

Glen Haven Elementary School

Principal's Pride

A Message from Dr. Smith

January 1, 2012
Volume 12, Issue 4

Dear Glen Haven Families,

Welcome back from our much awaited and much needed Winter Break! I am hopeful that each of you really made it a priority to "stop and smell the roses" with loved ones, family and friends. Whether you simply remained at home during this time of reflection or traveled away from home, the positive spirit which we shared with those we valued was priceless. Let us continue to display and exhibit that same positive spirit as we return to our Glen Haven Elementary School family.

Over the holidays, I was able to do a lot of something which I really love to do and that is reading. As I reflected on the importance of successful educational experiences for all of our children, I remembered a book that I read, *Reading for Change: Performance and Engagement Across Countries*, published by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development. I would like to share with you some of the salient points and hope that it compels each of us to continue our unending dedication to ensuring that all of our children receive an effective and rigorous education. Points noted in this book:

Lewis (2002) claims that some states in the United States use third-grade reading statistics to determine how many prison beds they will need in 10 years' time. Though this might seem far-fetched, it has been reported that half of all adults in U.S. federal prisons cannot read or write at all. The typical 25-year-old male inmate functions two or three grade levels below the grade actually completed. (Bellarado, 1986)

The doorway to opportunity is opening and closing every moment throughout our lifetime. However, each time that the door of opportunity opens, there are a lot of other people trying to go through before the door closes. That's called "competition," a fact of life. Take it or leave it, like it or lump it, that's just the way it is. Whether a football game, or a Spelling Bee, a college application, or a job application, a Science Fair or a Track Meet, a cheerleading tryout or a band competition, throughout your lifetime you are going to be confronted with competition for each opportunity.

The greatest obstacle to anyone's success is KNOWLEDGE – plain and simple. Regardless of what color you are, how poor you are, where you were born, where you live, what you look like, whether or not your mama helps you with your homework, whether or not you have a computer at home or whether or not you even have a home to go to, expand your knowledge and you will expand your opportunity. If you know little, then you can achieve little. If you know a lot, then you can achieve a lot. The question is, "You got game?"

(Follow Your Dreams: Lessons That I Learned in School, (Wynn 2000) p. 13)

The importance of reading literacy, fluency, an appreciation of books and published literature, as well enrollment of students in gatekeeper courses such as Algebra I in eighth grade and foreign language cannot be underestimated or compromised. This is not new knowledge for Glen Haven stakeholders; we already knew that it all began for us in Pre-K. Let us continue to collaborate, encourage, and support rigorous instruction for all of our students at Glen Haven Elementary School which is "**A Place for Learning for All.**"

Sincerely,

Dr. Joanne Smith

***"When hearts, minds,
souls and hands meet . . .
nothing is impossible."***

Dr. Joanne B. Smith

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Important January 2012 Dates

January 2, 2012	No School - MCPS Holiday
January 3, 2012	Classes resume
January 4, 2012	Data notebooks sent home
January 9 - 13, 2012	Reading Week
January 12, 2012	Family Reading Night 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
January 13, 2012	Drama Club Annual Carnival 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
January 16, 2012	No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 18, 2012	Grade 3 Parent Night 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
January 19, 2012	Grade 2 Parent Night 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
January 23, 2012	No School – Professional Day
January 26, 2012	Grade 4 Parent Night 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
January 27, 2012	Kindergarten Movie Night 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Reading Specialist' Corner

Mrs. Lucina

We have many exciting reading activities scheduled this month!

Please join us at **Family Reading Night on Thursday, January 12, 2012** from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.! We will have exciting reading activities, special character readers, and a book giveaway for students, younger siblings, and parents!

Research shows that the amount of time children spend reading independently has a direct correlation to their performance on assessments! We are encouraging the importance of reading by showing reading spirit all week:

- **Monday, January 9, 2012:** Hats Off to Reading - Wear a hat!
- **Tuesday, January 10, 2012:** Sock It to a Good Book - Wear your silliest socks!
- **Wednesday, January 11, 2012:** Score High with Reading - Wear a sports jersey or shirt with numbers on it!
- **Thursday, January 12, 2012:** Snuggle Up with a Good Book - Wear your pajamas and attend Family Reading Night!
- **Friday, January 13, 2012:** Book Character Day - Dress as a character from a book!

*We are continuing to collect book donations through Thursday, January 12, 2012! If you have any books at home that your child no longer reads, please consider donating them to our Book Giveaway. We are also collecting books for adults, if you have any to donate. Donations may be sent in to Mrs. Lucina at Glen Haven Elementary School.



Physical Education

Mr. Miller and Mr. Skellchock



During the month of January, students will practice throwing and catching skills, as well as continuing to refine their spatial awareness abilities. We continue to encourage peer cooperation to further enhance our successes in physical education class.

Fitness is a year round commitment – it doesn't take a break during the winter months. Get outside when the opportunity arises. Wear warm clothing and dress in layers (gloves, hats, and shoes that keep your feet warm). It's not too early to start honing your snowman building skills. Make the most of our winter weather – its fun out there!

David M. Miller
Kyle Skellchock
Physical Education Specialists

Instructional Technology

Ms. Olson

Michelle_L_Olson@mcpsmd.org



Technology Department

(The underlined items can be accessed on the Glen Haven Elementary school website by clicking the link.)

Start the year off right with using technology tools to help you grow your brain! Stretch your brain with the following fun websites:

- 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>
- Use your brain to guide the ball through the maze in the game Buzzer.
<http://www.novelgames.com/flashgames/game.php?id=253&l=e>

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>

T.I.P. of the Month!

You can pay for your child's lunch or breakfast online through the [Montgomery County Public Schools' webpage](#). Click the tab for parents and locate the link on the far right column under Online Payments.

<https://www.mylunchmoney.com/index.aspx>

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee has begun plans to host a few clubs. Please check your child's book bag for more information:

Our Critical Thinkers (CT) Technology Club is open to students in grades 3 - 5 and is designed to challenge our students and expand their critical thinking skills beyond the classroom. We will create technology products, review math and reading concepts, and develop logic and strategies. The activities will require students to compute in their heads and think creatively.

Little Bytes Technology Club is open to students in grades 1 – 2.

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Willis



Hello Glen Haven Parents and Guardians,

To start the 2011 year, we will be focusing on the character trait of Compassion. Compassion means being kind and thoughtful toward others. Throughout the month of January, we will be working on treating people with compassion, which leads to good friendships and positive relationships.

Try some of these ideas to reinforce compassion at home:

- Start a gratitude journal with your child
- Build a simple routine at the evening meal-ask your child “Who did you help today and who helped you?”
- Develop a routine for weekly chores; helping your child understand all of the work that goes into the home and the work you do is important.
- Volunteer at a local organization

As the Dalai Lama says, “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”

Thank you and have a wonderful new year.

Rebecca Willis
School Counselor

Media Center News

Mrs. Maldonado



The cold weather has encouraged us to snuggle up and read. Students are learning about many subjects in the non-fiction books that they have been reading. Ask your fourth graders what they learned about pink snow! This month, our featured books are about Martin Luther King, cowboys, and winter weather. Next month we are looking forward to reading about famous African Americans, presidents past and present, and Valentine’s Day.

Fourth and fifth grade media aides are doing a fabulous job!

Enjoy reading with your children.

Mathematics

Ms. Manevitz - Math Content Coach



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.

Academic success involves possessing attitudes and behaviors that enable students to reach their full potential in academic settings.

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.

By focusing on these three skills, your child can develop into a successful mathematician.

Art

Mrs. Betters, Dr. King



Happy New Year to the Glen Haven Family!

We are looking forward to some great art work to be made by our little eagles this year. Be sure to save the date and mark your calendars for the **Annual Spring Arts Festival, Saturday May 12th, 2012**. Students will be starting work to prepare for the Art Show. Several classes have started work in clay and the rest of the school will start 3rd quarter. Be sure to ask your child what they learned in art each week!

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ESOL

Ms. Barnes, Ms. Dyson, Ms. Green, Mr. Lynn, Mrs. Tom



Happy New Year from the Glen Haven ESOL team! We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break! The ESOL team will be administering a new language assessment to all English Language Learners in February. This test is called the Access for ELLs and will measure our children's language progress in listening, speaking, reading and writing. If you have any questions please call 301- 649- 8051 and ask to speak to the ESOL team member who works with your child's grade level.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Connection

Mrs. Mary Courtney Green



Dear Parents, Happy New Year!

I know that many of you have goals to be more involved in nurturing your child's intellectual and creative gifts and talents. I've included information about MCPS Gifted & Talented testing and county-wide programs to help you along the way. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

MCPS Gifted & Talented Global Screening- All students in second grade along with students new to MCPS will be screened from February to April. Look out for the Gifted & Talented Parent Survey which will be sent out to all parents this spring.

MC Adventures (Grades 4 & 5) - Discover more about science, humanities and the arts! On Saturday, January 21st, students will have the opportunity to attend four small workshops led by Montgomery College faculty and other community leaders. Some of the classes include: Turbo Charge Your Memory, Robotic Adventures, Physics Fundamentals, and Going Wild with Clay. Log onto: www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth for more information.

Looking forward to a great new year!

Musically Yours

Mr. Fisher, Ms. Meshbane, Mr. Neal



Congratulations to the Fourth and Fifth Grade Musicians for their fabulous Winter Concert! Now we start the countdown to our Spring Festival of Arts taking place on Saturday, May 12 of 2012!

Fourth Grade families, please remember that since 4th grade students attended an in school visit from Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Musicians, 4th grade students and families are eligible for to attend a free concert at Strathmore Hall on Friday, January 20, 2012. Parents who signed up for tickets available on a first come first serve basis may pick up tickets Wednesday, January 18, 2012. Please call Ms. Meshbane if you have any questions.

FUN FACTS FOR KIDS

~Janet Smart

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite!

January is here and it is the beginning of the New Year. There are 31 days in January. Here is a poem to help you remember how many days there are in each month:

30 days hath September,
April, June and November.
All the rest have 31.
But, February's the shortest one.
With 28 days most of the time,
Until Leap Year gives us 29.

If you were born in January, you share your birthday month with many famous people, including Benjamin Franklin and flag maker Betsy Ross. Civil War heroes, Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson were also born in January. In addition, Martin Luther King, Jr., President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Elvis Presley were born in this first month of the year.

January is one of the coldest months and it is National Soup Month. Soups make your tummy feel warm on a blustery, cold day.



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<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/glenhaves/>