



Blue Note: Galway Chronicle

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Home of the Galway Lions where Readers are Leaders!

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THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER—MS. CURTIS

As we continue to promote tolerance and a bully-free environment at Galway Elementary, we were fortunate enough to host the, "Everyone Belongs" assembly. The assembly provided students in grades 3-5 and staff members with strategies that can prevent and help students appropriately respond to various forms of bully behavior. Teachers were also provided resources and posters to reinforce the powerful messages that were shared. You can help by continuing to discuss with your child the importance of reporting any form of bully behavior to adults so that we can immediately address it. In addition, encourage your child to not be a "bystander" when they observe others being put-down or hurt, instead help others by getting assistance from an adult or by being a friend.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT

When your child is absent, please do the following:

Call the Galway Elementary office (301-595-2930) the morning of the absence to let the office staff know that your child will not be attending school and the reason for the absence.

On the day your child returns to class, follow up with a written note that includes: • Child's full name • Child's grade and teacher • Date(s) of absence • Reason for absence • Parent's/guardian's signature

Please remember - If your child is late for school, a parent/guardian **MUST** bring the child to the office to obtain a tardy slip. **Absences for vacation purposes are considered unexcused absences. Students should not be taken out of school for this reason!**

PROCEDURES FOR INSUFFICIENT LUNCH ACCOUNTS

The following are the county procedures to be followed if a student does not have sufficient money for meals. Please make sure your child has sufficient funds throughout the school year, to ensure that he/she gets to order the lunch he/she prefers.

1. Students will receive a letter informing parents when their account balances go lower than \$5.00.
2. The student account will be allowed to reach a maximum of (-\$ 10.00).

If \$-10.00 is reached, the student will receive a cheese sandwich (made in the cafeteria), and the student will be billed 25¢.

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

Join us tomorrow for our second annual Back-to-School picnic sponsored by our wonderful PTA. The picnic will be held at Galway ES on the blacktop, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Please bring your own picnic lunch. Snacks will be available. There will be a DJ, games, and special events.



Calendar Items

- Sat. Sept 17 - **Back-to-School Picnic**
11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
- Wed. Sept. 21 - **AM Pre-K Back-to-School Night 6:30 p.m.**
- Thurs. Sept 22 - **PM Pre-K Back-to-School Night 6:30 p.m.**
- Fri. Sept. 23 - Progress Reports go home (Grades 1 - 5)
- Wed. Sept. 28 - **Early Release Day - 1:00 p.m.**
- Thurs. Sept. 29 - **NO SCHOOL - Rosh Hashanah**
- Thurs. Oct. 6 - **Dads - N - Donuts & 45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**
- Tues. Oct. 4 - **PTA Night 7:00 p.m.**
- Mon. Oct. 10 - **ESOL Night 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**
- Wed. Oct. 12 - **Grade 5 Field Trip to Strathmore Hall**

Principal's Comments!



Dear Families,

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL FORMS/APPLICATIONS

Each family should have received a Free and Reduced Meal Form/Application. These forms/applications need to be returned **only** if you are applying for Free or Reduced meals. If your child received free or a reduced payment meal last year, **you must reapply**. These students will continue to receive free or reduced meals only until October 1, unless they are re-approved this year. All applications must be returned ASAP.

Sincerely,
Ms. Stanislaus, Principal

THE GEORGE B. THOMAS SR. LEARNING CENTER

The Saturday School program is a tutoring and mentoring program for students in grades 1 through 12. Certified teachers and volunteers work with students on core subjects. In addition, participants will be taught strategies to assist them to be successful in school. Saturday School is available at **Springbrook High School and Paint Branch High School**. The parent selects the sight his/her child will attend.

Parents who are interested in registering their children early may pre-register at Springbrook High School and Paint Branch High School. Opening Day and Orientation will be held on September 24th at the Learning Academy Centers (Springbrook High School and Paint Branch High School). Students/parents must attend the orientation from 8:30 a.m.- 9:15 a.m. Additional information can be found on the following website: <http://www.GBTLEARNINGACADEMY.ORG>. **This is a great opportunity for our students!**

KIDS COLLEGE

Montgomery College Workforce Development & Continuing Education Youth Programs is offering enrichment and advancement courses for students in grades 2 - 12.

These courses, held on the Rockville campus, cover a wide range of topics including:

Aggressive Learning for Middle School Students
 Financial Fitne\$\$ for Teens
 Keyboarding for Computers
 Leadership Skills
 Teen Fiction Writing (online)
 Mathematics Enrichment Program
 Music Preparatory Program
 And more...

Courses fill quickly, so register now! For brochures or registration forms, access our website at <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthpdf/kidscollege.pdf> For additional information, contact **YOUTH PROGRAMS** office 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917. **Asistencia en Español Disponible**

RESOURCES FOR OUR PARENTS

MCPS has several resources to help parents and the community stay on top of school system activities and resources. Here's how to stay connected:

MCPS Website

Check out the MCPS website for regular news updates. The Parents page, is packed with resources, useful tips and upcoming deadlines for parents.

ASK MCPS Coffees

Hosted by the Department of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP), these meetings give parents and community members an opportunity to ask questions and get information on school system programs and services. Parents also can learn how to stay in touch via Edline and other MCPS Web resources. Mark your calendar for this fall's ASK MCPS Coffee - **Thursday, Oct. 6, from 4-7 p.m. in DFCE's offices, 850 Hungerford Drive, Suite 50 in Rockville.**

Alert MCPS Alert MCPS provides you with emergency information about school operations via text and/or email sent to your cell phone or other electronic devices. Messages are sent in English and Spanish.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter and receive school system news, emergency messages and important reminders on your computer or mobile device.

Participate in Community Roundtables

Two community roundtables for parents, staff, students and other community members will be held on Wed., Oct. 12, and Thurs., Oct. 27. The roundtables provide an opportunity to offer input on the school system's strategic plan. Information shared at the forums will be used to help set priorities for the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget. Parent Advisory Council Seeks 15 New Members

The MCPS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) provides a great opportunity for parents to become involved and offer important input to the school system. The 30-member PAC works with the Department of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP) to provide feedback on systemwide parent outreach. Council members must be parents with at least one child in the school system, and be able to serve a two-year term. The PAC meets Mondays eight times a year at Carver Educational Services Center in Rockville and is currently seeking 15 new members. Nominations are due September 23. The first two meetings of the year are on October 17 and November 14. Download nomination forms or call DFCE at 301-279-3100 for more information.