

Glen Haven Elementary School

Principal's Pride

A Message from Dr. Smith

Dear Glen Haven Families,

We are approaching the end of the first quarter of instruction for our students. On November 10, 2011 and November 11, 2011, Glen Haven Elementary School as well as all Montgomery County Public Schools, will host our parent-teacher conferences. During parent/teacher conferences, parents and teachers will be able to sit down together and discuss the academic and behavioral performance of your child.

Before you come to the conference, talk about the upcoming conference with your child:



Ask if there are any subjects or issues that they want you to discuss with the teacher. When you get to the conference, take a "what can we do" and "how can I help" attitude if the teacher brings up a problem or even if your child seems to be doing alright.



Follow these Tips for Parents to make your conference more effective:

- Prepare questions in advance. What groups has my child been assigned to? Is my child finishing the work assigned in class? The most important question of all is "How can I help my child at home?"
- Let the teacher know if there is a particular topic you want to discuss. If you want to talk about your child's progress in reading, let the teacher know. He'll be able to have test scores, textbooks, and other material on hand to aid your discussion.
- Be specific. Bring with you any work that is of concern. Describe clearly any situations in the classroom that make your child uneasy. Ask the teacher to describe your child's strengths and weaknesses. Ask to see your child's work.
- Exchange information. Let the teacher know about any situation at home that may affect your child's school work, such as a death in the family, a new baby, or a change in daycare arrangements.
- Take notes. Your conference may result in several actions for both you and the teacher. Taking notes will help you remember what was discussed and what was agreed upon.
- Start with a positive attitude. Don't waste valuable conference time by focusing on the negative. You and the teacher are a team. Positive comments such as "How can we solve this problem working together?" will be the first step in coming up with good solutions.
- Support yourself. If you are not confident about your communications skills, bring someone to help. If your understanding of English worries you, bring a friend to translate.
- Discuss the whole child. Your child's social and emotional development is as important as academic success. Include questions about her interaction with other children and willingness to participate in class discussions.
- Allow enough time. Take time to do the task well. That may mean freeing up your schedule by taking vacation time to attend the conference.
- Leave with a plan. The conference should end with a clear statement of what you will do and what the teacher will do. Schedule follow-up meetings or telephone calls to be sure the plan is working.

Parents, as a child's first teacher, should always find ways to know what it is that their child should know and be able to do, as well as how they can collaborate with the child's teacher in fostering two-way communication to make sure that effective learning is occurring. When parents and teachers share open and honest communication regarding a child's success and/or need, the door is then wide open for a child to experience growth and success.

I look forward to our continuing collaboration and focus on high expectations for all of our students. As always, Glen Haven Elementary School's students, staff and parents, remain committed to maintaining a school environment that is "A Place for Learning for All."

Sincerely,
Dr. Joanne Smith
Principal

November 1, 2011
Volume 12, Issue 2

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

Dr. Joanne B. Smith

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Important November 2011 Dates

Early Release	November 10 at 1:00 p.m.
Parent Conferences	November 11 at 1:00 p.m.
Reading Week	November 13 – 19
Awards Ceremony All Purpose Room	November 14 Grades 1, 2 – 9:45 a.m. Grades 3, 4, 5 – 10:45 a.m.
Second Grade field trip Strathmore Music Hall	November 15
First Grade Movie Night	November 18 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Early Release	November 23 at 1:00 p.m..
Thanksgiving Holidays	November 24, 25 No School



**Reading Specialist's
Corner**
Mrs. Lucina

Please remember to continue reading at home with your child to help them progress to the advanced reading levels!

Ways to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader:

- Be a reading role model! Let your child see you reading for pleasure, information, and to learn
- Take your child on trips to the public library
- Read aloud to your child
- Encourage your child to read aloud to you
- Have discussions about books that you read
- Show your child that reading is everywhere: books, newspapers, magazines, jokes, menus, lists, signs, recipes, etc.
- Have your child read you the shopping list or a recipe
- Let your child listen to books on tape
- Encourage independent reading when your family has free time
- Enjoy reading!

*We are continuing to collect book donations for Family Reading Night on Wednesday, December 14, 2011! 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. Please send them in if you have any to donate. Donations can be sent in to Mrs. Lucina (c/o Ms. Garza) at Glen Haven at any time.





Physical Education

Mr. Miller and Mr. Skellchock

This month, grades Pre K – 2 will work diligently on developing directionality (forward, backward, and side to side) as well as refining various movement patterns such as hopping, skipping, galloping, etc.

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will explore various forms of large motor development through their participation in a series of ball games. They will also improve their level of hand-eye and hand-foot coordination as well as spatial relations skills. Remember “practice makes perfect” (students are expected to practice skills learned in class at home). We see a tremendous amount of growth and improvement of skill when this occurs.

This is a great time of year to get outside and stay fit while having fun. Bicycle, jog, play catch and even play in the leaves – it’s outside waiting for you.



Instructional Technology

Ms. Olson

Michelle_L_Olson@mcpsmd.org

TIPS from the Technology Department (The underlined items can be accessed on the GHES website by clicking the link.)

Digital ethics and cyber safety are important topics for our students. Students might ask —May I download and use music from the internet|| or should I give out my cellular phone number, it’s not my address? In order to teach students how to interact online, we must openly discuss issues of privacy, copyright, and online behavior. Glen Haven students will review digital etiquette to become aware of how to interact online in responsible, safe and ethical ways.

The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), signed into law in December 2000, requires schools to have an Internet safety policy. Montgomery County Public Schools has such a policy and has provided resources and support for the community.

Please take some time to view the Montgomery County Public School’s MCPS website for more important information about internet safety.

http://www.cyberbee.com/cb_copyright.swf

Copyright information

<http://www.kids.gov/>

Links to government and other informational sites

More resources:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

Free typing tutorials

<http://www.free.ed.gov/index.cfm>

Free Resources for Educational Excellence

<http://www.rcls.org/ksearch.htm>

Tools for searching the internet

Instructional Technology is the use of technology to support student learning and instruction. It is a focal point of the *Maryland Plan for Technology in Education* and is repeated throughout the State Curriculum.

If you are interested in being part of the technology committee please contact the main office.

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

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee has begun plans to host student clubs. Please check child’s book bag for more information:

Our Critical Thinkers (CT) Technology Club is open to 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 (Grades 1-2)
The Little Bytes Technology Club is for students in grades 1 and 2. Students will review and apply computer skills learned in Pre-K and Kindergarten and become familiar with the internet and multimedia software. Throughout their time in the club, students will also utilize word processing

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Willis



Hello Parents and Guardians,

It is now November and we have just wrapped up our Red Ribbon Week celebrations. Our students learned that it is very important to be responsible and make healthy choices.

In the month of November, we will focus on the character trait of Citizenship. During classroom guidance lessons the students will learn that good citizenship means obeying the rules and working to make our community a better place. We will also celebrate Military Family Month in November. During this time we will honor military families for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our Nation.

A special note for our fifth grade parents, November 7, 2011 is the deadline for Magnet applications and Choice forms for students interested in the Middle School Magnet Programs and/or the Magnet Consortium. Choice forms and applications are available at Glen Haven Elementary and on the MCPS website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/>. Students applying to either Eastern Middle School or Takoma Park Middle School need to be working on their applications now, so that they have time to request and receive teacher recommendations. If you have any questions regarding this process please contact either myself or Mrs. Mary-Courtney Green (Gifted and Talented teacher).

Thank you and have a great fall.

Rebecca Willis
School Counselor



Media Center News

Mrs. Maldonado

Fall has arrived at the media center. We are enjoying the changing leaves, scarecrows, and turkeys. Students are studying Native Americans, Thanksgiving, fiction, and poetry. Fifth graders are enjoying story poems as well as shorter poems. Younger students are experts at story elements as well as text features in non-fiction materials. Ask your third graders about spider biters! We can hardly wait for the winter holiday season.



Glen Haven Elementary School Math Olympics

By Sheila Manevitz

Math Content Coach

This year GHES will continue the Math Olympics. Last year we began the Olympics in February and we found that it helped the students with their math facts. We officially began on Monday, October 3, 2011. The goal for the math Olympics is to help every child at GHES master their number facts at a faster pace. Every Monday your child (Olympiad) receives a short quiz (trial) during their math class (league), this is graded and sent home, so your child may practice at home.. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday your child's math teacher continues to play games and help the children (Olympiads) master their number facts. Then, on Friday the same quiz that was administered on Monday is given to your child to retake (final race). The coaches and the Olympiads will be able to see the progress they have made by training. The coach (teacher) grades the final race. If your child receives 100% or one wrong they receive an Olympic bill, with their teacher's picture on it. At the end of the month they will be called down to purchase a prize or prizes (for every Olympic bill they will receive a prize). Our Pre- kindergarten students and SCB students are learning to recognize a number and its' value. Our kindergarten students are learning to add by using all sorts of manipulatives with five number facts. Everyone gets three minutes to complete their race.

The operations are addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. In math 5 and 6, decimals, fractions and percentages are incorporated. The math Olympics is a competition against oneself to improve.

What can you do as co-trainers of your Olympiad (child)?

Just as we train in sports, we need to train our brains in math. The quicker your child can master his/her number facts the more confident your child will feel and the more successful they will be in math.

Helping your child with Math Facts:

Books with ideas to help memorize number facts: Facts that Last: A balanced approach to memorization by Larry Leutzinger, creative publications www.creativepublications.com. There are also many activities you can do with dominoes to help your child memorize their number facts. Using a number line is an excellent way to help memorize number facts. Check out the math books by Lynette Long, **Marvelous Multiplication, Dazzling Division, and Domino Addition**. You may have your child make their own flash cards. Go to the Glen Haven Elementary School website and click on the link in math for ideas how to help your child learn their number facts.

We want to help our Olympiads (students) at GHES be the best as we are able to make this happen!



Art

FALL in Love with ART!

Students have been creating and exploring learning through the Arts. Second grade students have been working with Paper Engineering to create a pop-up. A great resource to check out at home with your child is Artist Robert Subuda's webpage at <http://robertsabuda.com/>

Our younger students in kindergarten have been exploring color and learning how primary colors can be mixed to make secondary colors. First grade has just finished up a Mask Unit and will be bringing home their symmetrical paper sculptures soon. Third grade students finished their story quilts inspired by Artist Faith Ringgold and are now starting a self-portrait unit along with fourth graders. Fifth grade students are sewing angles and learning how they can use mathematics in art to create an original design.

Our November Highlight is the Art Show on November 1, 2011. In December, the lower showcases will display the independent work of the fourth grade Art Club! Students who accepted the challenge created a self-portrait container and wrote about their artwork!

Looking forward to a Dynamic Art Year

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[Sharon M. King@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sharon.M.King@mcpsmd.org)

ESOL

Ms. Barnes, Ms. Dyson, Ms. Green, and Mr. Lynn

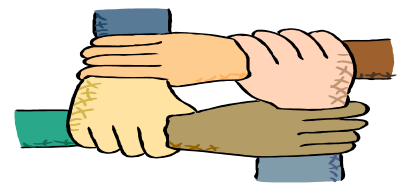


The Glen Haven ESOL team is excited about the progress of our English Language learners so far! Many positive developments for ESOL students will occur: the new online curriculum will include a strong focus on academic language, the ESOL yearly proficiency tests will now begin in February with an all new test; and the levels of student proficiency will switch to a new 1-5 numbering method.

Please sign and return accommodation forms and notification letters promptly. Parents, please make sure to plan for our Parent-Teacher conferences this year. The closer the relationships between home and school, the higher grades will be. Conferences are scheduled for November 10th and 11th. Make sure to contact your child's teacher to schedule a time to meet and discuss your child's progress this quarter. Spanish translation will be available on November 10, 2011 from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Chinese and Vietnamese translations will be held on the November 11, 2011 from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to come and volunteer to help out in your child's classroom. Volunteering in your child's classroom is a great way to demonstrate your interest in your child's learning. It's a fact that a little of your help makes a big impact in class morale and the motivation of the students!

Always encourage your child towards academic success. This includes homework completion, reading, and feeling positive about academic success. As a community, we will continue to achieve academic excellence by working together.



Gifted and Talented (GT) Connection

Mrs. Mary Courtney Green



GT & Enrichment Connection

Magnet Middle Schools & MCPS Enrichment Programs

The deadline for applications for Middle Magnet Schools is **Monday, November 7, 2011**. There are two merit-based magnet programs available: Eastern Middle School has a Humanities and Communication Program; Takoma Park has a Mathematics and Science magnet program. Both programs are merit-based and very competitive; the application and testing process is extensive. If you have any questions about the application process, or need an application, please contact me (Mrs. Green) or our school counselor, Mrs. Willis. The application deadline for the Highly Gifted Center is also on Monday, November 7, 2011.

Montgomery College Adventures

Montgomery College is offering a special one-day enrichment program for students in grades 4-6 on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at the Takoma Campus. Students will participate in group sessions led by the Montgomery College faculty and community leaders. The cost for this one-day program is \$85 but there are a limited number of scholarships available for those students who qualify and parents may attend the sessions at no additional cost.

Parents may also sign up for an optional workshop titled Beating the Bullies. The student workshops for MC Adventures include:

- The Art of Storytelling
- Chess Strategies
- Exploring Web 2.0 Tools-Learn to be a 21st Century Student
- Going Wild with Clay
- Physics Fundamentals
- Robotic Adventures
- Turbo Charge Your Memory

For more information, log onto www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth or call 240-567-7917. The Deadline for receiving registrations is Monday, November 14, 2011.



Musically Yours

Mr. Fisher, Ms. Meshbane, Mr. Neal

Congratulations to the Fifth Graders who showed wonderful concert etiquette at the National Philharmonic Concert at Strathmore Hall. This year was very special because the conductor, Piotr Gajewski invited two of our students onto the stage to play the chimes during the grand finale of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. Way to go Rigoberto Castillo Jr. and MacHaria Mugo! Thank you for representing Glen Haven so well!

On November 15, 2011, ^{our} second graders will go to Strathmore. We're looking forward to another fabulous concert!

Musically yours,

Mr. Fisher, Ms. Meshbane and Mr. Neal



*Take A Moment
To Thank A Veteran*

*When you see someone in a uniform
Someone who serves us all,
Doing military duty,
Answering their country's call,
Take a moment to thank them
For protecting what you hold dear;
Tell them you are proud of them;
Make it very clear.
Just tap them on the shoulder,
Give a smile, and say,
"Thanks for what you're doing;
To keep us safe in the USA!"*

**Taylor
7th Grade
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<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/glenhavenes/>