

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2011

Dear Parents,

We have just completed our first quarter of the school year, and we hope your children have enjoyed the beginning of the school year at Gibbs ES! We already have had a number of parent and family activities hosted by the school and our wonderful PTA! Most recently, we have hosted our Math and Literacy Night, and the PTA hosted our Fall Harvest Festival. Thank you to our PTA!

As we begin our second quarter, please know that parent communication is very important to us. Parent conferences with homeroom and reading initiative teachers (at first and second grades) are quickly approaching on the two early dismissal days, November 10th and November 11th. If your child has a separate math teacher, please feel free to contact the math teacher to set up a conference after November 11th if you think you need more information regarding math progress. Many of our math teachers provide the homeroom teachers with a math update that can be reviewed with you during your November 10th or 11th conference. Also, at any time during the year, you can request a conference with your teacher to get additional updates or ask questions. Our school policy is that your communication will be responded to within 24 hours, so email and phone calls also are good, quick ways to communicate with your child's teacher. Teachers and parents working together as a team promote student success!

The Ident-A-Kid program is coming to our school on Friday, November 4th. This is a child safety program and the representatives will photograph, fingerprint, weigh and measure children. An application envelope will be coming home this week and you can return it to your child's homeroom teacher if you would like this service. An identification card is created at the cost of \$8.00 for one card, \$10.00 for two cards, and \$13.00 for three cards. Please feel free to contact the program director, Donna Aversa-Smith at daversasmith@indentakid.com or 443-275-1543 with any questions.

We have just a few gentle reminders for our parents regarding lunch and recess here at Gibbs. We are fortunate at Gibbs to have two microwaves available in our cafeteria for students to heat up food items. Please only pack items that need to merely be re-heated for 30 seconds to a minute. We have many students wanting to heat lunches and if an item takes longer than a minute to re-heat, then it can take a while for students to get through the microwave line, and we want all students to have enough time to eat their lunches. Please do not send in the packets of microwave popcorn, as they take 2 to 3 minutes to pop, and our limit is 1 minute at the microwave per student. In regard to recess, as the season gets chillier, please remind your child to bring to school a jacket, hat, and gloves as needed. Please note your child's name somewhere on these items.

For parents of third grade students that have applied for the Highly Gifted Center at Clearspring Elementary School, all applications must be postmarked by November 7th.

Please note the important dates below, and don't hesitate to call the office with any questions.

Kimberly Bosnic
Principal
301-353-0800

Kimberly_B_Bosnic@mcpsmd.org

Yolanda Allen
Asst. Principal
301-353-0800

Yolanda_R_Allen@mcpsmd.org

Important November Dates

11/1: Second marking period begins; Newsletters go home; 6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting

11/3: 6:30 p.m. Study Circles Session 2

11/4: 10:45 a.m. Ident-A-Kid Program

11/5: Daylight Savings Time Begins; Set clocks back by one hour

11/7: Highly Gifted Center applications due with postmark

11/10: 9:30 a.m. Flag Ceremony with American Legion for fourth and fifth grade students; Report cards go home; 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal; Flumist Vaccine by Appointment, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Parent conferences; 6:30 p.m. Study Circle Session 3

11/11: 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal; Parent conferences

11/17: 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Grade 2 to Strathmore for concert; 6:30 p.m. Study Circle Session 4

11/18: 6:30-9:00 p.m. PTA Turkey Bingo

11/21: 9:30-11:00 a.m. Grandparents' Day Tea

11/23: 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal

11/24 and 11/25: Thanksgiving Holiday! No School for Students and Staff!

11/29: 7:00 p.m. Chorus Concert at Gibbs ES

