

September/October 2009

Albert P. DuPont, Ed.D, Principal
Stacey F. Rogovoy, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

Wow! What a great beginning. It's exciting to see everyone. I am as enthusiastic as ever to watch all of the new students enter and share the journey of this new school year with high expectations.

As the school year begins I look forward to seeing the staff and students make a difference through action. We have the power to choose, through our actions to make a conscious decision to make this the best year ever. Choose to have our academic performance be the best. Our athletic pursuits demonstrate good sportsmanship and our musical and artistic talents exemplify the creative arenas of life. If we make good choices, our actions will impact not just today but our future.

As always, the success of your child is a joint effort between school and home. I want to thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Albert P. DuPont, Ed.D.
Principal

PYP Corner

Transdisciplinary Skills

Throughout the Primary Years Programme, students acquire and apply a set of transdisciplinary skills: social skills, communication skills, thinking skills, research skills, and self-management skills. These skills are valuable, not only in the units of inquiry, but also for any teaching and learning that goes on within the classroom, and in life outside the school. At the beginning of each unit the students brainstorm examples of the skills that would be needed to be successful students throughout the unit of inquiry.

Setting Goals

What transdisciplinary skill will you be focusing on in your first unit of inquiry?

Student	Grade	Transdisciplinary Skills
Chloe	First Grade	I am going to work on communication skills. This will help me share my ideas with others.
Aiden	Second Grade	I am planning on working on my communication skills. This will help me work better in my groups.
Elvin	Third Grade	I am going to work on research skills. Our first unit is "It's All About Choices" I can research where things are made. I love to do research on the computer.
Ornelle	Fifth Grade	I plan on working on communication skills. I have a hard time asking questions in groups. I am going to be a risk-taker in class.
Corey	Fifth Grade	I am going to work on social skills. Last year I worked on thinking skills. It will help me in my inquiry group to share my ideas with others.

Chinese Immersion News



The first Chinese immersion parent information night will be held on October 6, 2009. We look forward to meeting our new parents, as well as seeing the many parents of our upper grade students. This year your student may have the opportunity to be taught direct Chinese literacy instruction by Ms. Hui Li our visiting teacher from China. The entire school community is excited to have a native speaker join our team and help increase the global minded learners in our school.

With the support of Dr. Weast's office and the Office of Chinese Language International (Hanban) on behalf of the Chinese government, Ms. Li's program is fully supported. She joins us with the mission to help others learn Chinese language and culture. This year all students at College Gardens will be instructed in Chinese. Please welcome Ms. Li to our family as we embark upon our new learning experience.

As each of you know, volunteers are critical to the success of students. College Gardens is fortunate to have such wonderful families who are willing to help. We are searching for a parent to help organize our Chinese New Year celebrations as well as committee members for this event. If you would like to join in on any of these efforts please contact Mr. Dushel.

Safety and Security



Safety Drills

During the first week of school, we had our first **fire drill**, and we will continue to have one a month through the end of the school year. In addition to our fire drill, we also will practice three other emergency drills called **CODE RED**, **CODE BLUE**, and a weather related **CODE BLUE**. A *Code Red* alerts staff that imminent danger exists

inside or outside the building and requires moving to an immediate lockdown mode. A **Code Blue** alerts staff that an emergency/crisis exists at or near an MCPS facility. It requires all students to be accounted for and under supervision. Staff members will discuss these types of drills with students. In the event of an all-school **evacuation**, the following on-campus site will be used: the athletic field at the far end of the property. If a situation arises in which we must **evacuate** to a safe location **away from the school** then we will use Rock Terrace School. Parents would be alerted of these situations using our Connect-ED calling system, so please make sure that the office has the correct telephone numbers on which you want to receive these calls.

Emergency Parent Reunification

In September, we requested you fill out an emergency authorization for release of student. It is important that you include a neighbor or friend on this sheet in the event that you cannot be contacted. This information is not used on a daily basis but only in a true emergency. If you have not yet returned this form, another copy will be sent home with your child. Please return this information as soon as possible.

Halloween Parties

Friday, October 30, 2009



Costumes:

Please do not send your children to school dressed in their costumes. At **1:30**, parents and volunteers can be on hand to help children get dressed. Please note that any costume accessories with pointy or sharp edges or that simulate dangerous weapons will not be allowed in school. We are requesting that items which may cause harm be left at home. These include such items as toy swords, pitchforks, guns, knives, etc. Any that are brought to school will need to be picked up by parents at the end of the day.

Parade:

At **2:00**, we will call classes down by grade level starting with 5th grade. The students will exit the building through the front doors. They will proceed around the building to the left, around the school following the sidewalk, and back down the field around the playground. Students will re-enter the building through the front doors and back to their classrooms. Parents may line up along the perimeter of the school to view the parade.

Rain Plan:

At **2:00**, we will call classes down to the front office area and proceed walking around the building on the first floor, and then back to their classrooms. Parents may line up along the perimeter of the hallway to view the parade.

Party:

At **2:30**, once back into the rooms the room parents will have organized games and snacks prepared for the party.

Dismissal:

At **3:00**, parties will end, and students will begin cleaning and preparing for dismissal. Any decorations that have been used should be taken down and discarded.

Parents who prefer that their children not participate in the costume parade and/or party, should contact their classroom teacher. Students who do not participate will go to the media center to work on class work.

From The Health Room



Greetings from the health room . We hope everyone is off to a safe and healthy school year. My name is Patricia Sapp and I am the school community health nurse for College Gardens. I am in the Health Room office on Thursdays. I can also be reached via e-mail at Patricia_F_Sapp@mcpsmd.org, I will answer your e-mail promptly. Jeanie Forte is the

School Health Room Aide and she is in the Health Room during school hours.

As you have already been informed College Gardens will have a flu vaccination clinic on Thursday, October 15. Please contact the health room if you have any questions.

Medication

If children must take medication at school, **you must bring a written order from the physician for prescription and over-the-counter medication.** Medication forms are available at school for parents and physicians to complete. Prescription medications should be in the original labeled bottle (keep home supply in your own container). All medications kept in school will be in a secured area, accessible only to authorized administering personnel. **Medications must be delivered and picked up from school by an adult. No child is permitted to bring medication to school.**

Allergy Alert

We have several students in our building with severe allergies. One of the most severe allergies affecting our students is to nuts. As a school community, we can work together to ensure the safety of all our students. Please remind your children not to share their food with other students as sometimes there may be an ingredient in the product that the children may not be aware. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse, Patricia Sapp, at 301-279-8470.

Please Note

Are you interested in volunteering at College Gardens this year?

Please join us for our volunteer orientation. We will cover topics such as:

- Safety and Security
- Sign up for training opportunities in math, reading/vocabulary, copying, and lunch/recess
- Behavior/Discipline
- Maintaining Confidentiality
- System policies and regulations

- General info: parking, school hours, master schedule, school calendar, location of restrooms, etc.

Join us for one on the two orientations:

- **Tuesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. after the PTA meeting**
- **Thursday, October 29, 2009 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Stacey Rogovoy, assistant principal, at 301-279-8470.

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. Saturday School Program Enrolling for 2009-2010 School Year

Give your child a jump-start on school by enrolling in the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. (GBTLA) Saturday School Program! The Learning Academy is a tutoring and mentoring program that enhances the academic performance and achievement of Montgomery County students in grades 1 through 12. This program helps children reach their academic potential through small group support in reading, mathematics, and test-taking skills.

The program runs from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings. During this time, certified teachers and volunteer tutors work with students in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, and learning/studying strategies. Secondary students also have access to computer labs to assist them in researching information for assignments and learning valuable technology skills.

The GBTLA is open to all students who desire to improve or enhance their academic growth and achievement. Centers are located in twelve high schools throughout the County. Students can enroll at any of the twelve centers, however, students typically enroll at the center that is in their home school cluster – in this case, the Rockville High School Center.

Once enrolled, students must meet high academic and behavioral expectations, including regular attendance. They are required to share quarterly report cards with tutors, who use the information to plan tutoring activities and monitor student progress.

Registration and Opening Day information is below and the GBTLA encourages parents to register their students at the beginning of the year. However, if students aren't able to enroll at this time, parents may enroll them at any time throughout the year by coming to one of the centers listed above on any Saturday morning. Parents must complete a registration form (including student ID number), pay a \$30 registration fee, and provide a copy of their child(ren)'s most recent report card. Registration forms are available in the main office of all cluster schools and online at www.gbtlearningacademy.org. If you have questions about the program, please call the GBTLA's main office at 301-320-6545.

2009 GBTLA Opening Day

Date: October 3, 2009

Student and Parent Orientation: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Registration: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Location: All Learning Academy Centers

LEARNING ACADEMY CENTERS

Sherwood High School

Springbrook High School

Paint Branch High School

John F. Kennedy High School

Northwest High School

Montgomery Blair High School

Gaithersburg High School

Wheaton High School

Albert Einstein High School

Watkins Mill High School

Col. Zadok Magruder High School

Rockville High School



Snacks

If you would like to provide your child with a snack to be consumed during the school day, please be sure it is a "healthy snack." Some examples may be, apple slices, carrot sticks, grapes, etc. Remember, many classes are peanut free, please check with the classroom teacher before sending in snacks with any peanut product. Classroom teachers will make individual decisions as to the time for snack.



Dropping Off Your Child in the Morning

The kiss and ride area should be used if you are dropping off your child. Please stay in your car, there are staff members at the side of the school to assist with the kiss and ride process. For the safety of your children, please do not drop off your children prior to 9:00 a.m. as there are no staff members to supervise students. Staff members are present from 9:00 a.m. until 9:15 a.m. (Please see the attached map.)



Dismissal

Patrols will be called to take their duty stations at **3:20**. The pack up announcement will occur at this time.

At 3:23:

Kindergarten walkers and car riders will be dismissed from their classrooms. Bus riders will go to the gymnasium for dismissal.

At 3:26:

First and second grade bus riders will sit in bus lines; walkers and car riders will be dismissed from the gymnasium lobby.

At 3:29

Students of grades three, four, and five bus riders will sit in bus lines; walkers and car riders will be dismissed from the gymnasium lobby.



Make an Appointment Please

We do value your input and we understand that you know your children best. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please be sure to make an appointment or write a note if you would like to give them information about your child.



Main Office

The beginning of the school day is an exciting time but it can also be a very busy time in the main office. Please understand that our first priority throughout the instructional day is our students.

Throughout the day, it is mandatory that **ALL** visitors sign in at the main office before going anywhere in the building. This expectation is a critical safety priority for our entire school.

If your child forgets his/her lunch or homework, please bring it to the main office. We will not disrupt instructional time to call a student from class. Please explain to your child in advance, that if they forget something he/she should stop by the office on the way to lunch.

Please make all afternoon arrangements prior to the beginning of the school day. We cannot interrupt instruction to remind students to ride the bus, go to an after school activity, go to a friend's house, etc. If your child is going home on a bus other than his/her regular bus, you must send a note in with your child.



Giant and Safeway Registration- Earning Our School Money

It is time again to register for Giant A+ bonus bucks and Safeway eScrip.

Last year with leadership from the PTA, College Gardens received over \$6,000 from your support of these programs. We are encouraging all parents to bring their Giant and Safeway card information to your conference. We will be signing parents up that day in the classrooms. So, don't forget to bring your Giant and Safeway numbers with you. You can

also sign up your friends, relatives, and neighbors, who are willing to support CGES!



Cell Phones

Please note the following information is derived from MCPS policy on personal communication devices (PCD): PCD refer to any device carried, worn, or stored by students to receive or communicate messages. Such devices may include but are not limited to portable pagers, hand-held radios, and cellular telephones. This definition may also include any new technology developed for similar purposes. Excluded from this definition is any device with communication capabilities that has been approved for instructional purposes.

Elementary school students are **NOT** allowed to have such devices in their possession during the school day unless a written request from a parent or guardian is submitted to the principal. There will be a case by case review of all waiver requests. Waivers may be granted based on consideration of such factors as: safety to and from school, communication during off campus activities, or medical concerns. Other factors may be considered at the principal's discretion. When waivers are in place, the device will be stored with the teacher or in the main office during the instructional day. Violation of this regulation will result in confiscation of the device and will trigger a parent conference to discuss the issue. Questions regarding this policy should be addressed to Dr. DuPont.

Montgomery College Youth Programs

Piano Classes for Young Children – Classes will be held at the Rockville Campus beginning September 12. For more information or to register for this program please call Sharon Wolfgang at 240-567-7264.



Keep it Home

Many students have been bringing non-instructional items to school. Please speak with your child about the following three categories of non-instructional items that should be kept at home.

1. All play equipment and toys (i.e., cards, action figures, balls, electronic games, etc) not used for instruction. A variety of appropriate play equipment is provided at school for indoor and outdoor recess, as well as physical education.
2. Anything that could be viewed as a weapon, such as pocketknives, metal nail files, carving tools, etc. These items will be confiscated if they are brought to school and could lead to disciplinary action including suspension.
3. Valuable jewelry, any other special or precious items of sentimental value, and gifts of money can be lost or misplaced if brought to school.

We cannot be responsible for lost items. If it is important to you, please leave it at home.

ESOL Language Lines

MCPS has made available phone lines for parents needing translation service. Parents may call the following phone numbers:

- Spanish 301-230-5403
- Cambodian 301-230-5427
- Chinese 301-230-5428
- French 301-230-5429
- Korean 301-230-5430
- Vietnamese 301-230-5432

Special Events Walk to School Day



College Gardens Elementary School in coordination with Montgomery County Government, we will be sponsoring an International “Walk to School Day”, Wednesday, October 7. We will gather at various locations and walk to school together in groups called “walking school buses.” We do not have the police as escorts this year; therefore, parents are encouraged to walk with their children for safety reasons. The walking stations are:

1. The corner of Yale Place and Rutgers Street.
Please arrive by 8:50 a.m.
2. The corner of Nelson Street and Aster Blvd.
Please arrive by 8:40 a.m.
3. West Gude Drive and Watkins Pond Blvd.
Please arrive by 8:30 a.m.



Open House

On Monday, October 12, 2009 Montgomery County Public Schools is having the annual parent visitation day. We look forward to seeing many parents between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. observing our instructional program in action. Visitors are asked to enter the building through the front door, sign in, and obtain a visitor badge prior to proceeding to the classroom. Unfortunately, we do not have the space or supervision for younger brothers and sisters on this day. Therefore, siblings should not attend. We will be following our normal schedule so this will be a time for quiet observation in the classrooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kids College

Montgomery College Workforce Development & Continuing Education Youth Programs is offering enrichment courses for students in grades 1-12. Courses cover a variety of topics, including art,

reading, writing, technology and much more. Classes begin on October 7, 2009. Register through the website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth or call 240-567-7917.

The Lunch Room



As the new school year begins, food service and nutrition department have a few announcements for parents:

Prices:

- Lunch: \$2.50
- Breakfast \$1.30
- Milk \$0.60

Parents can view and deposit money into their child's lunch accounts by going to www.mylunchmoney.com. Enrolling and viewing accounts are free. Small fees however are charged to visa payments. Another website to note is the Montgomery County Public School's website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org under "For Parents." You may find the menu for the month as well as nutrition and allergen facts on the lunches or breakfasts we serve.

At the end of every week, if your child's lunch account balance is below \$20.00, account information is printed out and sent home. Please check your child's backpack to keep track of how much money is being spent.

Students eligible for free or reduced meals need to apply. An application is sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. Please submit completed applications to the school or the division of food and nutrition services as soon as possible. Previous students who have enrolled in this program must reapply before the benefits from last year expire on October 13.

When sending in a check for your child's lunch account, please include the following information:

- Your child's full name, **not** their nickname.
- Your child's pin # (4 digits), **not** their student ID.

Please be sure to put money into your child's account on a regular basis. The main office will lend students money for lunch or breakfast, when necessary. It is requested that you return the lunch loan to the main offices as soon as possible. Lunch account checks cannot reimburse the main office. Please send reimbursements for lunch loans directly to the main office in cash.

Dates to Remember

October

Hispanic Heritage Month

Disability Awareness Month

- 1 Interims go home
- 2 Early Release Day
- 5 Fall Pictures
Pedestrian and Bike Safety Week during PE
- 6 CI Parent Information Night 6-7 p.m.
PTA meeting 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 7 Walk your Child to School Day
- 12 Open House for Parents
- 19 Kindergarten to Sharps Farm
Grade 2 to Olney Theatre
NAACP Parent Council Mtg at RMHS
7-8:30 p.m.
- 27 NAACP meeting CGES 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 28 School Tour 2:30 p.m.
- 29 Volunteer orientation 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Family Reading Night 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.
- 30 Halloween Parties 2:00 p.m.