

## THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2011

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy first month of school, and we are full speed ahead with establishing school-wide procedures and routines, and teaching our curriculum. Thank you for all of your support during this first month as we got the school year underway. We have many exciting events coming up, so please make sure to add the dates below to your home calendars.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Walk to School Day! This is an opportunity to reduce vehicle emissions and promote exercise! The Clarksburg Transportation Depot will work collaboratively with us to provide opportunities for our bus riders to also walk (at least partially) to school. Bus drivers will drop off students at Autumn Rose Way and we will have Gibbs ES staff members there to greet them and escort the students to the main entrance. We encourage parents on that day that normally go in the Kiss and Ride loop to walk to school with their children, if possible, and if your schedules allow.

Our Clarksburg Cluster Fun Run will be on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The proceeds will benefit individual school PTAs. We want to extend a big thank you to all of our parent and PTA organizers for this fitness event! This event will bring together all the elementary schools, Rocky Hill MS, and Clarksburg HS school communities.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have Parent Visitation Day, from 9:15 a.m. to 12noon, for all classes Prekindergarten through fifth grades (PEP classes have ongoing observations throughout the year, so they will not be participating). This is a time for you to visit your child's classroom and observe teaching and learning. Please make sure to sign in at the main office and receive a visitor's sticker. We hope you enjoy your visit!

Our PTA Spirit Night on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Chik-Fil-A was a success, and we appreciate all of the support! Please join us for our next PTA Spirit Night on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Baja Fresh in Germantown!

Our Halloween classroom parties will be on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:15-3:15 p.m., and all parents are invited! Party planners and treasurers will receive an email from me with guidelines on collecting donations to prepare for our parties this year. For our parties on October 28<sup>th</sup>, children should wear their regular clothes to school and bring costumes that they are able to put on themselves. We understand that Kindergarten or First Grade classrooms may ask for additional parent volunteers to assist the students in getting dressed. We encourage children to dress as storybook characters, sports heroes, historical figures, and public safety personnel. All costumes should be appropriate for elementary school, and the following will not be permitted:

\*\*weapons (real or toy)

\*\*gory or bloody costumes and accessories

An alternative activity will be planned for any student whose parents do not want them to participate in the classroom party. Please write a note to your child's teacher by October 26<sup>th</sup> if this is the case. Thank you for your attention to this.

For third grade parents: By now, you will have received in the mail applications for the Highly Gifted Center (for our cluster this is at Clearspring ES). This is a two-year program for fourth and fifth graders. There will be two parent information meetings. One is October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Northwest

HS, and one is October 10<sup>th</sup> at Wheaton HS at 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 7, 2011 is the deadline for applications.

We have some Gibbs Staff Family celebrations to share! Mrs. Jaime Stevenson, one of our ESOL teachers, and her family welcomed Jack Thomas on September 8<sup>th</sup>! Jack was born in the early morning hours and Mrs. Stevenson even came to Back To School Night the evening before! In addition to Mrs. Kim's (Fifth Grade) bundle of joy due in January 2012, we also will be welcoming a new member of the Walker family! Mrs. Caitlin Walker, Kindergarten Teacher, is expecting her first baby in the middle of March 2012. The administration will be working closely with both Mrs. Kim and Mrs. Walker on securing substitute teachers that will continue the high quality teaching and learning in the classrooms.

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

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#### **Important October Dates**

**10/3/11: Interim Progress Reports Come Home; Grade Level Newsletters Come Home**

**10/4/11: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center**

**10/5/11: Walk Your Child to School Day**

**10/6/11: Study Circles Information Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center**

**10/10/11: Parent Visitation Day from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**10/12/11: Kindergarten Field Trip to Butler's Orchard from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**10/13/11: Gibbs ES Math/Literacy Night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**10/15/11: PTA Fun Run at Gibbs ES beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

**10/19/11: Principal's Coffee from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Media Center; PTA Spirit Night at Baja Fresh**

**10/20/11: Study Circles Session 1 in the Media Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**10/21/11: No School for Teachers and Students (Maryland Teacher Convention Day)**

**10/27/11: Individual Student Picture Day by Blanton Studios; Study Circles Session 2 in the Media Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**10/28/11: First Marking Period Ends; Halloween Classroom Parties from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., PTA Fall Harvest from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**10/31/11: No School for Students; Professional Day for Teachers for Report Card Preparation**

