

# Clearspring Weekly

Principal's Newsletter  
January 27, 2012

“The end of all education should surely be service to others”.

~ Cesar E. Chavez

## 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 note that Montgomery County Public Schools issued a calendar earlier in the year that indicated that schools would be closed on Feb.14 for primary election. This was incorrect – the actual primary date is **Tuesday, April 3. Schools will be closed on that day and open on Valentine's Day.**

**Blue and White** assemblies will take place on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. K-grade 3 will take place from 1:45-2:45. Grades four and five will be from 10:00-11:15. The agenda is attached for your convenience. Parents are welcome to attend if available.

**Traditionally we celebrate whole school on two occasions** - one is Halloween and the other is Valentine's Day. **Valentine's Day celebrations will be held on February 14 beginning at 2:00 p.m.** 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 parties begin. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

## Worth Repeating:

Mark your calendars! **January 31<sup>st</sup>** the **Clearspring staff** will present a reading and math night! This is a great opportunity to bring the family out and engage in activities that reinforce reading and math skills. Some activities will be going home with students. We also have a great incentive in place to encourage your child to attend. **Want to know more? See the flyer attached! We hope you can make it! (see the flyer attached)**

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.**

If you **bring your child to school** in the morning, please be sure to **remember not to go around cars in the driveway.** This is very dangerous and has been a problem on a few occasions. We want all Clearspring community members to remain safe as they enter the premises. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Have a lovely weekend!

*Mrs. Steel*

## Celebrations

## Husky News

## Sad News

As many of you know, one of Clearspring's longtime bus drivers, Mr. Steve Melvin, succumbed to cancer last week. We wanted to include information about his funeral services for those of you who have inquired:

Date & Time: Monday, January 30th @ 11:00am

Location: Church of the Redeemer  
19425 Woodfield Rd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Any donation you wish to make, in lieu of flowers, can be made to the Montgomery Hospice/Casey House (<http://www.montgomeryhospice.org/>) who helped care for him during his last few weeks.

**Countdown to the Science Fair:** With four weeks to go, it's time to:

- Research your topic
- Come up with your question or hypothesis
- Design your experiment
- Set deadlines for the various tasks you need to complete
- Be sure to work on your project a little every week

Parents -- tri-fold project boards were distributed this week to all students who ordered them. The PTA has no more boards for sale. Boards can be purchased at a variety of stores, including Walmart, Staples and Michael's. Confirmation emails have been sent to all students who registered to participate in the Science Fair. If you have any questions, please contact the Science Fair coordinators at [ces\\_sciencefair-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:ces_sciencefair-owner@yahoo.com).

### **Valentine Candy Grams**

Help support the 5th Grade Celebration by sending a candy gram to your son, daughter, teacher, friends. Each gram is only \$1 and will be delivered on Valentine's Day. Orders can be returned to your child's teacher, and will be accepted through Friday, February 10th. Order as many you like - additional forms will be available in the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Haren at [dawnharen@verizon.net](mailto:dawnharen@verizon.net).

### **MCPS News**

#### **A Message from and Information about the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Center**

The end of the first marking period provides an opportunity for both reflection and planning for the second half of the school year. The Learning Academy Saturday School program will continue to enroll students until April. Registration fee is \$50 (\$40 for FARMS students). In an effort to make sure that our program is available and affordable for all students, we have a payment plan--forms are available at all 12 sites. In addition, financial assistance and scholarship support is available for all families and students who cannot afford to pay the full fee. Saturday School will not be in session on January 28th due to Saturday School staff professional development. but will be back in session on Saturday, February 4th. Visit us on the Web at [www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org)

Saturday School is featured in the 2011/12 Catalogue for Philanthropy. *"One of the best small charities in the Greater Washington region."*

#### **A Note from Baker Middle School PTA –**

Baker Middle School has many exciting volunteer positions open on the PTA board next year. Open positions are as follows; PTA President, Vice President, Spring Fundraising and many more volunteer opportunities. Please contact Mrs. Kopp at [ganskopp1@verizon.net](mailto:ganskopp1@verizon.net) if you would like to learn more about these open positions and volunteering at Baker Middle School.

**Please see attachments below.**

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#### ***Middle School Parent Info for parents of current 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**Shady Grove MS Parent Mtg.** –  
Tues., Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m., Shady  
Grove MS Cafeteria

**Rocky Hill MS Parent Mtg.** –  
Wed., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. Rocky  
Hill MS Cafeteria

**Clearspring ES  
Blue and White Assembly  
February 3, 2012  
Grades Four and Five 10:00-11:15**



Agenda:

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Welcome & purpose:                    | Mrs. Steel      |
| Reflection letter (Matthew Kolander): | Mrs. Cumberland |
| Art/Math project:                     | Mrs. Bizzell    |
| Reading goals:                        | Mrs. Klein      |
| Immigration poems:                    | Ms. McGinn      |
| Learning skills awards:               | Mrs. Randall    |
| Poetry sharing:                       | Mrs. Randall    |
| Reading goals:                        | Mrs. Fautrel    |
| Learning skills:                      | Mrs. Hoffman    |
| Unit 2 assessment:                    | Mrs. Wilhelm    |
| Math projects:                        | Mrs. Stile      |
| Super Husky Awards:                   | Ms. Besser      |
| Principal's Award- Straight As:       | Mrs. Steel      |



## Kindergarten- grade three 1:45-2:45

### Agenda:

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Welcome & purpose:       | Mrs. Steel    |
| Counting to 100:         | Mrs. Hobbs    |
| 100 day song:            | Mrs. Hobbs    |
| Continents of the World: | Mrs. Percy    |
| Cinderella:              | Ms. Stroot    |
| Reading goals:           | Mrs. Reynolds |
| Recorders:               | Mr. Amberg    |
| Super Husky Award:       | Ms. Besser    |
| Straight A's:            | Mrs. Steel    |



**CLEARSPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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DAMASCUS, MARYLAND 20872

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Phone (301) 253-7004                      *Office of the Principal*                      Fax (301) 972-9027  
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January 27, 2012

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 Valentine parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 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 parties. 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 February 10, 2012 **if you do not want your child to participate** in the classroom parties.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Holly Steel  
Principal

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*If your child will not participate, choose one below and return by February 10, 2012.*

\_\_\_\_ My child \_\_\_\_\_ may **NOT** participate in the classroom Valentine party. **I would like for my child to participate in the alternative activity.**

\_\_\_\_ My child \_\_\_\_\_ may **NOT** participate in the classroom Valentine party. **I will pick my child up by 1:45.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Media Center Update**

**The media center will be selling gently used books to students for .50 cents each. The sale starts this Monday, January 30, and will be held until Friday, February 3. Students wishing to purchase books should come to the media center before school starts, and during recess.**