

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER –FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year, just ending our second marking period. Our staff is energized to offer our quality school programming to each of our students and finish strong through June!

I would like to share with you some new ***celebrations!*** We are happy to soon be welcoming new baby additions to our Gibbs ES Staff Family. As you may have already heard, Mrs. Kim (fifth grade) and her husband welcomed Evangeline Joy in the beginning of January. Also, Mrs. Walker (kindergarten) and her husband will be welcoming their first baby in the middle of March. Congratulations to everyone!

We have ***a few parent reminder items:*** 1) We are happy to have parent volunteers in the classroom, and please remember this is not the time for a parent conference regarding student progress. Please schedule a conference if you have questions about your child. 2) All children are to go outside for recess if we have outdoor recess. Students cannot choose to remain inside, unless we have a medical document stating there is a medical reason to not be outdoors. Students are expected to be outside for recess if the temperature is 25 degrees or higher, with wind chill factored. Also, we factor in the condition of the playground. Thank you for your attention to these items.

We have some information to share with you regarding ESOL testing. ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to State) will be administered to English Language Learners during the dates of February 6, 2012 through March 23, 2012. The test provides a standardized measurement of academic and language development in English Language Learners. Students will be tested in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. If you have questions regarding this test, please contact our ESOL Team at 301-353-0800.

We hope that our parents will join us for our upcoming PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 7th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. We will begin with a presentation by Mr. Eric Davis and Mr. Rajeev Warriar about advocating for your children in the educational setting. This presentation is sponsored by the MCPS Department of Family and Community Partnerships.

We will be celebrating our ***Valentine's Day Parties*** on Tuesday, February 14th, 2:15-3:15 p.m. All parents are invited to attend. Parents may go to the classrooms at 2:15 p.m., after signing in at the main office and receiving a visitor's sticker. **Party planners can go to the classrooms at 2:00 p.m. to begin set up.** If you wish to take your child with you prior to 3:30 p.m., please make sure to sign out on the roster that will be provided to each classroom teacher that afternoon. We hope to see everyone there to celebrate our Sweethearts! ☺

Please note the important February dates below. If you have any questions, please contact us. Have a fabulous February!

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Important February Dates!

- 2/1: Report Cards Go Home; Grade Level and Principal's Newsletters Go Home
2/2: ESOL Math Night for Grades 2-5, RSVP needed and dinner is served, 6-7:30 p.m.
2/6-2/10: National School Counseling Week
2/7: PTA Meeting featuring presentation on parent advocacy by Department of Family and Community Partnerships, 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center
2/8: Class Pictures by Blanton Studios; ESOL Math Night Snow Date, 6-7:30 p.m.
2/9: Club Pictures by Blanton Studios; Fifth and Sixth Grade Band Concert at Clarksburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
2/10: Black History Month Event, sponsored by NAACP Representative and Committee, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in All Purpose Room
2/14: Valentine's Day Parties, 2:15-3:15 p.m.
2/15: Emergency Tornado Drill, with Fire Department Present; Fourth Grade Field Trip for Mr. Huston's Class, Mrs. Mayers' Class, and Ms. Futrovsky's Class, 9:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.
2/16: Fifth and Sixth Grade Strings Concert at Clarksburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
2/17: Fourth Grade Field Trip for Mr. Delescavage's Class and Mr. Humphrey's Class, 9:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.
2/20: President's Day Holiday! No School for Students and Staff!
2/22: PTA-Sponsored Spirit Night at Red Robin Restaurant in Germantown
2/23: Fifth Grade Family Life Parent Planning Group
2/25-3/4: PTA-Sponsored Read-A-Thon Fundraiser
2/28: Choral Concert at Clarksburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
2/29: Kindergarten Field Trip to Aquarium, 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

