

# Clearspring Weekly

Principal's Newsletter  
September 30, 2011

*"It is a great nuisance that knowledge can only be acquired by hard work." ~ W. Somerset Maugham*

## Mission

Clearspring Elementary School is dedicated to working with parents and the community to promote the overall growth and development of the students so they become responsible, respectful, and productive members of society.

## Principal's Note

***What's happening with the air conditioning?*** A few weeks ago, lightning struck our chiller which controls several classrooms within the building. Central office maintenance department has been working diligently to determine the problem. Alas, they found that the computer within the chiller was damaged by the lightning strike. They are currently working to have the part replaced. **With that stated, MCPS will be switching from air conditioning to heat** over the next couple of weeks (see the flyer attached). Make sure your child dresses in layers as autumn in Maryland can be 80 degrees or 60 degrees.

Please attend the **PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** (in the cafeteria) to hear about **Curriculum 2.0**. This revised MCPS curriculum is currently being implemented at Kindergarten through grade two. It will continue to be rolled out at the upper grades in future years. We will present information on the

revised curriculum, ask you to experience some of the math through participation, and allow time for questions.

**Join us for Open House on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** This is a great opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom during instruction.

Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. Joshua Starr**, will be holding a "**Listen and Learn**" event on **Monday, October 3, at Watkins Mill High School**, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, and another on **Tuesday, November 1, at Damascus High School**, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus. Both events will be held **from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** These events are opportunities for parents and community members to **meet Dr. Starr** and to offer their views and perspective on what is working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve. Dr. Starr has a keen interest in hearing directly from parents as he sets his priorities for the school system. This is also an opportunity for parents to learn more about his educational philosophy and leadership style. **I encourage all of you to attend an upcoming "Listen and Learn" event. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided.** If you are not able to attend the event on October 3 or November 1, you are welcome to attend any of the other Listen and Learn events Dr. Starr will be holding throughout the fall. Times and locations are available on the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org).

## **Worth Repeating:**

**Attention fifth grade parents:** Interested in having your child apply for the **Middle School Magnet program**? Attend the parent/student information night on **October 13<sup>th</sup> at Clemente MS**. The **application deadline is November 7<sup>th</sup>** and the **testing will take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Clemente magnet coordinator was here on Monday to share information with all fifth grade students. If you have **questions, please contact Ms. Besser**.

**Attention third grade parents:** Interested in having your child apply for the **Center for the Highly Gifted for fourth grade**? Attend an **information meeting at Northwest High School on October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. Applications are being sent from central office to every third grade students in the county. An informational letter was sent home with students last week. The **application deadline is November 7<sup>th</sup>**. The **applications are to be sent to the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (not to our school)**. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Mascott.

**Read, read, read!** Even if your child comes home without reading homework, the benefits of reading every night are tremendous! Students maintain skills when applying the strategies learned in school to nightly reading.

Mark your calendars now...schools will be closed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, we will hold our **Halloween parties on October 28<sup>th</sup>**. More information will follow as we get closer.

**Have a great weekend!**

### Celebrations

Congratulations to fifth grader, **Manav Chaudhary**, who received his black belt on Sept 24th at Strive Martial Arts in Damascus. Manav has been working toward his black belt for five years! We're all very proud of you, Manav!

### Husky News

### MCPS Updates

Montgomery County Public Schools will begin the process of **converting air conditioning to heating** during the week of October 3, 2011. Please see the attached flyer for further information about this conversion process.

#### **School Health Services Offer Seasonal FluMist Vaccine at School Clinics**

School Health Services and MCPS will conduct free, nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) clinics at Einstein High School in Kensington and Seneca Valley High School in Germantown on **October 31<sup>st</sup> for school aged children** in Montgomery County.

School Health Services will also conduct free, after-school nasal spray flu vaccine clinics in all MCPS elementary schools **for students enrolled at the school**. Those clinics will take place on November 10 and November 11, which are early release days for students.

The clinic at Clearspring Elementary School will take place on November 10, 2011 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Notification letters, consent forms, and Vaccine Information Statements will be provided to students in early October.

For more information about the upcoming clinics and the FluMist, visit the following websites:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu>

The injectable seasonal flu vaccine will be available, at no charge, at other DHHS flu clinics at various locations in the county, October through December. Visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu> or call 311 for county locations. Flu vaccine may also be available from your health care provider.

#### **Attached:**

**Air Conditioning Flyer**

**Calendars**

# Converting From Air Conditioning To Heat

## *Knowing Your School's Mechanical System*

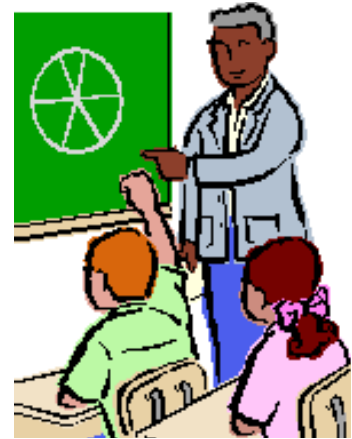
It's fall, and schools will have their air-conditioning systems converted to heat starting October 3, 2011. Your school's mechanical system provides heating, cooling, and ventilation to your building. Twice a year, this system must be shut down for seasonal changeover. This flyer provides information about the changeover process.

### **A Common Question Is:**

At my house, we just flip a switch and we have heat one day and cooling the next. Why can't you do that at our school building?

### **Answer:**

School mechanical systems are very different from residential systems. Boilers and chillers, known as central plant equipment, heat or cool water that is then pumped to the equipment that conditions air for your room. However, only one set of pipes connects the central plant to the room equipment. When the chiller operates, the boiler must be physically disconnected by valves from the pipe loop. Similarly, when the boiler operates, the chiller must be isolated from the pipe loop. Also, prior to switching the valves, the water in the loop must first be allowed to return back to room temperature. The chiller will not start with hot water in the loop and the boiler cannot be started with chilled water in the loop. The loop temperature takes about 24 hours to equalize. Altogether, the complete changeover process usually requires two days in each school, during which time the building has neither heating nor cooling available. Please be prepared and **dress for the weather** each day; sweaters or jackets work well for chilly mornings. Maintenance crews will perform the changeover with as little inconvenience as possible. For information on the status of the changeover at your school, check the changeover work order for your school online.



### **Online Status:**

**Find the status of your conversion by checking the work order for it in the online Maintenance work order system!**



# October 03, 2011 - October 09, 2011

October 2011							November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

## Monday, October 03

- Gr. 5 IRI Window
- Progress Updates go home (reports or data binders)
- 3:30pm - 4:45pm Staff Meeting (Husky Den)
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Takoma Park MS GT Program Info Meeting (Takoma Park MS)

## Tuesday, October 04

- Gr. 5 IRI Window
- 9:15am - 10:45am Howard MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 11:20am - 12:30pm Naismith MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 3:15pm - 4:15pm Digital Design Club (Computer Lab)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm PTA meeting

## Wednesday, October 05

- Gr. 5 IRI Window
- 9:15am - 10:45am Miller MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Argyle MS Open House - MS Magnet Consortium (Argyl MS)

## Thursday, October 06

- Gr. 5 IRI Window
- 9:30am - 10:00am Para Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:30am - 11:00am Learning Center Para Meeting (Conference Room)
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm All 4 One (Gym)
- 3:30pm - 4:00pm Building Services Meeting (Conference Room)

## Friday, October 07

- Gr. 5 IRI Window
- 8:30am - 11:30am Cluster Principals' Meeting at CES (Conference Room)
- 9:00am - 10:30am Howard MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 10:30am - 12:00pm Hobbs MAP-P (Computer Lab)

## Saturday, October 08

- Yom Kippur

## Sunday, October 09

# October 10, 2011 - October 16, 2011

October 2011							November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

## Monday, October 10

- Gr. 5 IRI Window ↕
- 9:00am - 2:30pm Gr. 5 In-School Colonial Day
- 9:30am - 11:30am Columbus Day - Open House
- 11:20am - 12:30pm Naismith MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 3:30pm - 4:45pm Staff Meeting (Husky Den)

## Tuesday, October 11

- Gr. 5 IRI Window ↕
- No Field Trips
- 9:00am - 12:30pm Gr. 3 Mad Science - in-school - Detective Science
- 10:30am - 12:00pm Miller MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 11:30am - 1:30pm Walk for the Homeless during recesses
- 3:15pm - 4:15pm Digital Design Club (Computer Lab) ↕

## Wednesday, October 12

- Gr. 5 IRI Window ↕
- No Field Trips
- 10:30am - 12:00pm Hobbs MAP-P (Computer Lab)
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Loiederman MS Open House MS Magnet Program (Loiederman MS)

## Thursday, October 13

- No Field Trips
- 9:00am - 12:00pm MAKE UP MAP TESTING (COMPUTER LAB)
- 11:10am - 1:50pm Gr. 5 trip to Strathmore for Concert (Concert time 12:15 p.m.)
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm All 4 One (Gym) ↕
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Clemente MS Info Meeting (Clemente MS)

## Friday, October 14

- special educators send quarterly progress report forms to general educators
- 9:00am - 3:00pm Student Portraits --Blanton
- 9:00am - 11:30am MAKE UP MAP TESTING (COMPUTER LAB)
- 9:30am - 1:30pm Gr. 4 Center trip to Woodlawn Manor

## Saturday, October 15

## Sunday, October 16