

Clearspring Weekly

Principal's Newsletter
October 7, 2011

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. "

❖ *William Butler Yeats*

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

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

Blanton Studios will be at Clearspring on Friday, October 14, to take student individual portraits. Please see the attached flyer for further information. Picture envelope brochures will be sent home with students early next week.

Traditionally we celebrate whole school on two occasions - one is Halloween and the other is Valentine's Day. **Halloween celebrations will be held October 28th** with a **parade beginning at 1:45 p.m.** Classroom parties will begin immediately following the parade. **Any parents who do NOT want their child to participate should complete the attached form stating that they would like their child to participate in an alternative activity or that they will pick their child up from**

school before the parade begins. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Worth Repeating:

Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. Joshua Starr**, will be holding another "**Listen and Learn**" event on **Tuesday, November 1, at Damascus High School**, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus. Event time will be **from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** This event is an opportunity 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 this event. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided.** If you are not able to attend 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.

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

Have a great weekend!

Celebrations

Joshua and Jacob Shimp had a great time at the Damascus fair this year: Joshua took 1st place and Jacob took 2nd in Junior Showing and Fitting for meat goats; Joshua's goat took 2nd and Jake's 3rd in the yearling meat goat class; and Jake brought home 1st place and Josh 2nd in their respective age divisions in the tractor pull. What a weekend!

Husky News

MCPS Updates

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 31st 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 11, 2011 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Notification letters, consent forms, and Vaccine Information Statements will be sent home with students today.

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.

Attachment

Halloween Participation Form

**CLEARSPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
9930 Moyer ROAD
DAMASCUS, MARYLAND 20872**

~~~~~  
Phone (301) 253-7004

Office of the Principal

Fax (301) 972-9027  
~~~~~

October 7, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Every year Clearspring Elementary holds two school-wide parties. One of them is to recognize Halloween and the other for Valentine's Day. Our Halloween parties will be held on Friday, October 28th at 2:00 p.m. (following the parade at 1:45 p.m.). We are aware that not all families recognize these celebrations. Therefore, if you do not want your child to participate, we will offer an alternative activity. In order to prepare for the alternative activity, we must know how many students will not be attending the classroom party. Some parents may wish to pick their child up from school by 1:45. We would like to know this information as well.

Please complete the form below and return it to school by October 24, 2011, if you do not want your child to participate in the classroom parties.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Holly Steel
Principal

If your child will not participate, choose one below and return by October 24, 2011.

____ My child _____ may NOT participate in the classroom Halloween party. I would like for my child to participate in the alternative activity.

____ My child _____ may NOT participate in the classroom Halloween party. I will pick my child up by 1:45.

Parent Signature

Date

