

Clearspring Weekly

Principal's Newsletter
December 16, 2011

"Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained."

James A. Garfield (1831 - 1881), July 12, 1880

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

While everyone is gearing up for the holiday season, we have a lot occurring here at school as well. **Be sure to print out the calendar to help keep track of the events!**

Worth Repeating:

As is tradition in the Damascus Community, the high school band travels to each elementary school to perform. The band will be here on **December 23rd** at 10:15 to lead the students in holiday songs. This is a great opportunity for our students to see and hear the band in action. Students in the high school band who once attended Clearspring are recognized as well (nice treat for teachers). The school has traditionally conducted a school-wide sing-along at the end of the day as well. This activity highlights traditional songs from a variety of holidays.

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.**

Mark your calendar now...Clearspring staff will present a **reading and math night on January 31st**. This will be an interactive evening for you and your children. More information will follow!

If your **child will be absent from school, please email the teacher, Barbara Brenner, Linda Baude, and Mary Ahearn**. This ensures that the message is received and we will not call your home to find out where your child is that day. The safe arrival calls (the automated calls we send) are provided to make sure your child is supposed to be out of school. If we hear from you, we won't send it. **You can also call the school 24 hours a day.** If your call comes in before or after business hours, you can leave a message.

It is important that parents who are dropping students off in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon at the **car riders' area remain in their cars**. Any disruption to this plan delays the arrival and dismissal process. Thank you for your cooperation!

As was mentioned in a previous Clearspring Weekly, Montgomery County Public Schools is in the process of implementing a visitor management system in all schools. The system has now been installed at Clearspring. We will **officially begin using the system after winter break**, but will, in the meantime, start to enter some of our visitors into the system. Please **bring your driver's license when you come into the building in the future**. 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. Please bear with us as we familiarize ourselves with this new procedure. Thank you.

During the principal's coffee two weeks ago, I shared with parents a resource which can be accessed on the following website: <http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/programs/ccss>. This site allows you to look at the **Internationally Driven Standards** (common core) which Maryland has adopted. These standards are used in the development of Curriculum 2.0. It's a lengthy document. Having the website will assist you in taking a look at what is coming to all grade levels in MCPS.

Is your child going home a different way? Write a note that day! Thank you!!!

Have a fabulous weekend!

Mrs. Steel

Celebrations

Congratulations to **Nicholas Portwood** who entered his art work into the Washington Post wrapping paper contest. He was one of fourteen children (out of 600 entries) selected as “adorable mention” for his art work! Congratulations Nicholas!!! The link is posted here:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/holiday-wrapping-paper-contest-adorable-mentions/2011/12/06/gIQAZkLVaO_gallery.html

Congratulations to **Evan Hu** who will be playing a piano solo at the Kennedy Center!!! Awesome job!!!

Husky News

Clearspring PTA FLES committee is offering a **beginning Chinese class** for the 12 week winter session starting in January 2012. The class will meet after school on Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:15 pm. A registration form is attached. Registration can also be done via the FLES website, www.fles.org. Registration closes December 19, 2011, so hurry to secure your child's spot in this exciting program! Registration is still open for beginning Spanish and beginning French winter 2012 sessions. Forms and information are attached. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Nancye Shipe at nas114@verizon.net

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>

SNOW IS DRAMATIC – SO IS WINTER DRAMA CLUB! It's time to sign up for the winter session of drama club – a registration form is attached and is also available at <http://shimpy4.wordpress.com/2011/12/09/winter-2012-drama/>. The class will run for 10 weeks, after winter break thru spring break. Your check will NOT be deposited until the first class runs, so don't delay – send in your registration TODAY! Any questions, please contact Karen Shimp at 301-933-2223 / shimpy4@verizon.net.

From the Art Room – Mrs. Mendoza uses Styrofoam egg cartons as paint holders in the art room. If you use these in your home, she would be most appreciative if you will send them in to school with your children. Thank you.

MCPS Updates