

# Glenallan Elementary School

"Where Gators Go Above and Beyond"



## Gator Gazette

January 13, 2012

### A Message from Mr. Moran

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<http://www.facebook.com/glenallan.gators>

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Dear Glenallan Families,

We have completed our first full week at the Fairland Holding Center. The building is well organized and we have established routines for transitions such as lunch, recess, and hallway expectations. The staff and I are confident in our safety procedures after thoroughly reviewing them and an outstanding fire drill by the students. I believe strongly that the start and end to the school day have a significant impact on student success. During both arrival and dismissal, we have a large presence of staff monitoring the hallways to ensure safety, setting a positive tone for the day by greeting and saying goodbye to your child, and ensuring the hallways are orderly and conflict free. This smooth transition compliments the instructional program because students arrive to class prepared to learn and focused on the right things.

Many of the students were sharing their New Year's Resolutions or goals for 2012 with their teachers. These were posted on many bulletin boards throughout the building and it is important that we talk about goals, monitor them, and do all we can to make sure that the Gators attain them. Please discuss these goals at home so they hear a unified message from home and school.

Curriculum 2.0 continues to be a focus in our primary grades (kindergarten through grade 2) and will move to third grade next school year. Curriculum 2.0 empowers our students, connects content, and helps in fostering creativity. Each marking period focuses on different thinking skills. These skills focus on how we think. Two things that excite us as educators are creative and critical thinking.

- **Creative thinking** involves putting facts, concepts, and principles together in new ways and demonstrating a novel way of seeing or doing things. During creative thinking students may disregard accepted principles.
- **Critical thinking** involves being objective and open-minded while thinking carefully about what to do or what to believe, based on evidence and reason. During critical thinking students deeply question and apply accepted principles.

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."-Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Let's write a great year together!

Mr. Moran



### Technology Tips

Please remember to help students turn information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom. Our student's mobile devices, games and other technologies offer a chance to learn something new. The school and county web pages have a wealth of information to promote self-guided learning at home.

### Helpful Web Links!

- **Activities for ESL Students** <http://a4esl.org/>
- **Games to practice skills** <http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/>
- **ESL Cyber listening Lab** <http://www.esl-lab.com/>
- Play the Rush Hour game online! <http://www.thinkfun.com/playonline>
- Show your inner artist with PicassoHead! <http://www.picassohead.com/>
- Explore Outer Space with the NASA Kid's Site. <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html>



**Message from Mr. Tilkens**

Join us for the Glenallan Winter Concert  
Featuring: Glenallan 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and  
Glenallan Bands.

Free Concert! Open to all family and friends!

**When:** Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**Where:** (Fairland) 13313 Old Columbia Pike,  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

\*\* (Chorus members need to be dressed and  
ready in the music portable by 6pm)

**T.I.P. of the Week!**

You can pay for your child’s lunch or breakfast online  
through the [Montgomery County Public Schools’  
webpage](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/onlinepayments/). Click the tab for parents and locate the link  
on the far right column under Online Payments.  
<https://www.mylunchmoney.com/index.aspx>

**Who is eligible to apply for MCPS Prekindergarten  
and Head Start Programs?**

The MCPS Prekindergarten/Head Start program serves  
low-income families with children who will be four  
years old by September 1, 2012. This includes children  
with disabilities. There are limited spaces available in  
select areas of the county for Head Start income-  
eligible children who will be three years old by  
September 1, 2012.

**How do parents apply for the MCPS  
Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs?**

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin  
on March 1, 2012.

Walk-in applications are accepted Monday through  
Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m at Rocking Horse  
Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141,  
Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Applications will also be accepted on selected  
weekday evenings and Saturdays as well as at other  
community locations.

**Important Dates for  
the Gators in January  
2012**



- January 16 No School – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday
- January 18 Winter Concert 7:00 pm@Fairland
- January 20 Practice Math MSA 9:30 a.m.
- January 20 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends
- January 21 Kindergarten Family Partnership for Reading – Wheaton Library @ 11:00 a.m.
- January 23 No School(Students)Professional Day

**Character Counts:**

The focus character trait for the month of January is Fairness. Staff will be looking for students demonstrating responsibility at school, in the community, and focusing on it through instruction.

**Maryland School Assessment M.S.A. Preparation**

Want to get prepared for the Maryland School Assessment? Here is a great site for parents to see what their children will be tested on during the MSA for grades 3, 4, and 5:  
<http://mdk12.org/parents/index.html>

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