



The Lion's Den

Bethesda Elementary School & Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Newsletter

Issue 1

September 2, 2011

Principally Speaking...

Dear Families-

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! After an interesting weather week, we are thrilled to be back, ON TIME, to school! We are off to a great start for the 2011-2012 school year. September will be packed with events, starting with **Back to School Night** on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. The times and locations for the various grade levels are listed in this Lion's Den Issue. We look forward to seeing everyone after the Labor Day Holiday weekend.

September is also filled with forms to complete and send back to school. In this Lion's Den, you will find a list of important papers to look for in your child's backpack. Please contact the Front Office if you did not receive the required forms.

During the first week of school, we have been practicing the Emergency Drills. There are three types of drills that we practiced:

Evacuation: Fire Evacuation or Directed Evacuation

Shelter (formerly called CODE BLUE): Public Safety Shelter (exterior doors are locked), Severe Weather, or Outside Hazardous Materials Release

Lockdown (formerly called CODE RED): Imminent Danger in the Building or on the Campus

Additional information about MCPS Emergency Preparedness Procedures can be found online: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/>.

Thank you to **Wheat's Landscaping** for donating plants and their services to beautifying the circle on Moorland Lane. They worked hard before the weekend of rain and it looks great! Make sure to check it out before or after school!

While we did receive additional staffing this school year at Bethesda Elementary, we continue to be experiencing budget constraints. As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. In some cases, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, we will do our best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. We will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school.

Lisa Seymour



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Important Dates:

- September 5, 2011
NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
- September 6, 2011
Back to School Night (6:45 PM)
- September 19, 2011
Back To School Picnic (6:00 PM)
- September 28, 2011
Early Release Day (12: 35PM)
- September 29, 2011
NO SCHOOL- Rosh Hashanah
- October 5, 2011
International Walk To School Day
- October 10, 2011
Parent Visitation Day

From the PTA...

The time is NOW...to join the PTA!



Forms can be downloaded from the PTA website <http://www.bethesdapta.org/home/join-the-pta> and returned to school in your child's backpack.

We are so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful community and school. We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 6th. Bring your checkbooks!

Thank you, in advance, for your support of **THE BETHESDA ELEMENTARY PTA!**

Bridget Diaz and Sherri Hatam, PTA Communications Co-Chairs

\$40 Family Membership....

\$10 Teacher/Staff Membership...

THE BETHESDA ELEMENTARY PTA ...AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR THE FALL.

ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 3RD (EXCEPT CHESS CLUB WHICH BEGINS SEPT 20th) AND LAST 8-10 WEEKS:

- CHESS CLUB (TUESDAYS)
- YOGA (TUESDAYS)
- IMAGINATION STAGE (TUESDAYS)
- AUDUBON SOCIETY (WEDNESDAYS)
- ITALIAN (WEDNESDAYS)
- YOUNG REMBRANDTS (THURSDAYS)
- LANGUAGE FUNDAMENTALS - FRENCH & SPANISH (THURSDAYS)

Flyers/Enrollment forms regarding the above activities will come home in Friday Folders next week (Sept 9th) and you will also be able to register on-line.

The activity bus will be available starting Oct 11th on TUE/WED/THURS-it will not run the week of Nov. 7th.

Any questions please contact the after school activities co-chairs:

Megan FitzGerald and Wendy O'Neil



The Bethesda Pledge

Each morning, after the Pledge of Allegiance, we recite The Bethesda Pledge together:

As a Bethesda student, I will do my schoolwork to the best of my ability and be kind, courteous, considerate and respectful to other students and teachers.

The Bethesda Elementary Mission and Vision

We, the students, staff, and parents of Bethesda Elementary School will dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of academic excellence by:

- Striving for a high level of success for all students
- Ensuring that the safety and welfare of all is a top priority
- Working collaboratively to ensure that all voices are heard
- Showing respect for each other in pursuit of academic excellence

Bethesda Elementary is dedicated to creating a community of life-long learners who demonstrate responsibility, respect, kindness, and consideration while achieving their highest academic potential.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL...

If your child completed the Summer Reading, Writing, and/or Math packets, return them to school by Friday, September 2nd. Materials should be given to the classroom teachers.

Students who completed the Summer Math Packet will be invited to a Summer Ice Cream Sandwich Social on Thursday, September 8th. Work should be given to the classroom teachers. The contact person is Amanda Froom.

Amanda_Froom@mcpsmd.org

Children who participated in the Summer Reading & Writing Program will be invited to an Ice Cream Social on Friday, September 9th. The celebration will be held in the Media Center during recess periods. Students in grade K & 1 will meet from 12:00-12:30, grades 2 & 3 from 12:30-1:00 and our pupils in grade 4 & 5 will meet from 1:00-1:30. Contact Karen Sanchez if you have questions. Karen_G_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org

Karen Sanchez



BE Activity Bus... Departs at 4:15 PM

Month	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week
October		11, 12, 13	18, 19, 20	25, 26, 27	
November	1, 2, 3		15, 16, 17		29, 30, 12-1
December		6, 7, 8	13, 14, 15		
January	3, 4, 5	10, 11, 12	17, 18, 19	24, 25, 26	
February	1/31, 2-1, 2	7, 8, 9	14, 15, 16	21, 22, 23	28, 29, 3/1
March		6, 7, 8	13, 14, 15	20, 21, 22	27, 28, 29
April		10, 11, 12	17, 18, 19	24, 25, 26	

More information regarding After School Activities and Activity Bus Stops will follow in September 16th Lion's Den Issue.

Important Forms and Reminders...

IMPORTANT FORMS and Information Packets

- Emergency Early Dismissal Form (BLUE)
- Directory Withholding Information
- Discipline Policy
- Free and Reduced Meals Form
- Student Rights and Responsibilities

REMINDERS

- Wear SNEAKERS or Rubber-sole shoes for PE
- ALL students must be accompanied by an adult after dismissal when playing on the playground
- Students are not permitted to bring toys to school
- Cell phones are to remain turned off/silent and in the book bag during school hours



Back To School Night...

Time	All	
6:45 – 7:05 P.M.	Welcome/General Announcements – Mrs. Seymour PTA Announcements – in the gymnasium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message from the Principal • Message from the PTA 	
7:15 – 8:50 P.M.	Breakout Sessions: See Overview and schedule below.	
	Overview of Grade-level Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the teachers. • Receive information about routines and curriculum. • Visit the classrooms. • Sign up for parent-teacher conferences. • Sign up for volunteer opportunities. • Communication plan 	
Time	Grades K – 1 – 2 Schedule	Grades 3 – 4 – 5 Schedule
7:15 – 7:35 P.M.	Kindergarten in Cafeteria/APR	Visit with Chorus, Music, PE, and Instrumental Music in the Art Room
	1 st Grade in Computer Lab	
	2 nd Grade in Media Center	
7:35 – 8:00 P.M.	K-2 Classroom Visits	
8:05 – 8:25 P.M.	Visit with Chorus, Music, PE, and Instrumental Music in the Art Room	3 rd Grade in Cafeteria/APR
		4 th Grade in Computer Lab
		5 th Grade in Media Center
8:30 – 8:50 P.M.		3 – 4 Classroom Visits

Reminder...the Lion's Den is going ONLINE! Beginning next month (October), the Lion's Den will ONLY be posted online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bethesdaes/administration/>. If you would still like to receive a paper copy, please complete the information below and turn it in to the Front Office by **September 30th**.

____ Yes, I would like to receive a paper copy of the Lion's Den.

Name: _____

Childs Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Signature: _____