

THE DAMASCUS DRAGON

Family Newsletter

*Damascus Elementary School
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School Web Site

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/damascuses>

DAMASCUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!: We would like to wish all of our community a very happy new year! We are looking forward to getting started with our busy second half of the school year.

WINTER CONCERT: Please mark your calendar! We will have our annual Winter concert on Thursday, January 12, 2012. The chorus and instrumental band will perform for our students at 2:15PM and then again for our community at 7:00PM. Students who are in the band or chorus are asked to wear their concert dress (white tops, black pants or skirts) that day to school and for the night performance. We hope to see you there!!!



State Testing for Grades 3-5 The dates for MSA testing have been set by the Maryland State Department of Education. The first day of testing is Monday, March 12, 2012! These tests are extremely important and it is imperative that your child is in school for these tests.

Please keep this in mind as you plan your spring break vacation. Every student must take these tests and there is a very limited window in which to do so. The complete testing window is Monday, March 12 through Friday, March 28, 2012.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL: As the new year arrives, we wanted to remind you that your child's attendance at school is critical. In order to maximize instructional time for our students, please make every effort to prepare your student to arrive to school **on time everyday**. Thank you for your support.



MCPS PARENT ACADEMIES!

Don't miss the great lineup of free MCPS Parent Academy workshops this winter. The workshops get under way in January. Parents can attend a session on Curriculum 2.0, anxiety in children, and cyber safety to name a few. Please be looking for an informational flyer that will be sent home with students. Additional information and online registration is available:
www.mcpsparentacademy.org

MOVIE NIGHT IS HERE! Please mark your calendars for Movie Night! This will take place on Friday, January 13. Doors open at 6:20 and the movie will start promptly at 6:30pm. Light snacks will be available for this event which will take place in the gym. We hope to see you there!

PICTURES NEEDED! We Need Pictures for the DES 2011-2012 Yearbook! Please send any pictures taken at DES events and parties to ChrisDESPTA@gmail.com.

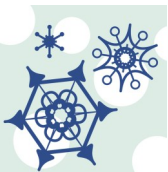
VOLUNTEER WORK GROUP: Thursday, January 12th from 9:30-11:30. This is a great opportunity to help out the classroom teachers while socializing with friends. With the budget cuts and staff reductions, our help is needed more than ever. The volunteer group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 9:30-11:30. Tasks include copying, coloring, laminating, and cutting to help the teachers prepare materials to be used in our children's classrooms. This is also an opportunity for those of us with young children to be able to volunteer. The group meets in the all purpose room and parents are welcome to bring quiet activities to occupy younger children while you help with the group. There is no obligation to come every time, just when it works with your schedule. We would love to have you anytime!! Future dates include: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/8, 3/22, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, 5/24, 6/7.



BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION! We would like to thank all of our community for sending in Box Tops for Education for our school. We are happy to announce that DES received a check for \$531.00!!! This money will be used to help support the instructional programs at DES! Thanks so much for your support and please continue to send in those box tops!!!!



SCIENCE FAIR! The Science Fair is coming February 27th!!! Is your child participating? Anyone can!! Information was shared this week. If your child is interested in participating, please complete the science fair packet. If you need an extra copy, we have extras in the office. We hope to have MANY participants!!



DRESS WARMLY FOR RECESS: IT IS WINTER: We are continuing to find many children who are unprepared for the temperature or weather changes during the day. It is VERY important that students have coats with them each morning. Gloves or mittens and a hat also are beneficial. Students unprepared for cold conditions will remain outside with classmates as we have no supervision inside for students who are cold. We go outside every recess unless the temperature is below freezing.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Vol. Work Group Winter Concert 7:00-8:30	13 Movie Night 7PM	14
15	16 <i>NO SCHOOL Holiday</i>	17 Assembly Math Magic 2:15PM	18	19	20 <i>2nd Marking Period Ends</i>	21
22	23 <i>No School for Students Professional Day</i>	24 <i>3rd Quarter Begins</i>	25 Cluster Chorus Concert DHS 7PM	26 <i>Flyer Distribution Date Vol. Work Group</i>	27	28
29	30 Baker MS Parent Ori- entation Mtg.—7PM	31	1 Cluster Band Concert DHS 7PM	2	3	4