

First Grade Newsletter

Ms., Fagel, Mrs. Gupta, Ms. Hirsch, and Mrs. Wilk

September 3, 2009



Important Dates

9/1: Volunteer Training,
6:30 pm: PTA Meeting,
7pm

9/2: Volunteer Tour, 9:30
am

9/7: No School

9/8: Leadership Meeting
3:45 pm: SIP 3:45 pm

9/11: Back to School
Picnic, 6:00-8:00pm

9/16: Back to School
Night 6:30- 8:30 pm

9/17: Character
Education Assembly, 2:30
pm

9/23: Principal's Tea, 9:30
am

9/28: No School

Important Information

If you need to contact any of the first grade teachers, you may do one of the following:

-Call the school at 301-320-6555 and leave a message

-Email us at the following addresses:

Ms. Hirsch:
Amy_R_Hirsch@mcpsmd.org

Mrs. Gupta:
Deviani_Gupta@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Fagel:
Ashley_Fagel@mcpsmd.org

Mrs. Wilk:
Claire_F_Wilk@mcpsmd.org

Welcome Back to School!

Welcome Back to School! We cannot believe that it is already time for school to start, and we are looking forward to an exciting year in the First Grade. We have many educational and challenging lessons and activities planned for the students, as well as some wonderful field trips.

We will begin the school year by working on some community building activities so that teachers and students can get to know each other. We will review school-wide rules, expectations, and procedures with the students. We will share these rules along with other important information during our Back-to-School Night presentation on Tuesday, September 15th.

During the first few weeks of school, the students will engage in several pre-assessments that will help

us determine their current levels in writing and reading. We will then plan differentiated instruction for individual students.

In reading, students will develop effective reading strategies before, during, and after reading text. In writing, students will use the stages of the writing process to write for personal expression. In math, students will develop counting strategies and problem-solving strategies, and students will identify patterns in numeric and geometric forms. In science, students will begin to investigate rock, sand, and soil. In social studies, students will learn about laws and why we need them.

We are all looking forward to working with you and your student this year!

Meet the First Grade Team!

Ms. Hirsch: I am the new afternoon first grade teacher. I have a graduate degree in teaching from California and last year I was a long term substitute at Garrett Park ES. I am so excited to be a part of the Bannockburn team and get to know the students and families here!

Ms. Fagel: I am a graduate from the University of Maryland and have a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. I am currently working towards Administrative Certification and have been teaching in the county for 5 years. I love to run, spend time with my family, and am thrilled to be the first grade team leader.

Mrs. Gupta: This is my second year teaching B.E.S., although I am not new to the teaching profession. I have more than 15 years of international teaching experience. I enjoy teaching the B.E.S. learning community, and am looking forward to working with you and your children.

Mrs. Wilk: I am excited about teaching my first grade Reading/Initiative students this year! I have taught different grades and subjects in Montgomery County and elsewhere. I am looking forward to working with you and your children.