

## THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a pleasant and relaxing Winter Break! We are back to work with energy and enthusiasm to conclude the **first semester of school on January 22, 2012**, and then begin our second semester. Quarterly conferences are held typically just for the first quarter; subsequent quarterly reports are sent home in the form of narrative comments, accompanied by the student progress reports. Of course, if you would like a conference at any time with your child's teacher(s), please contact the teacher(s) to schedule one.

We have many exciting events taking place this month, to include our PTA-sponsored **Spirit Night** at India Palace on January 18<sup>th</sup> and our school-sponsored **Family, Fun, and Fitness Night** on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The latter event is organized by our Gibbs Wellness Committee, chaired by our Physical Education Teacher, Mr. Benco.

As winter weather continues, please remember to stay tuned to local television and radio announcements for school delays and closings. If the temperature is **25 degrees** or above with the wind chill, students will go out for recess, so please remind students to bring heavier coats, hats, and gloves to keep them warm outside.

**On January 4<sup>th</sup>, we inventoried our lost and found, which is located on the stage in the cafeteria. We have the following items unclaimed: 49 hats, 51 coats, 48 gloves, 11 scarves, 37 sweaters/shirts, 1 pair of glasses, 3 pairs of pants, 5 lunchboxes, 5 umbrellas, and 1 water bottle. It is announced and children are encouraged during lunchtimes to look for missing items. Parents are also welcome to come to the school and look through the lost and found for missing items. On January 27<sup>th</sup> at our Family, Fun, and Fitness Night, we will have all the items displayed in the main street hallway. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, all unclaimed items will be donated to a local elementary school in need and a local charity.**

We have an additional reminder regarding **family vacations, trips, etc.** According to MCPS policy, when students are absent for vacations, family celebrations, etc., these are considered unexcused absences. Excused absences for students are usually related to medical issues, bereavement for immediate family members, etc. In regard to unexcused absences, students are not provided classwork or homework ahead of time, prior to their departure. Students are given ample time upon their return to school to complete any missed work. Also, when students are absent for 15 consecutive school days, they are automatically withdrawn from school, and need to be re-enrolled upon return. Students are not guaranteed the same homeroom assignment upon their return if they have been withdrawn from school. Please keep this in mind as you plan family trips.

The following is information regarding three opportunities to **nominate an outstanding Gibbs ES teacher** for one of three distinguished awards. ***The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Award*** recognizes tenured fulltime teachers in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who have demonstrated a record of promoting student success. There is also a first year teacher award for those teachers that contribute to the professional learning community of students, staff, and parents. ***The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award*** is to recognize fulltime Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, three of which must be in MCPS. ***The Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award*** honors extraordinary elementary teachers with a deep dedication to the teaching profession. These teachers, Prekindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade must work directly with students in the classroom on a daily basis, demonstrating knowledge of subject matter and effectively communicating with students. To access nomination materials and specific guidelines, go to the link below or visit the MCPS website on the Office of Human Resources webpage under "Awards and Recognition."

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/awards/>

If you have any questions, please contact us. Have a joyous January!

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal  
301-353-0800  
[Kimberly\\_B\\_Bosnic@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kimberly_B_Bosnic@mcpsmd.org)

Yolanda Allen, Asst. Principal  
301-353-0800  
[Yolanda\\_R\\_Allen@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Yolanda_R_Allen@mcpsmd.org)

### **Important January Dates!**

January 2nd: Holiday! No School for Students and Staff  
January 3rd: School resumes; Grade Level Newsletters Come Home: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. The Literacy School Committee will have a presentation for parents.  
January 16th: Holiday! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! No School for Students and Staff  
January 17th: Mad Science in-house field trip for 2nd grade classes: Mrs. Boyce and Mrs. Gupta, 9:30-11:45 a.m.  
January 18th: Mad Science in-house field trip for 2nd grade classes: Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Remson, 9:30-11:45 a.m.; PTA-sponsored Spirit Night at India Palace  
January 19th: Mad Science in-house field trip for 2nd grade classes: Mrs. Altuner and Mrs. Jakiun, 9:30-11:45 a.m.  
January 20th: Second Marking Period Ends  
January 23rd: No School for Students! Report Card Preparation Day for Teachers  
January 24th: Third Marking Period Begins; Principal's Coffee, 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
January 26th: Highly Gifted Center Testing for Third Grade Student Applicants  
January 27th: Family, Fun, and Fitness Night!  
January 30th: Hearing and Vision Screening for all Kindergarteners, First Grade Students, and Students new to MCPS  
January 31st: Hearing and Vision Screening for all Kindergarteners, First Grade Students, and Students new to MCPS; Fifth Grade Field Trip, 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

