

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School, proud home of the Gibbs Gators! We are excited to have all of our students that are returning to Gibbs and all of our students new to our school. Our current enrollment is 742 students.

We ask that you take a few minutes to read through this when you have time, as there are important reminders enclosed. Also, the first quarterly newsletters from our Art, Music, and Physical Education teams will go home in hardcopy form, along with being posted to our school website. After the first quarter, the quarterly newsletters from these teams will be available via our website only, in an effort to conserve paper. Attached to this newsletter, you will find a flowchart that we hope will help you reach the correct staff members when you have a question.

September is full of new learnings, as students learn the procedures and routines for arrival and dismissal, the routines in their classes, and routines at lunch and recess. If you have any questions regarding school or classroom policies and procedures, please feel free to ask your child's teacher.

There is a calendar below of upcoming events. Our first Back To School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 7th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. for PEP Classic classes, PEP Intensive Needs classes, Kindergarten, and First Grade Parents. On Thursday, September 8th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. our second Back To School Night will be for our PEP Collaboration Classes, PreKindergarten, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade parents. Flyers will be coming home soon with the agendas for the evenings' events.

Should your child be going home a different way than is normally scheduled, please send a note in with the teacher that morning. If it is too late to send a note, please call the main office. Please do not rely on email to office staff or an email to the teacher to relay this information. It is hard to predict when the computer server may go down or the teacher/staff member is not able to get to his/her email.

For safety of students, parents, and staff, please note the traffic signs for dropping off students at the Kiss and Ride loop. There is no left turn into the Kiss and Ride loop coming from the direction of Observation Drive during arrival and dismissal times. If you are approaching from that direction, please go **past the entrance** to the parking lot and go around the traffic circle at Emerald Circle to get into the line of cars. Also, U-turns are not permitted, per the traffic signs. There is no parking along the street adjacent to Waters House or on the opposite sides of the street. You will note signs that indicate those areas are no standing or stopping areas. That street becomes very narrow when there are cars parked on both sides of the street and a Kiss and Ride line of cars waiting. Also, please note our crossing guard is at the traffic circle close to the school. There are no crosswalks

from the school side of the street across the street other than this one. Thank you for your patience. Safety first!

We have some special staff announcements to share with you! Most recently, Ms. Ugolini, a second grade teacher, was married and her new last name is Boyce! Also, Ms. Wukitch, a fifth grade teacher, was married over the Labor Day weekend, and she is now Mrs. Zacharda! We want to share with you that there will be a new Gibbs baby around the first of January; Mrs. Betty Kim is expecting her baby at that time. We will be working closely with Mrs. Kim as the time approaches to transition to a substitute teacher for her class. Congratulations to Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Zacharda, and Mrs. Kim!

September is filled with fun school activities and PTA activities to kick off our new school year! We encourage you to participate and hope to see you there!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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Important September Dates

8/29/11: First Day of School for Students

8/31/11: 6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting in All Purpose Room; 7:00 p.m. Parent Volunteer Orientation

9/2/11: MCPS Flyer Distribution Date; Grade Level Newsletters come home in backpacks

9/5/11: Labor Day Holiday! No School for Students, Staff, and Administration

9/7/11: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Back to School Night for Preschool Education Program (PEP) Classic and Intensive Need Classes, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 in the All Purpose Room

9/8/11: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Back to School Night for PEP Collaboration Classes, Prekindergarten Classes, and Second through Fifth Grades in the Gymnasium

9/13/11: Rocky Hill Middle School Back to School Night

9/21/11: PTA-Sponsored Spirit Night at Chik-Fil-A (Drive through orders do not count toward profits)

9/22/11: Clarksburg High School Back to School Night

9/28/11: 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Students

9/29/11: Rosh Hashanah, No School for Students and Teachers

Go Gators!