

College Gardens Elementary School

Principal's Updates from School: 1-20-12

This is one in a series of updates from College Gardens ES. Our "Principal's Updates from School" are scheduled for distribution weekly on Friday afternoons.

No School, Monday January 23, 2012

Monday, January 23 is a Professional Day for teachers. There is no school for students on this day. Thank you for your attention to this information.

Science Expo to be Scheduled

Are you interested in continuing our Science Expo tradition at College Gardens for our students? We need your help. We are looking for staff and parents to assist in serving as Science Expo 2012 co-chairs. Please contact our main office at 301-279-8470 if you'd like to help us continue this tradition for our College Gardens students.

Child Care Selection Committee

Child Care programs apply to serve as a school's before and after school child care provider every so many years once a contract expires. This year, College Gardens ES is in the Child Care Request for Application process.

The application submission period for interested before and after school licensed child care providers for College Gardens closed on December 2, 2011. Eleven applications were received including;

1. A Child's Hope
2. Bar-T
3. Children's Learning Academy
4. Global Children's Center
5. Kids Adventures
6. KidsCo. Inc.
7. Maryland Child Services, Inc.
8. MSA Childcare Academy
9. Petals Child Development Center
10. Precious Moments Family Daycare
11. School Age Opportunities for Achievement and Recreation (SOAR)

The next step in this process is to finalize our child care selection committee for College Gardens. This committee should represent the school's population and its needs for before and after school licensed child care. It is recommended that the committee be composed of:

- Parents who need child care (both full and part-time)
- Parents who do not have children attending the school now but will in a year or two.
- Members of the community.
- School staff such as teachers, building services or secretarial.
- School Administrator
- No more than 25% representation of parents using the current child care provider.

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The committee may be a minimum of three or a maximum of five members. All participants will be required to sign a non-disclosure form which states they have no vested financial interest in any of the child care providers who submitted applications for our school and serve as an unbiased participant. All applications and rating materials will be available to the committee members via a password protected website.

The deadline to complete all child care interviews is April 20, 2012. If you are interested in serving on the Child Care Selection Committee please contact John. Thank you.

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Our next two PTA Meetings will feature special speakers during our Principal's Presentation time slots. Mr. Michael Dushel, International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) Coordinator will present on "IB PYP in a Nutshell" during our February PTA Meeting. Mrs. Dian Rubiera, Staff Development Teacher (SDT), will be present on "Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS); Our Attitude Explosion!" during our March PTA Meeting.

Principals' Coffee

Due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts, there will be no Principal's Chat at our February or March PTA meetings. However, three Principal's Coffees have been planned. The dates and times for these coffees are below. There is no agenda for our Principal's Coffees, or for our Principal's Chats. These events provide an opportunity for parents to meet informally with the principal to discuss topics of their choice.

- Friday, January 27, Conference Room, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, February 24, Conference Room, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, March 23, Conference Room, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

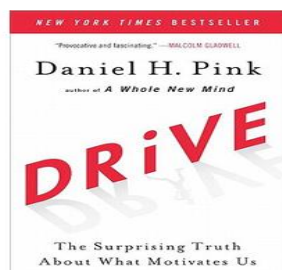
Superintendent's Book Club

The Next Book Club: "Drive" by Daniel Pink

- **Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012
- **Location:** Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Starr has selected "[Drive](#)" by Daniel Pink for his book club discussion on January 31. Parents, staff, students, and the community are invited to join the discussion as members of the studio audience. Viewers at home who wish to participate will be able to watch online or on TV and join the discussion via Twitter and email.

Those interested in being a part of the studio audience, please RSVP to pio@mepsmd.org.



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Winter Weather and Recess

As winter arrived, so did colder blustery weather. Please note that we plan for outdoor recess each day. Students should arrive at school each day dressed appropriately with a warm coat, gloves, scarf and hat as appropriate.

There are occasions when we will have indoor recess. If it is raining or if there is a wet snow, we will have indoor recess. If the outdoor weather temperature, with or without wind chill, is 28 degrees or higher we will have indoor recess.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please contact me if you have questions, 301-279-8470.

Lunar New Year Celebrations

College Gardens will celebrate the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. Two celebrations are scheduled, each in our All Purpose Room, as below;

Tuesday; 1-24-12

- 9:30 a.m.; Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade Students
- 2:30 p.m.; 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Students

Our Chinese Immersion Program students will be performing during each performance as below including the opportunity for all of our students to sing the last song.

- Kindergarten; 1 song
- 1st Grade; 1 song
- 2nd & 3rd Grades; 2 songs
- 4th & 5th Grades 2 songs
- Everyone; 1 song

We estimate that each performance will last 30 minutes. Additionally, our Chinese Immersion Program students are planning to once again perform during the Lunar New Year Celebrations at Lake Forest Mall. However, at this time, the specific date and time has yet to be decided.

Student Arrival & Dismissal Time

Our students' instructional day is from 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Students are expected to be seated in their classrooms no later than 9:15 a.m. Staff are on morning arrival duty from 8:55 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. and on afternoon dismissal duty from 3:25 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Thank you for all that you do to get your student to school on time.

Dates to Remember

- 1/20 PTA Family Movie Night – “Up”; All Purpose Room, Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.
- 1/23 No School for Students, Professional Day for Teachers
- 1/26 Instrumental Music Concert; All Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 1/30 PTA Community Dinner; Mama Wok, 595 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD

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