have you seen the art room? I love working in my new space every day. We have a full wall of windows and a view that inspires. We have so much natural light coming in that we hardly have to use the lights. I can tell the students are enjoying the space and we are revving up our creative juices.  Glenallan has grown so much that we have added another art teacher, I am pleased to introduce to you, Mrs. Ann Boyer. She will be coming to us every Monday afternoon. Mrs. Vanegas and Mrs. Boyer are looking forward to a creative year exploring and discovering new things in art!



**Media Center – *Mrs. Bean***

The Media Center is an awesome space for reading, creating, researching, and learning.  Students have been excited to enter our large bright space and select books to borrow.  Please encourage your children to read and return their books so that they can get another one each week.



**Counselor’s Corner**

Welcome back to the 2013/2014 school year. We are all so happy to be in our new school building. I am excited to be the School Counselor at Glenallan Elementary. As the School Counselor, I facilitate student’s personal, social, academic and career development. While supporting and complementing the efforts of the classroom teacher to facilitate you child’s success. Glenallan Counseling program is designed to help students as they develop good lifelong learning, decision making, social skills as well as good character traits. As the School Counselor, I meet with students through a school wide classroom Guidance program. When needed, I can also meet with students for short-term individual and group counseling sessions.

I look forward to working with your child this year to endure a successful school experience.



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September 18 Parent Involvement Meeting

September 19 Coffee and Conversation with

Mr. Moran/Mr. Scott

September 20 Parent Volunteer Orientation

September 27 Pancackes with the Principals: Character

September 27 Early Dismissal 12:35

September 30 1st Grade Field Trip to Homestead Farms



**Character Counts** 

Glenallan is Character Counts school. We will focus on character education in addition to education/academics. The development of character is a significant indicator of success in school and life. We will focus on one character trait per month and recognize a student from each class who has demonstrated this trait consistently at school. These recognitions will take place during awards assemblies and having “pancakes with the principals” during that month.

The character trait for the month of September is **Respect.** Staff will be looking for students demonstrating respect at school, in the community, and focusing on it through instruction.

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**George B. Thomas Saturday School**

***Important Dates for the Gators in September***

This coming Saturday, September 14 is early registration for the George B. Thomas Saturday School from 8:30-11:00 a.m. The following is required to register:

\* **A registration fee of $30 for FARMS / $50 for non-FARMS.** A payment plan is available and can be completed at registration. Cash, checks, or money orders (made payable to GBTLA or The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy) are accepted.

**Pay for your child’s lunch on line**

myLunchMoney.com is a service which allows parents to make prepayments to their child’s cafeteria account with a credit/debit card using the Internet. Once the account is established, you can check balances, view student purchases, set up recurring payments, and receive low balance e-mail notification. Prepayments will generally be available at the school the next day. Go to [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.mylunchmoney.com/)

**PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO:**

1. **Sign up for the PTA** - $10 per family – application is on the web or email Glenallapta@gmail.com
2. **Volunteer** around school, at lunch, in the media center, for an event, in the classroom

**Curriculum 2.0: Building a Stronger Foundation**

MCPS is continuing to introduce its improved curriculum for the elementary grades—Curriculum 2.0. It is designed to provide a strong foundation in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics, while placing a renewed emphasis on other areas, such as social studies, the arts and physical education. Curriculum 2.0 also helps students develop the creative and critical thinking skills that are important for success in the 21st century. This year, Curriculum 2.0 will be implemented in grades K–5 in all schools. More information is available on the website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/).

**Receive MCPS Emergency Information**

MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency) for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools and stay informed in times of emergencies.