

Clearspring Weekly

Principal's Newsletter
January 6, 2012

“One kind word can warm three winter months.”

Japanese proverb

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

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed a very relaxing winter break with family and friends!

We are in our **winter testing season**. All grade levels are working on reading:

- **K, 1st, and 2nd** grades are conducting the mClass assessment which is conducted orally. Teachers document the students' performance using a Palm Pilot and determine the students' level. As the children progress to more difficult text levels, a writing component will be included.
- **3rd, 4th, and 5th** grades are taking the MAP-R assessment which is a reading test on the computer. The assessment adjusts as the child takes the test in order to determine an accurate reading level.

Assessment results can be obtained from your child's teacher after the testing window closes (around the end of January).

Registration is now under way for the winter 2012 Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) **Parent Academy**. Parents can choose from an exciting lineup of sessions that include preparing for a college education, bullying, and helping students develop good organizational skills. A series of workshops for beginning computer users and another series on special education also are being offered. Parent Academy workshops are free of charge, and voluntarily taught by MCPS staff members and representatives from community organizations. Interpretation and childcare services are free. Attached is the winter 2012 schedule of workshops. **One of these workshops, Curriculum 2.0**, will be held **here at Clearspring** on January 24, 2012, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Worth Repeating:

The **Damascus Cluster NAACP** will host a study circle in the months of January and February. This is an opportunity for **NAACP leaders, PTA, and administration** to come together to talk about how we can continue to **grow so that all students are successful and every family feels welcome in our schools**.

Please **bring your driver's license when you come into the building**. It will take a few minutes to scan your license and enter some information, but after your initial visit, it is only a matter of scanning your license for each visit.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Steel

Celebrations

Husky News

The media center is looking for **donations of gently used books**. The class donating the most books will be given a party in the media center in February. The books will be sold to students for 50 cents per piece the last week in January. The funds from the sale will be used to buy new books for the media center.

2012 Clearspring Science Fair, February 24th, 6:30-8:00pm

Ever wonder if a plant would grow better if you gave it Coke or orange juice instead of water? Want to figure out which brand of popcorn leaves the least unpopped kernels and try to determine why? Thinking about how batteries or magnets or electricity works? If you are curious about these or similar questions, you will definitely want to participate in the 2012 Clearspring Science Fair! Registration forms for this year's Science Fair went home with students this week. They are due

January 18th. If your registration form has been misplaced, another one can be printed out from a link on the Clearspring website at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/clearspringes/>. Parents: If your son/daughter is interested in participating in the Science Fair, please review the Participation Packet, which is also available on the Clearspring website. This packet provides a wealth of information and tips regarding the Science Fair, including a description of the types of projects that students may complete, an overview of the scientific method, and the criteria for judging.

Once again this year, students will be awarded ribbons based on their level of satisfying the science fair objectives. All students have the opportunity to be awarded a blue ribbon. One "Best of Show" ribbon will be given to a project in grades K-2, and another "Best of Show" ribbon will be awarded to one project in grades 3-5.

Questions can be directed to the Science Fair Coordinators (Kay Mangan, Mike Mangan, and Karen Mitch) at ces_sciencefair-owner@yahoo.com.

Foreign Language Classes Registration Extension

Registration for the winter beginner sessions of Spanish, Chinese and French have been extended until January 12, 2012. Please log on to www.fles.org or fill out one of the attached registration forms and return it to your child's teacher along with payment. Beginner language classes are a great way for your child to experience a different language in a small group environment. Hurry and sign up today while space is still available! Please email nas114@verizon.net with any questions. The registration forms for these classes are attached.

It's Not Too Late for Drama! Drama Club starts today and will run every Friday (except early release/no school days) until spring break from 315-415pm. Haven't registered yet? Send the form in next week and start anyway! The form is attached and is also available online at <http://shimpy4.wordpress.com/2011/12/09/winter-2012-drama/>. If you have any questions, contact Karen Shimp at 301-933-2223 or shimpy4@verizon.net

A Note from Ms. Besser

We are currently out of random toys in the **PBIS Rewards Center**. The "random toy" has been the most popular item to purchase with paws this year. We are now accepting "random toy" donations. Donated toys should be small and very inexpensive, including items such as figurines, poppers, plastic games, etc. Please contact Ms. Besser if you have any questions. A donation box will be located in the front office.

Attention all young scientists! The **Clearspring Science Fair** will be held on Friday, February 24th, 2012. Save the date and start thinking about possible project ideas! Registration materials will be distributed in January. If you would like to begin generating project ideas over Winter Break, you may want to take a look at the following web sites:

- www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects
- www.all-science-fair-projects.com
- www.super-science-fair-projects.com
- www.sciencefair-projects.org
- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral>

MCPS Updates

Middle School Parent Info for parents of current 5th graders

Forest Oak MS Parent Meeting
– Jan. 26, 7:00 p.m.
Forest Oak MS Cafeteria

Gaithersburg MS Parent Mtg.
– Jan. 26, 7:00 p.m.
Gaithersburg MS Cafeteria
Snow Date: Feb. 2

Baker MS Parent Mtg. –Jan. 30,
7:00 p.m.
Snow Date: Feb. 6