

Clearspring Weekly

Principal's Newsletter
November 4, 2011

"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."

~ Robert M. Hutchins

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

Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday.

Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. Joshua Starr**, will be holding another "**Listen and Learn**" event on **Tuesday, November 8, at Damascus High School**, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus. (This was rescheduled from November 1st due to a death in his family). 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.

The book fair will be here next week. You can visit during conference hours if you like!

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 10 & 11 – Early Dismissal – Parent Conferences

Veteran's Day is Friday. Please join us by the flag pole for our flag raising ceremony beginning at 9:00 a.m.

November 14 – 18, 2011 is Maryland School Psychology Awareness Week. In honor of this, our school psychologist Michelle Palmer has worked with the Clearspring webmaster to create a webpage full of information and helpful links. Please check it out and feel free to contact Ms. Palmer with any questions you may have or thoughts about how to improve the webpage.



Worth Repeating:

It's only November 4th and we already have **way too many coats in our lost and found.** Please stop by the all-purpose room **during conferences** to see if any clothing items belong to your family. **We will be donating whatever is left there after November 11th.** Thank you!

Attention fifth grade parents: Interested in having your child apply for the **Middle School Magnet program.** 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.**

Attention third grade parents!! If you are interested in applying to the Center for the Highly Gifted, **applications are due to the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services by November 7th**. Please **DO NOT** return these to the school.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Steel

Celebrations

Congratulations to Mrs. Ward's Pom squad who took home three spectacular wins at the Maryland State Competition held at the U of Maryland: 1st Place in their division; Grand Champion, Dance; and Best Choreography!

Husky News

Friday November 11th is Veteran's Day. We will have a short ceremony by the flag pole at 9:00 a.m. This year, we will again invite local veterans to attend! Parents are very welcome to join us in this brief time of recognition. Due November 4th - We would also like to recognize those who have served and are serving our country by including them in our "Celebrations" section of the newsletter. If you have a family member, relative, friend or someone you know who is serving, or who is a veteran, and would like Clearspring to recognize them, please e-mail Maggy Singer at mascam3@yahoo.com. Please write a sentence or two identifying how you know this individual (their relationship to your family) and, if you like, a sentence or two describing their service. If you already sent this information last year, it will be included in the newsletter already ---you don't have to resend. Also due November 4th - Families please provide a photos (or copy) of your favorite soldiers/veterans. These will be posted in the front lobby of the school the week of Veterans Day. Please be sure to write the individual's name, your name/phone number or e-mail on the back of the photo/copy so we can ensure it gets back to you. You may send the photo in an envelope addressed to Maggy Singer/PTA/Veterans Day Photo.

Let's show our veterans our appreciation!

From the Clearspring PTA – Blue Envelope Campaign - Have you turned in your Blue Envelope donation yet? So far only 22 families have returned their gift and WE NEED YOUR HELP in order to maintain the current programming. If you need a flyer or envelope, email the PTA (clearspringpta@gmail.com) with your student's name and homeroom teacher and they will make sure one comes home with them. Let's see if we can reach 100 family donations by parent-teacher conferences!

Grandparent Day will be celebrated at Clearspring on Monday, Nov. 21. Please see the attachments for further information about this fun day!

MCPS Updates

FREE Seasonal FluMist Vaccine Clinic at Clearspring Elementary School

We will be holding a FREE FluMist Vaccine Clinic at Clearspring Elementary School on November 11, 2011 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Please call the health room at 301-253-7098 or email Gail.Powell@mcpsmd.org for an **appointment**. Notification letters, consent forms, and Vaccine Information Statements in both English and Spanish are attached.

Remember: Children must be accompanied by an adult who will bring the completed consent form to the clinic. Please do not send consent forms back to school.



We're Having
GRANDPARENTS' DAY...

At CLEARSPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Monday, November 21st, 2011



Our celebration will begin with a Welcome Reception in the Gymnasium at 9:15 a.m. *with light breakfast refreshments*. Mrs. Steel will then welcome the Grandparents to Clearspring Elementary, and then the Clearspring Chorus & Instrumental Band/Strings will perform. Following the Chorus/Band performance, the Grandparents will have the opportunity to visit in the classrooms.

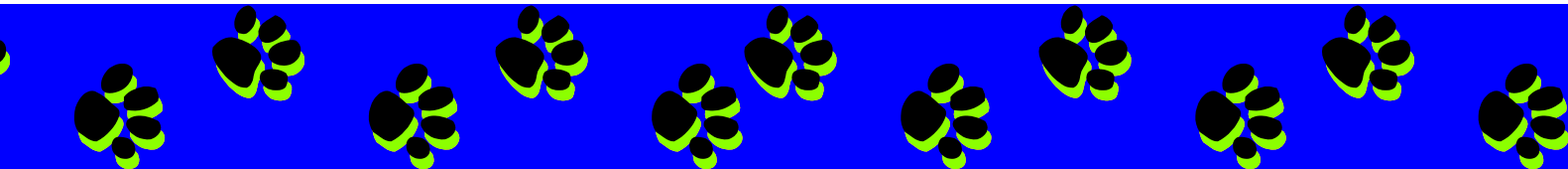
There will be a BULLETIN BOARD in the school lobby dedicated to our celebration. Children are asked to bring in photos, poems, drawings, etc in honor of their Grandparents. **PLEASE HAVE ALL PHOTOS ATTACHED TO A PIECE OF PAPER, POSTER, ETC. BE SURE TO WRITE THE CHILD'S NAME, TEACHER AND "GRANDPARENTS DAY BULLETIN BOARD" ON THE BACK OF ALL SUBMITTED MATERIALS.** Items to be displayed should be turned in **no later than Wednesday, November 16th** and will be returned after our celebration.

Students will be participating in their regular class schedule, which may include book club, math or specials during our celebration time. Please be sure that Grandparents know the name of their grandchild(ren)'s teacher(s) during the time of their visit, so that we can direct them to the correct classroom.

If you would like to volunteer the day of our celebration, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Namita T. Chaudhary – Committee Chair
namitachaudhary@yahoo.com
301-509-8647



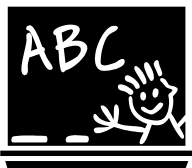
**CELEBRATING
GRANDPARENTS' DAY
AT CLEARSPRING ELEMENTARY**

Dear: _____,

Please come and visit with me at school to celebrate Grandparents' Day. Our celebration is on Monday, November 21st, 2011 beginning with a Welcome Reception with light breakfast refreshments at 9:15 a.m. in the Gymnasium. After the Welcome Reception, you can come and see me in my classroom.

To help you find me in my classroom – please be sure to bring this form with you. This is where you can find me:

At 9:30 a.m.



Room #: _____
Class: _____
Teacher: _____



I look forward to your visit!!!

{Grandchild(ren)'s Name(s)}



November 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

A network-based electronic visitor management system soon will be installed in your child's school to assist principals and school staff in identifying and verifying business of visitors to the school. This new visitor management system is part of a systemwide Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) initiative that eventually will be implemented in all schools.

The new visitor management system is an automated system that replaces the current paper/pencil sign-in/out logs for visitors. The new system will provide a computer, scanner, and printer to the school. Visitors' driver's licenses will be scanned, and those without identification will manually enter their information. All visitors will receive a badge to wear while in the school building and are expected to return the badge before leaving the building.

This visitor management system provides administrators convenient access to several reports; e.g., in the event of an emergency/crisis, visitor accountability is easily accessible. Administrators also can track the number and purpose of visits to their school, including the number of volunteers and volunteer hours. While schools were able to do this in the past, it was a time-consuming task.

The safety and security of our students and staff are an MCPS priority, and this new system is intended to enhance MCPS security measures to ensure a safe and secure learning and working environment. If you have questions regarding this system, please contact the staff of the Department of School Safety and Security at 301-279-3066.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Bowers
Chief Operating Officer

LAB:fn

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Mr. Hellmuth

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850 ♦ 301-279-3626