



# Penguin Press

The Newsletter of the W.T. Page PTA

February 2018

## Wonderful Winter Issue

### Language Immersion & World Language Program Update

As you may know, in Fall 2018, WT Page Elementary School will begin a Spanish Immersion program for grade k-3 and a World Language (Spanish) program for all grades. Program details are continuing to be determined through Montgomery County Public Schools, but the process is moving forward. Ms. Brown is very involved and will share information as it determined and the Page PTA is seeking formal input into the process as well. Robyn Ivy, the PTA’s Advocacy Chair, [presented testimony](#) to the Montgomery County Board of Education urging the Board to provide:

**Meaningful Inclusion of Page parents in the Planning** including working with a team of representatives from the WT Page PTA, in addition to school administrators, to ascertain our input and perspective on the best implementation of both the immersion and world language program at Page

**Investment in developing a World Class World Language Program for Page ES** including qualified teachers, resources and planning time to match national standards for the world language program

**Increased accessibility for current Page students in the immersion program** including reserving more seats in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade lottery for Page families and reserving more seats for Page students that would test in for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Resources, Staffing & Facilities** including developing a facilities plan that will include a permanent building addition and/or semi-permanent self-contained modular classrooms to properly accommodate the influx of new students.

There are three upcoming information sessions at WT Page ES about the Language Immersion program:

- ⇒ **Friday February 23rd from 9:30a-11:30a— All Purpose Room**
- ⇒ **Tuesday March 20th from 6:30p-7:30p—All Purpose Room**
- ⇒ **Monday April 16th from 9:30a-11:30a— All Purpose Room**



*Robyn Ivy testifying at Board of Education Budget Hearing 1/16/18*

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## The Fishing Hole: Summer Camps Special

The Fishing Hole is a community information exchange where Page parents, teachers and students can share information, resources, that will help enrich the WT Page ES community.

Submit items to [ptapenguins@gmail.com](mailto:ptapenguins@gmail.com)

### Tips to Jumpstart Your Summer Planning

Although it's cold outside, it's time to think about childcare and activities for spring break and summer months. Registration for summer camps has already begun and we want to help parents have a less stressful experience planning for summer break. Use these tips to tackle this task early before camps fill up and take a look at some of the camp information we collected.

- ◆ Plan, Plan and Plan- map out camp weeks and weeks your children will be with you
- ◆ Look for early bird deals
- ◆ Identify family support and discuss possible trips such as to a grandparent's place
- ◆ Know that some camps will accept reservations and pay as you rather than all up front
- ◆ Explore various camps and enrichment programs
- ◆ Talk to your children about their goals for the summer and think about your goals for the summer (e.g., fun, academic enrichment, new experiences, etc.)
- ◆ Check with your local library or teachers about reading lists and programs for the summer.
- ◆ Check calendars for fun free activities. Staying busy helps limit screen time
- ◆ Think experiences, not just destination- Choose a few activities you will all enjoy and make some memories!

In Montgomery county, there are many parks and nature centers, pools and ponds, tennis/basketball/volleyball courts and events free of charge. As you start planning your summer fun days, please remember, at the end of the day it is about the quality time you spend with your family. Children may not remember everything you do for them, but they will always remember the beautiful memories you make during their childhood. Overall, whether you plan ahead or plan as go- enjoy your summer and family.

### Summer and Spring Break Camps

Registration is open for [Montgomery County Camps!](#)

Register online at [www.ActiveMontgomery.org](http://www.ActiveMontgomery.org)

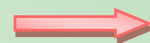
or in person at any MC Recreation Center location.

**Registration is open for Prince Georges Country Camps!**

Montgomery County residents also have preference for registering for activities sponsored by Prince Georges County Parks and Recreation.

For more information [Click Here](#)

See the next page for other helpful links for Summer Activities





Below are a list are various summer camp resources including area guides, those for special needs, and free and discounted summer activities.

### **Montgomery County Camps and Camp Jobs Fair**

East County Community Recreation Center  
3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring  
February 17th, 11am-3pm

### **Summer Camps by Page Child Care Providers\* or at WT Page**

\*Summer camps by these providers may or may not be held at the Page school location. Registration information and forms are available at respective locations in Page and online.

[Kidsco Summer Camps](#) ,301-740-9600 (*not located at Page*)

[Maryland Child Services](#), 301-384-0664 (*call about 2018 camp offerings*)

[Kids After Hours](#), (*located at Page*)

### **Free and Discounted Summer Activities**

Special Events & Festivals [www.montgomeryparks.org](http://www.montgomeryparks.org)

Department of Parks fee reduction program and half-off admission coupons for summer programs- apply for @ <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2016/08/Fee-Reduction-Application-2017-1.pdf>

Most Montgomery County library events (reading to dogs, STEM activities, etc) are free. Search by date, type of event, location or age group. MCPL will continue to add events to this calendar, so folks should check it out regularly. <http://host.evanced.info/montgomerycountymd/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

Entrance to most Smithsonian museums, galleries, and the zoo is free (parking is not free)  
<https://www.si.edu/museums>

### **Special Needs Summer Camps and Services**

ADA Modifications & Inclusion Services: [301-495-2477](tel:301-495-2477) | [ProgramAccess@MontgomeryParks.org](mailto:ProgramAccess@MontgomeryParks.org) | TTY [301-439-0579](tel:301-439-0579)

[Very Special Camps—Maryland](#)    [Very Special Camps—DC](#)

### **Other Summer Camp Guides**

[Montgomery College Summer Youth Programs](#)

[Beltway Bambinos Ultimate Camp Guide 2018](#)

[Washington Parent Summer Camp Guide 2018](#)

## You Should Know



### Important Dates & Deadlines

- **In Early February**, all 3rd grade students should receive a letter from MCPS notifying them if their child has been selected to take a test for the [Center for Enriched Studies \(click here\)](#) program at Charles Drew Elementary School. Parents will have the option to accept, decline or request that their child be tested (if they were not initially selected). *Third grade students whose parents opted in or requested that they be tested will take the test at WT Page ES on February 28th.* Information will be sent by MCPS prior to this date.
- **February 22nd**, is the deadline for Kindergarten Parents to apply to the [Takoma Park Magnet Program](#). The Takoma Park Elementary School Primary Magnet is for 1st and 2nd graders and focuses on science and social studies. While instruction is based on the MCPS curriculum, students in this program will have opportunities to enrich and extend their learning beyond the grade-level goals. Interested parents must complete the [application form \(click here\)](#) and submit by February 22 and their child must be tested. This is a highly competitive program with very few seats available for out-of-boundary students each year. However, we encourage parents to apply if they are interested in this opportunity for their children.
- **February 23rd**, is the deadline for 5th grade students to apply to the [Middle School Magnet Consortium Lottery \(click here\)](#). TO APPLY, students who live OUTSIDE the MSMC area AND who did NOT participate in Round 1 in the fall, can log in to their MCPS Google account and then to [bit.ly/choiceMSMC](http://bit.ly/choiceMSMC) (case sensitive) and **with their parents**, complete and submit their Choices for Round 2. There is a link from the [bit.ly/choiceMSMC](http://bit.ly/choiceMSMC) link to a Spanish Choice form in Adobe format for those OUT-of-Consortium students who need the [form in Spanish](#). They will need to mail or fax the Spanish form into our office (address on form) by **February 23**.

***On Tuesday February 13th at 6:30p, WT Page PTA will host a meeting to hear from parents and students who have attended these choice programs to help interested parents understand if these programs are right for their children and family.***

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### **Special Education IEP Workshop for Parents**

On Wednesday February 28, 2018 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. MCPS Special Education will hold Individualized Education Program (IEP) Workshops. Attend this workshop to learn more to 1) Understand the IEP Goals and Track Your Child's Success; 2) Learn how IEP goals relate to the curriculum; 3) Understand how your child's progress is determined. Bring your questions. FREE Interpretation and limited childcare is available..

The Workshops will be held at various MCPS locations including  
[Briggs Chaney Middle School](#)  
 1901 Rainbow Drive  
 Silver Spring, MD 20905

For more information or to register: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/workshops.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/workshops.aspx) Or CALL 240-314-4860

## W.T. Page Winter/Spring 2018 Calendar

### February

- 5th-9th National Counselor Appreciation Week- Appreciate Our Counselors through your classroom &/or family
- 8th Report Cards
- 13th **PTA General Meeting—Listen UP! Educational Choices for Our Kids (6:30-8p—Media Center)**
- 14th Valentine's Day Class Parties
- 16th **Valentine's Day Dance (6:30-8:30p ; All Purpose Room)**
- 17th Montgomery County Summer Camp & Jobs Fair, 11am-3pm
- 22nd Takoma Park Magnet Program Application Deadline
- 28th Center for Enriched Studies Testing Day (*3rd graders only*)
- 23rd Immersion Language Program Open House Application Information 9:30-11:30am - All Purpose Room
- 27th WT Page Black History Month Program, 9:30a—APR
- 28th Montgomery County IEP Workshop for Parents; 7-8:30pm

### MARCH

- 2nd Read-A-Thon Kick-Off
- 5th Page Reading Night—6:30p-8:30p
- 13th **Page PTA Spelling Bee—6:30-8:30p (All Purpose Room)**
- 20th Immersion Language Program Open House Application Information 6:30-7:30p - All Purpose Room
- 22nd Muffins with Moms (8a-9a)
- 26th **SPRING BREAK (March 26th to April 2nd)**

### APRIL

- 3rd Back to School
- 6th Read-A-Thon Ends
- 10th **PTA General Meeting—Topic (TBD)**
- 11th Spring After School Clubs Begin
- 16th Immersion Language Program Open House Application Information 9:30-11:30am - All Purpose Room
- 18-19th **Page PTA Career Day:**  
**Community Careers (18th); STEAM Careers (19th)**
- 20th **Page PTA Sip & Paint**
- 26th Take Your Child to Work Day
- 20th Kindergarten Orientation





Every February, communities all across the country celebrate Black History Month, but how many people know the history of Black History month. This is from the History Channel:

*Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.*

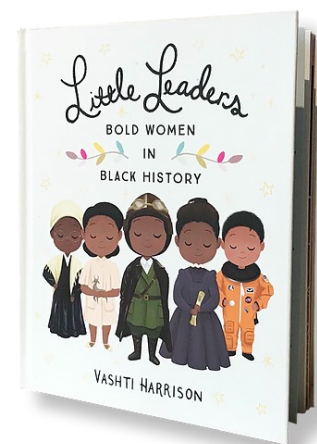
The [History Channel’s website has a short video](#) discussing more of the details of the history of Black History month that explains the origin and significance of this annual celebration.

Also, a great local resource on Black history and culture is the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC. This museum was decades in the making and captures the full breadth and depth of Black history and culture in America through engaging exhibits and artifacts. The museum is a national treasure to tell the story of the development of the country through the vantage of African Americans. As is said, “Black history is American history”. [Click here for a list of events](#) and initiatives at the NMAAHC for Black History Month. Another local treasure, is the National Museum of African Art, located on the national mall in DC. This somewhat hidden treasure (because the museum is located underground) has amazing artifacts and exhibits spanning the artistry and creativity of the African diaspora. For instance, in anticipation of the release of the Black Panther movie, the museum is hosting an evening discussion Rose Carter, the costume designer for the Black Panther movie. [Click here for more information.](#)

## **Black History Month Book List & Games**

For those parents looking for good books for their children to read to learn about Black history or the Black experience, here is a [great list from The Culture](#) with book descriptions and suggested reading age. One of my recent favorites is *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison. The book features 40 Black women who changed and made history. [For more info click here.](#)

Finally, here is a list of [Black History crossword puzzles and word searches](#) that can be a fun way to learn about Black history.





# Advocacy Corner

## MCPS 2019 Budget

While many parents are correctly focused on what happens in our children's classroom or school, there are district, county, state and federal processes and policies that have a big impact on what happens in the classroom. One major process is the budget process, which is a reflection of the priorities of policymakers at different levels of government. For instance, one of the Superintendent's priorities is offering more language immersion programs in the County, which is directly impacting WT Page ES with the introduction of our Language Immersion program next year.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jack Smith submitted his proposed [MCPS FY 2019 budget](#) officially kicking off a 6 month process of budget hearings and working with the Montgomery County Board of Education, Montgomery County Executive, the Montgomery County Council and the Maryland State Board of Education to determine the final MCPS budget for 2018/2019 academic year. [Click here for an informative website](#) created by MCPS in 2017 to describe the budget process and other related information.

This year's proposed budget of \$2.59 billion was submitted within the context of an anticipated [\\$120 million deficit for Montgomery County](#) overall. In response to this, the Superintendent has looked for costs savings in central administration of MCPS following his mantra that teaching happens in the classrooms, not in the central office. However, some fear that some of these central administration cuts will have a negative impact on students in the classroom. For instance, The Montgomery County Gifted Child Committee (MCGCC) and the Gifted and Talented Association of Montgomery County (GTA) is asking parents and teachers [to advocate against cuts](#) to the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI), including eliminating the position of AEI Director, that they argue will result in major reductions in both program capacity and MCPS leadership in meeting the needs of advanced learners. Similarly, some teachers, staff and students are concerned that [proposed reduction in funding for the arts](#), including cutting the one full time arts content curriculum coordinator to a part-time position.

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the Montgomery County Council [approved \\$53 million in cuts](#) in the current 2018 budget, including \$25 million from MCPS's 2018 budget. The budget process for determining the 2019 MCPS is continuing with the following key dates:

- ◆ February 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Education adopts budget
- ◆ March 15, County Executive submits proposed Montgomery County operating budget to MC Council
- ◆ Early April - Council hearings on the County budget
- ◆ June 1, – Council must take final action on the FY 2019 budget.

We encourage the WT Page community to keep informed and engaged with the budget process. Please contact us at [ptapenguins@gmail.com](mailto:ptapenguins@gmail.com) if you are interested in educational advocacy opportunities.



# New Member Shout-Out!!!

Please help us welcome our newest PTA members—

**Nadine Savage, Marie Michelle Byrd,  
Amy Petrucelli, Jane Ndungu,  
Tracey Kleckner, Jennifer Ontiveros,  
Jackie Harris-Dorsey.**

WT Page PTA members are an integral part of our support system for our teachers, students and each other. And each member is a unique addition to our collective voice to lift up our school and advocate for our students. We are super excited that all our new members are WT Page Teachers and Staff!

It's never too late to join the PTA. Teacher/staff membership is \$10, Individual membership is \$15, family membership is \$25. [Click here for membership form](#), fill it out and turn it into the front office.

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ሰላላሰብ፡ \$15

## Volunteer a Little Time for the Page PTA

The Page PTA makes many fun and academic activities and resources possible for our Page Elementary School community. Activities, equipment and services provided by Page PTA are run entirely by Volunteers. *We ask every parent to volunteer at least a couple hours of your time to keep these programs available.* Right now we're looking for volunteers for upcoming events and/or small tasks on the Advocacy, Communications and Fundraising Committees. *Ask a school parent friend and grandparents if they can help too!* You can help out with fundraising by contacting local businesses to donate, selling Page spirit wear or selling tickets to the quarter auction event. You can help with communications by contributing to the newsletter or distributing flyers. You can help with the advocacy committee by attending a county meeting.

**To volunteer email appropriate board member below or fill out the Volunteer Sign Up form (attached) and leave it in the main office.**

### Board Member Contacts for Volunteering

Saron Fray, Volunteer Coordinator- [saronfry@yahoo.com](mailto:saronfry@yahoo.com)

Solome Abebe, Treasurer, Fundraising Committee Chair [sol\\_adbebe@hotmail.com](mailto:sol_adbebe@hotmail.com)

Clara Arthur, Secretary and Communications Committee Chair [clarasarthur@gmail.com](mailto:clarasarthur@gmail.com)

Christine Marr, Co-Secy, Communications Committee [christinemarr99@gmail.com](mailto:christinemarr99@gmail.com)

Robyn Ivy, Advocacy Chair and NAACP Parent Council Rep- [rivy@hotmail.com](mailto:rivy@hotmail.com)





# Teacher Spotlight!



**Ms. Amy Petrucelli** (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) has been participating in MCPS's Educational Leadership Certificate Program – a partnership with Hood College that allows experienced certified MCPS teachers to earn a certificate in supervision and administration. This is a career track that allows teachers to apply to be a staff development teacher, assistant principal or other leadership roles within MCPS. We are so thrilled to announce that after almost 3 years of study that *Ms. Petrucelli recently passed the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) exam* as part of the program. By passing this exam she is well on her way to graduating in May 2018 from Hood College with her Certificate in Educational Leadership. After she graduates, Ms. Petrucelli is looking forward to staying in the classroom and becoming a stronger team leader. Please join us in congratulating Ms. Petrucelli on successfully completing this important milestone.



Congratulations to **Ms. Huntress-Reeves** who got engaged in January!!!

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## Double PTA Donations *without spending an extra dime*

Did you know that many companies offer an employee matching program where they match donations made by employees to nonprofits including the Page PTA? Ask your HR contact or check your benefits to see about a corporate matching program at your company. Ask your partner, grandparents and family members to check with their companies too. Or send in the names of the company(ies) and PTA volunteers will anonymously search corporate matching programs to see if your company has one. Doubling donations can easily raise PTA revenues to cover expenses for school equipment, academic resources and fun activities to enrich our children's experience at Page.



Please click on the following lists to see if your company offers a matching gifts program. —

### [List One](#) and [List Two](#)

These aren't complete lists, but if you or loved ones work at any of these companies, they have corporate matching programs. If your company isn't listed here then ask the benefits contact at your company or send in the name to [sol\\_abebe@gmail.com](mailto:sol_abebe@gmail.com) and we will check for you.

# Upcoming Events



## Valentine's Day Dance

featuring music by



Friday February 16th

6:30-8:00p

Admission

\$8 per family (PTA members); \$10 per family (non-PTA members)



## Page PTA's 1st Annual Spelling Bee

March 13th, 6:30-8:30p



**Who:** 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grade Page students, top 30 spellers if more than 30 registrants

**When:** Register until Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**How:** Give completed sign up sheet (attached) to Ms. Jones or email to [ptapenguins@gmail.com](mailto:ptapenguins@gmail.com)

Word list distributed in February & there is a mandatory practice session

on Monday March 5th for students who will compete.

**Prizes!** Prizes for top finishers in each grade and for overall winner.