

## THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2009

Dear Parents,

We are already into October and the fall weather is upon us! We have three weeks remaining to the end of the first marking period. Last week, grade level teachers sent home progress reports for students that, as of now, have earned a C/N or below in an academic area. Teachers sent out progress reports if there have been behavioral or work study habit concerns. If there are currently no concerns regarding your child's progress, you will not receive a progress report. If you have any questions about this, please contact your child's teacher.

We had a busy first month of school with a variety of school events. We kicked off the beginning of the school year with a great Back-To-School Picnic. Thank you to all parents who helped make this event so special. We would like to thank all of our returning and new parents who were able to attend Back-To-School Night. We hope you received specific information regarding your child's instructional program. Please make sure that you have signed up for a parent-teacher conference which is scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity to hear more specifically how your child is progressing in his/her academic and social areas. Early in September we had our Parent Volunteer Training. This is a required training before any parent can volunteer in the classroom or during lunch/recess. If you were unable to attend the training, please contact Mr. Warner in the Media center to check out the Parent Volunteer video, which you need to watch and then fill out the parent volunteer form. If you have attended this training in previous years, you do not have to do it again. Also during the month of September, we provided close to 200 students with the FluMist vaccination. We would like to thank all parent volunteers who assisted in making this clinic run so smoothly.

Highlights for the month of October include **Parent Visitation Day, which was held on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**. Parents were able to visit their child's classroom and they were encouraged to participate in activities ranging from cooperative group activities in the classroom, playing musical instruments during music, or acting as robots and learning how to juggle during physical education. These are just a few examples of how our students are engaged throughout the school year and we were happy to see so many parents were able to join us. We also have our **Halloween celebration on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**. We begin with a Halloween Parade at 2:00 p.m. Each class will exit out the main entrance, turn right down the sidewalk, take a left in front of the school on Dalroy Lane, and take another left back up to the school via the bus loop. Parents are welcome to attend and line up in the bus loop to cheer for the students and take pictures. Our classroom Halloween parties will begin right after the parade. In regard to *costumes*, we encourage students to dress appropriately as characters from favorite books, sports heroes, super heroes (with no weapons) historical figures, and public safety personnel. Children should wear regular clothes to school and bring their costumes. All costumes should be appropriate for elementary school. The following **will not** be allowed:

- Weapons (real or toy) -Gory or bloody costumes and accessories*
- Costumes that require adult assistance (students should be able to dress themselves)*

An alternative activity will be planned for any students whose parents want them excluded from the Halloween activities. Please put in writing to your child's teacher if you want your child excluded from the Halloween activities.

As we enter the fall season, we look forward to many things including the crisp air, leaves changing colors and fall activities. In addition, we have quickly noticed the change in temperature. We encourage all families to watch the weather to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school. In addition, we are in the process of changing our air conditioning to heat in our school building. This process takes a few weeks, so the temperature in the classroom and your child's classroom may vary each day to the weather. We suggest that you send your child to school dressed in layers so they can adjust to the temperature accordingly.

Please remember that any variation to your child's daily routine, especially if your child is going home a different way or they have a play-date with another student, a note is required from home addressed to the teacher. If there are last minute /emergency changes, you may call and leave a message with one of the main office staff. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation to this policy as we are focused on making sure dismissal operates in a smooth fashion and all of our students arrive home or to their after-school destination safely.

MCPS is currently drafting a bullying policy that is aligned with the state of Maryland's Safe Schools Reporting Act of 2005. The bullying policy includes a system for reporting and investigating instances of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. All staff has been trained on how to recognize and deal with bullying situations. Please see the attached report form which can be used if your child is a victim of bullying, harassment, or intimidation or if you observe these behaviors occurring. The definition for bullying, harassment or intimidation is "conduct, including verbal, physical, or written; or an intentional electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being; and is motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic such as race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, religion, or disability; or is threatening or is seriously intimidating and occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school." If a bullying, harassment or intimidation incident occurs, a student should notify an adult; teacher, counselor, staff member, principal, parent/guardian or close adult relative. Then the notified adult completes the Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form, MCPS form 230-35. Then the principal or principal designee will promptly investigate and address the incident accordingly. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Whiting, School Counselor, or Mr. Walder, Principal, if you have any questions or concerns.

Have you been volunteering in your child's classroom or having a meeting with your child's teacher? Have you been volunteering for recess/lunch? Just a reminder that when parents or visitors are in the school building, they must sign in the main office and receive a visitor sticker. This is to ensure the safety and security for your children in our school building. We appreciate your attention to this important safety matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I wish you and your children a safe and healthy month!

Daniel Walder, Principal  
301-320-6555  
[Daniel\\_Walder@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_Walder@mcpsmd.org)

### Important October Dates!

- 1<sup>st</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> grade field trip to Homestead Farms
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Early Release Day- 1:00 p.m.
- 6<sup>th</sup>: PTA meeting- 7:00 p.m. (media center)
- 9<sup>th</sup>: Mini-walk for the homeless during recess
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Open House/Parent Visitation Day- 9:10-12:00
- 16<sup>th</sup>: No School- MSTA teacher convention
- 18<sup>th</sup>: DARCARS Fun Run- 9 am in Rockville
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Kindergarten Field Trip to Homestead Farms- 9:45-12:45
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Character Education Committee Meeting- 8:30 a.m. (media center)
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Homeless Sandwich Making during recess
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Principal's Tea- 9:30 a.m. (media center)
- 30<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> marking period ends  
Halloween Parade and classroom parties- 2:00 p.m. (parade will be in front of the school, classroom parties to follow.

