



Blue Note: Galway Chronicle

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THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER—MS. CURTIS

Happy New Year! We have just about reached the mid-year mark and I am so delighted with the progress our students are making both academically and in the social-emotional area as well. The guidance schedule is going to be brimming with exciting and relevant lessons that can help our students continue to be successful. In addition, I will begin establishing small counseling groups for students that need a little more support. These counseling groups range in topics from social skills, changing family situations to self-esteem. If you believe your child could benefit from participating in a small counseling group, please contact me so that we can discuss. I will be obtaining recommendations from teachers in the coming weeks so that we can begin forming and conducting the groups.

NO SCHOOL – 1/16 & 1/23

Reminder – There is no school for students on **Monday, January 16, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, and **Monday, January 23, a Professional Day** for teachers to complete report cards and teacher comments for students.

INDEPENDENT READING IS IMPORTANT

Children who have 500 or more books in the home get on average 3 years more schooling than children in bookless homes. Even just 20 books makes a difference. The availability of reading material has a strong impact on a child's education. On holidays and birthdays expand your children's collection by suggesting that relatives give them books, magazine subscriptions or bookstore gift cards.

• Improve your children's reading comprehension by discussing books that you read together. For example, you might compare one story to another or to your own experiences. Help your youngsters figure out unfamiliar words. You can suggest that they sound them out or use other words in the sentence or paragraph to make a good guess. For example, if they stumble on the word *buttoned* in the sentence "Kelly buttoned her coat before going outside." Ask, "What would she do to a coat that starts with the letter B?" Read, read, read!

Having your children read independently every day is important. Research shows that reading 10 to 15 minutes daily shows a 20 percentile point increase on standardized tests. Students who read 45 minutes a day usually score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests! Here are suggestions for motivating your children to read more:

- ◆ Keep reading material handy so your children can pick it up any time. Have books, magazines and newspapers on shelves or in baskets around the house.

MATH ROARS AT GALWAY ES

We are so excited to announce that we are introducing a new home-school math connection for our students and families to increase student automaticity and number sense. Our students will receive a monthly Math Facts calendar beginning in January, 2011. We are asking that parents work with their child on various math facts every evening for 5-10 minutes. Students will receive a Principal's Math Award and reward from Ms. Stanislaus upon completion of the calendar. Information regarding the home-school math initiative is on the calendar that is attached. Thank you for supporting this initiative and have a great math time!!!



Calendar Items

- Tues. Jan. 10 - Highly Gifted Center Testing (Grade 3 students who applied)**
Fri. Jan. 13 - Progress Reports go home
Mon. Jan. 16 - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Wed. Jan. 18 - Chuck E Cheese 3:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Mon. Jan. 23 - NO SCHOOL—Professional Day
Wed. Feb. 1 - Grade 4 Native American Museum 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Principal's Comments!

Dear Galway Families,
The second marking period ends on **Friday, January 20**. Students do not attend school on **Monday, January 23**. This day is designated as a Professional Day for teachers to complete report cards. **Report card distribution** is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 1**.
Ms. Stanislaus
Principal

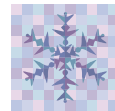
INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS

MCPS schools may close due to inclement weather such as: snow, ice, or other emergency conditions, announcements will be broadcasted on local radio and TV stations. **Parents are urged NOT to call the school.** Parents should call 301- 279-3673 for an MCPS recorded message. If you have internet access, you can sign up for free e-mail messages regarding school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/>.

Delayed Opening: A county decision about a two-hour delayed opening is made by 6:00 a.m. If there is a two-hour delayed opening, classes start at 11:10 a.m. **Please do not drop off students before 10:50 a.m.** Students will have lunch at their normal scheduled time. Buses run on a two-hour delayed schedule.

Early Dismissal: A county decision about an early dismissal is made by 11:00 A.M. If it is necessary to close school two and half hours early, students are dismissed at 1:00 p.m. Students will have lunch before their normal scheduled time. Buses are expected to arrive at the bus stops two and half hours before their normal scheduled time.

Since this decision affects every school in the county, students will be released as normal (walkers, car riders, bus riders), so special permission for dismissal will not apply in this situation. Therefore, parents should have a back-up plan for someone else to pick up their children in the event that they are unable to pick-up. Please go over this plan with your children so when school is dismissed early or unexpectedly, they will know what to do. **Students will only be released to individuals on the MCPS student emergency form.**



Homework Help Available on MCPS Web

MCPS has a variety of available homework resources to help students. Many of these resources are subscription-based and accessible with a user name and password. Students can get this information from the media specialist.

The public libraries also have a wealth of useful resources, such as homework help websites for students in kindergarten through Grade 5 and for students in Grades 6–12. Students can get a free library card on the public libraries website: www.montgomerycountymd.org/library.

SCHOOL SAFETY

In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, we would like to remind parents of the expectations of all visitors and volunteers. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers:

All volunteers are reminded to please check in at the main office to obtain a sticker. If you are volunteering in a classroom, you must coordinate your visit with your child's teacher.

Please remember to sign out to record your volunteer hours in the computer log.

Visitors:

If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please arrange for this in advance. You can leave a message with the main office secretaries, you may e-mail the teacher, or you may send a note with your child. If you have a meeting scheduled with your child's teacher, please sign in at the main office to obtain a visitor sticker.