



# The Lion's Den

Bethesda Elementary School & Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Newsletter

Issue 5

November 4, 2011

## Principally Speaking...

Dear Families-

We started off November with a fun-filled day of activity at Bethesda Elementary School! After an exciting Halloween celebration, we came back on Tuesday ready to kick off "Wheel Day" for 2nd and 4th graders and Collaborative Teambuilding Activity Day. Each class, K-5, joined Mr. Boyd outside and participated in three or four collaborative teambuilding activities. The students and teachers did a great job and enjoyed working together while playing a game! In addition, some 2nd and 4th grade students brought their bikes/scooters to school to ride during recess for our first "Wheel Day." Thank you to the volunteers for helping make our first day a success. We are looking forward to kicking off "Wheel Day" for our 3rd and 5th graders on Friday. Next week we will start the Art Activity Center, Exploration Center and Teambuilding activities on the field on Tuesdays and Fridays during each recess shift .

**The LION'S DEN is now online!** The Lion's Den is a shared newsletter with the school and PTA and is published every 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. You can find all the Lion's Den on the BE Website :(<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bethesdaes/administration/>) . Also, make sure to sign up for BEPTA online so you can receive other important messages from the PTA and school. To sign up, send an email to [Beptanet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Beptanet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and write **subscribe** in the subject line.

The first *Principal's Coffee* was held last week. It was an open session, so it was nice to sit down to discuss questions and share ideas. We look forward to seeing more of you at the next *Principal's Coffee* in February. We will continue to post reminders in the Lion's Den regarding the dates and times of the upcoming *Principal's Coffees*.

Recently, the county added some new information on the B-CC Cluster Boundary Study. You can find the Superintendent's recommendation and information regarding the Boundary Study and Capital Improvement Plan online at [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/BCC\\_SupterintendentsRecommendation10142011.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/BCC_SupterintendentsRecommendation10142011.pdf) and [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CIPMaster\\_Current2.shtml](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CIPMaster_Current2.shtml).

This weekend is the Edgemoor 5K. We are excited to see you all on Sunday morning ready to run and/or walk through the neighborhood!

*Lisa Seymour*



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### Important Dates:

- November 10th & 11th  
EARLY RELEASE DAY  
(students dismissed at 12:35 pm)  
PARENT CONFERENCES
- November 16, 2011  
PICTURE RE-TAKES
- November 23, 2011  
EARLY RELEASE DAY  
(students dismissed at 12:35 pm)
- November 24th & 25th  
NO SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY- THANKSGIVING

## Middle School Magnet Program Information: Attention fifth grade families!

The application materials for the middle school magnet programs at Takoma Park Middle School and Eastern Middle School will be available online by October at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special\\_programs](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special_programs). **All fifth graders are eligible to apply.** These are exciting opportunities for interesting and challenging experiences in middle school. The program at Takoma Park Middle School focuses on math, science, and computer science. The program at Eastern Middle School focuses on humanities and communication arts. Some important dates to remember:

Monday, November 7, 2011

Application deadline, postmarked or delivered

Please also visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special\\_programs](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special_programs) for information about the Middle School Magnet Consortium programs at Argyle Middle School, Loiederman Middle School, and Parkland Middle School. **The Choice Form is due November 7, 2011**

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## Attention Parents of Grade 3 Students!

### Application Information

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) were recently mailed directly to all parents for grade 3 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). **This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by November 7, 2011, to:**

HGC Application

Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services

11721 Kemp Mill Road

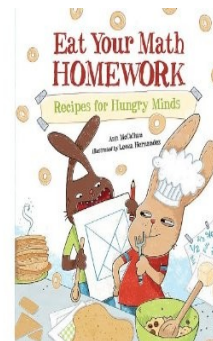
Silver Spring, MD 20902

If for some reason you did not receive an application in the mail, and are interested in the program, contact the school or access it from the website– [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special\\_programs/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special_programs/). The packet is also available in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

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## Eat Your Math Homework!!!

Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring our recent author & illustrator visit. *Ann McCallum* and *Leeza Hernandez* discussed the creation of their book and their lives as a writer and illustrator. The children had the opportunity to participate in exciting math activities.





## Trashless Thursdays



### What?

What is a trashless lunch? A lunch packed in reusable lunchbox or bag and reusable containers.

### When?

We will start having “trashless lunches” on Thursday, November 17. We will have Trashless Thursdays every Thursday afterwards.

### Who?

You! Students and parents will work together to make this happen!

### How?

Here are a few suggestions so that you can have a “trashless lunch.”

- Use a reusable sandwich wrap, like a wrap-n-mat or a small Glad container for apple sauce or chips

- Use a water bottle

- Use a cloth napkin (if your child doesn't use his/her shirt!)

- Use a lunch box with sections (so you don't have to individually wrap anything)

- Note: If you have more than one, you can pack the next day's lunch before today's is washed and dried.

In December we'll start weighing our trash at each lunch period to see which lunch period can create the least amount of trash (K-1, 2-3, 4-5)!

### Why is this important?

There are several reasons, some of which are:

- The average American discards 7 ½ lbs. of garbage a day. The average student throws away 67 pounds of lunch trash per year. A trashless lunch is a start in reducing this number!

- A trashless lunch is likely to be a healthier lunch containing fewer processed and prepackaged items.

- It's fun and cool!

Check out this really great video from YouTube that explains trashless lunches even more!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5-aTgbAYW4&noredirect=1>

# WESTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



## 6th and 7th Grade Registration Meeting for the 2012- 2013 School Year

Please join members of the Westland administration and staff to hear about academics and school life at Westland including the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. We will discuss registration and course selection processes. Three meetings will be conducted within the Westland community. Parents and guardians may choose any of the three meetings to attend. The places and dates of the meetings are listed below. All meetings begin at 7:00 PM.



November 17, 2011 ~

Bethesda Elementary School

November 29, 2011 ~

Rock Creek Forest Elementary  
School

December 1, 2011 ~

Chevy Chase Elementary School

Looking for something new to do at recess?

**Field Group Games**

Every Tuesday and Friday  
play with a parachute



play scarf tag



and other games...

**Wheels Day**

Every Tuesday and Friday  
(2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)  
ride your bike or scooter



*Schedule for Wheels Day*

Tuesday:

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders

Friday:

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

graders

Remember your helmet

**Exploration and**

**Drawing**

Every Tuesday and Friday  
(2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

explore your  
playground



use microscopes



use magnifying glasses



draw your observations





**EDGEMOOR CLASSIC 5K**

Mark your calendars and get ready to race! (or walk, if you prefer!)

The 2011 Edgemoor Classic 5K is happening on...

Sunday, November 6th at 8:30am.

Remember....run it or walk it, but definitely don't SKIP it!

This event is a great opportunity for family fun and fitness.

For more information, please go to the website at <http://www.edgemoorcitizens.org>.



Don't forget to place your Nic-o-boli order!!!!!!!

Extra order forms are in the school office.

Nic-o-bolis will be delivered 3 to 6 weeks after the fundraiser ends.

If you have questions please email [beth.sodie@gmail.com](mailto:beth.sodie@gmail.com) or go to [www.nicolapizza.com](http://www.nicolapizza.com).

**4th Grade for Staff Appreciation**

-Refreshments for Staff Meeting-

Hello 4th Grade Parents! - Please help show your appreciation of the wonderful BE staff by providing refreshments for the next Staff Meeting to be held... **Monday, November 7th.**

*Let's have a great show of support!*

Here are suggestions, but really, anything is appreciated!

Ms. DeNisco's class- Fruit and Veggies

Ms. McCord's class- Drinks and Dessert

Ms. Derr's class- Cheese/Crackers, Bagels/Cream Cheese, Hummus/Pita, Pretzels, etc.

*There are usually about 50 people in the meetings.*

Items can be dropped off on **Monday, November 7th** at the school's Main Office anytime before 3:00pm, or at my home the day before (just let me know ahead of time). My address is 5329 Mckinley Street.

Please contact me by email or phone to give me an idea of what you plan on contributing and/or if you have any questions. Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you! Sheri Hatam (mom of Cyrus)  
[Sherrihatam@me.com](mailto:Sherrihatam@me.com) / (240)351-1078