

# College Gardens Elementary School

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Principal's Updates from School: 1-6-12

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.

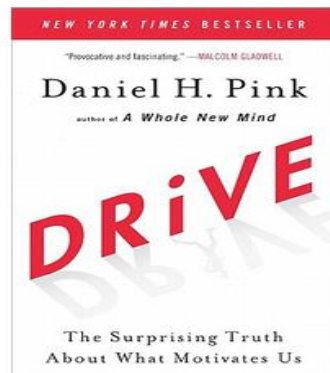
## **Superintendent's Book Club**

### **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@mcpsmd.org](mailto:pio@mcpsmd.org).



## **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.

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## **Visitor Management System**

The Visitor Management System is a network-based electronic visitor manager system. It has been installed at College Gardens ES. It assists 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 sign-out logs for visitors. The new system provides a computer, scanner and printer to our school. Visitor's 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 safe 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.

Additionally, we have been hearing good things about our Visitor Management System here at College Gardens. With a simple swipe of your driver's license, your presence at school is registered, your visitor's badge is printed and you're on your way to your volunteer duties. Our system is scheduled to be fully implemented Monday, January 9, 2012. Visitors will no longer sign-in and sign-out with paper and pencil.

Our Main Office staff on duty in the morning, Mrs. Barbara McGoldrick, Mrs. Armi Sardarbegians and Mrs. Connie Boorstein, will assist you with the process, get you checked in and on your way.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please feel free to contact us with 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, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students
- 2:30 p.m.; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

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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
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade; 1 song
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades; 2 songs
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget**

The Board will hold two public hearings on the superintendent's recommended budget on January 11 and 18, 2012. At this time, Richard Montgomery Cluster PTA Testimony is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2012 in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD. Testimony that night is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. However, our Cluster's specific time to testify has yet to be decided. The superintendent released his recommended operating budget on December 7, 2011.

## **Get Ready for Winter Weather**

Winter weather is coming soon. Stay on top of school closures, delayed openings or early dismissals by subscribing to the MCPS QuickNotes email news service, Alert MCPS or Twitter. Learn more about weather decisions on the MCPS emergency information website.

## **How to Receive MCPS Emergency Information**

### **MCPS Web: Home page**

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org>

Weather-related messages are posted in English and Spanish.

### **Email: QuickNotes**

Weather-related messages are sent in 6 languages (English, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese).

### **Text and Email: Alert MCPS**

Alert MCPS provides you with emergency information about school operations via text messages (i.e. SMS text or email messages) to devices you register. Signing up for Alert MCPS is free, but your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive text messages. This service is provided in collaboration with the Montgomery County government. Weather-related messages are sent in English and Spanish.

### **Text and Web: Twitter**

A Twitter account allows you to follow MCPS text-message updates on your computer or on your cell or other mobile device. Twitter updates will include emergency message and other school system news.

<http://twitter.com/mcps>

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## **TV: MCPS Cable Channels**

Emergency announcements are posted on the following cable channels.

Comcast Channel 34

Verizon Fios Channel 36

RCN Channel 89

## **Telephone Information Line: 301-279-3673**

Recorded emergency information.

## **Telephone: Ask MCPS: 301-309-6277**

Staff takes calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish.

## **Web: MCPS Newsfeed**

Receive alerts and news on your computer.

## **TV and Radio: Local Stations**

Tune in to local TV and radio stations for information.

## **Dates to Remember**

- 1/9 Chinese Immersion Program Parent Information Night; Media Center, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - 1/10 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Performance; All Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.
  - 1/11 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Performance; All Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.
  - 1/16 Holiday; Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Schools & Offices Closed
  - 1/18 Board of Education Public Hearing on the FY13 Operating Budget; Richard Montgomery Cluster Testimony Scheduled, 7:00 p.m., CESC, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD
  - 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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