

# College Gardens Elementary School

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Principal's Updates from School: 12-23-11

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.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Student Performance; The Lorax**

Kudos, congratulations and thank you to our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students for their performance of The Lorax! What a great presentation and performance by our students. Also, a very special thank you to our students, parents, staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team Leader – Mrs. Jennifer Pockett for all of the work and leadership resulting in such a great performance!

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Performance**

Kudos, congratulations and thank you to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus performed at White Flint Mall on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Our students did a great job performing as well as introducing the songs. Some 60 people were in the audience enjoying the sounds of the season sung by our very own College Gardens 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus. Also, a very special thank you to our students, parents, staff, 5<sup>th</sup> grade team and music teacher and choral director – Mrs. Sarah Meadows for all of the work and leadership resulting in such a great performance!

## **Superintendent's Listen & Learn Events**

Superintendent of Schools Joshua P. Starr has released a summary report on the 17 Listen and Learn events held with the community, staff and students over the past three months. More than 1,800 people attended the sessions and more than 560 people submitted written comments. The Listen & Learn Report can be found at:  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/superintendent/listen/ListenandLearn-Report.pdf>

## **Superintendent Seeks to Manage Growth, Recognize Employees**

Superintendent Joshua P. Starr is recommending a \$2.1 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year 2013. This is a 2 percent increase over the current budget and is the smallest requested increase in 12 years. The budget focuses on managing MCPS' growing enrollment and recognizing our outstanding educators.

## **Comment on the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget**

The Board will hold two public hearings on the superintendent's recommended budget on January 11 and 18, 2012. The superintendent released his recommended operating budget on December 7, 2011.

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## **Comment on the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget**

Interested in providing testimony to the Board of Education concerning the superintendent's recommended FY 2013 operating budget?

**Beginning on Monday, December 19, 2011, at 9 a.m., individuals wishing to testify must register by calling 301-279-3617. Individuals will receive three minutes to testify.**

- A person calling to speak may reserve only one space.
- Individuals and organizations may not cede time to others who have signed up or wish to sign up.
- The agenda for the hearing is closed when the maximum number of speakers is registered.
- Speakers are requested to submit their testimony to the Board of Education office at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. If the testimony is not submitted in advance, speakers are requested to provide 20 copies of their statement at the hearing, for distribution to the Board, staff, and press.
- Public hearings are recorded, televised, and transmitted via webcast.

## **Hearings and Work Sessions**

The schedule for Board of Education review, public hearings and action on the operating budget is as follows:

- **January 11 and 18, 2012** (7 p.m.) - the Board will hold public hearings on the superintendent's recommended budget. Answers to questions posed to staff by Board members during these hearings will be posted on the [Operating Budget website](#).
- **January 25 and 26, 2012** (6 p.m.) - the Board will hold work sessions on the superintendent's recommended budget
- **February 14, 2012** - the Board is scheduled to take action on the FY 2013 operating budget (This date may change so please check our web page for updated information.)
- **June 1, 2012** - The County Council must decide the amount of appropriations for each state category in the school system budget. Later, the Board of Education will make adjustments to the budget to conform to County Council action and to reflect the final judgment of the Board on expenditure priorities.

## **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).

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## **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**

## **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**

- 1/2 Holiday; New Year's Day, Schools & Offices Closed
  - 1/3 Students & Staff Return to School. Happy New Year!
  - 1/3 Principal's Chat; All Purpose Room, 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  - 1/3 PTA Meeting; All Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.
  - 1/6 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip; Imagination Stage, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
  - 1/9 Chinese Immersion Program Parent Information Night; Media Center, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
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