

Glen Haven Elementary School

Principal's Pride

A Message from Dr. Smith

Dear Glen Haven Families,

Welcome to our first edition of Glen Haven Elementary School's Principal's Pride Newsletter for 2011 - 2012. Glen Haven's Professional Leadership Communities team met during the summer and during the month of September to design activities that are focused on teaching and learning that will enhance the academic opportunities for all of our children. Glen Haven Elementary School staff is committed to continuous collaboration between home and school and will sponsor activities for our children and parents that provide social opportunities for our GHES family that extend beyond the school day.



Home-School Connection



On August 26, 2011, Glen Haven Elementary School held its Open House. It was extremely successful and it was truly a joy to see the enthusiastic, excited and eager faces of so many of our children and families. The warm family atmosphere that was observed and shared was a testament that our school truly is "family." Since our Open House event, Glen Haven Elementary School's staff have collaborated, planned, and created materials for our Back-to-School Night event that was held on September 8, 2011 for students and parents in grades K-5. Sincere thanks are given to my awesome staff for their preparation and excellent contribution to ensuring that information and relationship building opportunities were provided to and for parents.



There are many exciting educational assessments that are happening for the "little eagles" here at Glen Haven Elementary School. In the area of reading, staff have begun the hard work of administering the first rounds of testing in grades K-2 with Montgomery County's reading assessments, as well as the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (F&P) in grades 3-5. These assessments are designed to help teachers find the instructional reading levels for students and to help teachers place students in the most appropriate reading groups for instruction. In grades K - 2, Glen Haven Elementary School will fully implement Montgomery County Public School's Curriculum 2.0. We will provide grade level parent meetings in October to provide parents with the opportunity to learn more about Curriculum 2.0 and home and school strategies we will use to address and meet the needs of all of our students.

In the area of mathematics, students and staff have been hard at work with daily math instruction. Teachers are administering informal and formal assessments to all new students. These assessments will provide students and parents with information on what students know and are able to do on mathematical concepts that are taught in each unit of study and will assist us in providing enrichment in mathematics for all students.



Glen Haven Elementary School's Leadership team goals during 2011 - 2012 are: 1) Provide an environment where all children and families are valued; 2) Provide an environment at Glen Haven where excellence and rigor are expected and promoted; and 3) Provide an environment where, through our collaborative efforts, we exceed all Montgomery County Schools, the State of Maryland, and National standards. Glen Haven Elementary School is indeed, "A Place for Learning for All."

Sincerely,

Dr. Joanne Smith
Principal

October 1, 2011
Volume 12, Issue 1

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

Dr. Joanne B. Smith

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Important October 2011 Dates

PTA Meeting	October 4 at 7:00 p.m.
Open House	October 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
McTeacher’s Night McDonalds on University Blvd.	October 11 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Grade 1 Parent Night	October 12 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grade 5 Parent Night	October 12 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grade 4 Parent Night	October 13 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grade 3 Parent Night	October 19 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grade 2 Parent Night	October 20 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Kindergarten Parent Meeting	October 20 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
No School MSTA Convention	October 21
Halloween Celebration	October 28 at 1:30 p.m.
First Marking Period Ends	October 28
No School, Professional Day	October 31
PTA Meeting	November 1 at 7:00 p.m..



Reading Specialist’s Corner Mrs. Lucina Choosing a “Just Right” Book

Students are required to read daily as a part of their homework and it is important that they are reading a book at an appropriate level for them. Please use this guide with your child to help him/her choose a book that is “just right”:

A book is **too easy** if:

- You understand the book with little or no effort.
- You can read it fluently without any effort or practice.

A book is **too hard** if:

- There are more than five words per page that you don’t know.
- You are confused about what is happening.
- Your reading sounds choppy.

A book is **just right** if:

- You understand most of the book.
- There are only a few words that you don’t immediately recognize on each page.

When in doubt, use the 5-Finger Test:

- Open the book to the middle and choose a page to read.
- Hold up 5 fingers.
- Each time you come to a word you don’t know, put down one finger.
- If all 5 fingers are down when you reach the end of the page, that book is too hard. One or two fingers may mean the book is too easy. Three or four probably mean it’s just right.

Comprehension Reminder: If your child has trouble recalling events or answering questions about a story have him/her choose an easier book!

*We are beginning to collect book donations for Family Reading Night! 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 can be sent in to Mrs. Lucina (c/o Ms. Garza) at Glen Haven at any time.





Physical Education

Mr. Miller and Mr. Skellchock

Our focus for October will be on ball skills and cooperative skills which build leadership and enhance peer relationships. “Practice makes perfect.” Students should refine these skills of throwing, catching, and striking at home as well as in the gym.

Please note the day each week when your child has Physical Education, tennis shoes or sneakers are necessary for your child’s safety and greatly enhance the development of skills. On inclement weather days, please make sure that your child brings the tennis shoes or sneakers in their back pack so they can change before Physical Education class. Necklaces, watches, and other types of jewelry should be left at home (bringing them to the gym can be a safety hazard as well as an inconvenience).

Thanks in advance for your support. Here we grow as our Glen Haven eagles become stronger and healthier in 2011 – 2012.

Instructional Technology

Ms. Olson

Michelle_L_Olson@mcpsmd.org



Glen Haven Elementary School has a focus on using technology to help students learn and be ready for the future. This year, Glen Haven students will use technology to work independently and with others to solve problems, access files, manage information, integrate data, develop web searching skills and create projects. Teachers are integrating more technology in the classroom through the use of online multimedia content, document cameras, and computer based technology.

Technology is not the focus of the curriculum, it is merely a **tool** used in the curriculum to reach the educational goals. Technology also allows students to work at their own pace, encourages them to take initiative, and learn independently.

Did you know that the Wheaton Public Library (11701 Georgia Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902) has 27 computers for public use and Wi-Fi? It is open until 8:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and has weekend hours as well.

This Month’s Featured Websites:

Glen Haven’s Web Site:

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

Take some time to explore our “Computer Connections” page. Students can practice their sight words, practice math facts, and much more!

Spelling City: www.spellingcity.com

Students can practice grade level words with fun, interactive games.

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 student clubs. Please check your 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 Glen Haven Parents and Guardians,

To start 2011-2012, we will focus on the character trait of Respect. Respect means treating others the way you would want to be treated. Throughout the month of September, we will be working on treating people with respect which leads to good friendships and positive relationships.

One of the most important things you can teach your child is respect. Keep in mind that respect is not the same as obedience. Children might obey because they are afraid. If they respect you, they will obey because they know you want what is best for them.

The best way to teach respect is to show respect. When a child experiences respect, they know what it feels like and begin to understand how important it is.

Here are some tips for showing respect:

- Be positive. Don't embarrass, insult or make fun of your child. Compliment them.
- Be trusting. Let your child make choices and take responsibility for their actions.
- Be fair. Listen to your child's side of the story before reaching a conclusion.
- Be polite. Use "please" and "thank you." Knock before entering your child's room.
- Be reliable. Keep promises. Show your child that you mean what you say.
- Be a good listener. Give your child your full attention.

Remember that you are your child's biggest role model! Thank you and have a wonderful new school year.

Media Center News

Mrs. Maldonado

We're off to a great start in the media center this year. This month we are featuring new books of all types, as well as books about dinosaurs. Glen Haven Eagles are reading "just right books," not too easy and not too hard. We are also learning about collaboration, both in books and in life.

Many of our media aides are back from last year, and they are doing a wonderful job. Our new fourth grade media aides are fast learners and they have been a tremendous help already. We love having help from our responsible students.

Please help your children remember to bring their books to school on media day. We want everyone to be able to read new books every week!

Mathematics Around the World

Ms. Manevitz

Welcome families to a great new school year at GHES filled with lots of exciting Math! Montgomery County Public School has six main content areas in mathematics: Algebra, Patterns and Functions, Geometry, Measurement, Statistics, Probability, Number Relationships and Computation. Grades three through five focus on each of these content areas and the topics they learn are within each content area. Your teacher will give you specifics for each grade. As always MCPS is making a major focus on mathematics. As for Kindergarten through second grade, Glen Haven students are using Curriculum 2.0 (previously called the Elementary Integrated Curriculum, EIC).

MCPS Curriculum 2.0 is built around developing students' critical and creative thinking skills, as well as essential academic success skills, so that students are well prepared for a lifetime of learning.

At GHES, believe with the talented and devoted teachers, and committed parents we can bring our school to be a model for other schools in the mathematics content. We need every family on board to make Glen Haven Elementary School a Mathematical Olympic Year!



You ask yourself; “What can I do as a parent/ guardian?” Open your eyes to math around the world. Talk and discuss math with your child each and every day.

- Telling time is a great way to get started. Remember to look at the hour (short) hand first while reading a clock.
- When you are in the supermarket teach your child how to estimate what you are spending for each item, then have your child add up the estimations in their head. Weigh the fruit and vegetables.
- Have them read the odometer on your car and teach your child how to read the speedometer.
- Find a pattern in license plates. How many license plates have only odd numbers or only even numbers? Making math real and fun is what life is all about.
- Don’t forget to hang a calendar and a thermometer in your home and read it each day. You can ask your child what the date is one week earlier or later than today; help them learn to read the thermometer in Celsius and Fahrenheit. Be creative and make it fun! Talk math, live math!
- Measure the family members’ heights and weight, and don’t forget the pets.
- You can also have your child make their own flash cards for addition, subtraction, multiplication and/or division facts. Play games in the car with number facts. Having your child make their own flash cards helps your child memorize those facts better than just buying the flash cards.
- Toss number generators (dice) and add them together, multiply the numbers or throw a few dice and make various numbers ex: the largest number or the smaller number.
- Read addresses and please make sure your child knows his / her phone number and address.
- Please make sure your child does his/her homework daily so success is your child’s destiny.

The teachers need your efforts to make this a great mathematical thinking school. Feel free to stop by with any questions or if you would like suggestions to help your child at home. My door is always open to all!

Math Rules!!!!



Art

Welcome Back to a Creative Art Inspired Year!

Please make sure your child dresses for making MESS-terpieces on ART days! In Art, we tend to get a little messy. Make sure to ask your child what they learned in Art, and have them share what they created. Lots of wonderful art creations will be coming home ready to be hung up and displayed.

Art room needs:

If you have clean large yogurt containers, paper towel, or toilet paper rolls, please save and send them in with your child when they have Art.

Looking forward to a Dynamic Art Year

Madeleine_L_Herzfeld@mcpsmd.org
Sharon_M_King@mcpsmd.org

ESOL

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



Bienvenidos a Glen Haven! The Glen Haven ESOL Department is excited about the amazing children at Glen Haven for 2010-2011! Countries from all over the world are represented in the staff and students this year! Glen Haven unites these cultures with the common goal of student success! Ms. Green will be working with Pre-K and Kindergarten. Mr. Lynn will be working with first grade. Ms. Dyson will be working with second grade. Mrs. Hukill will be working with third grade. Ms. Barnes will be working with fourth and fifth grades. We continue to co-teach with general education teachers and to pull-out, as needed, ESOL Level 1 students. Be on the lookout for accommodation forms in grades 2-5 and NCLB Parent Notification letters in grades Pre-K-5.

If you have any questions regarding the ESOL program, please do not hesitate to contact one of the ESOL teachers listed above! We look forward to seeing everyone at International Night!

Gifted and Talented (GT) Connection

Mrs. Mary Courtney Green



Dear Parents,

I am Mrs. Green, Glen Haven's NEW Reading Enrichment and Gifted & Talented Liaison. My goal is to help reveal and nurture gifts and talents in all students. This year I will be working with students to support the development of critical thinking skills and reading comprehension. I will also share information about a variety of enrichment opportunities in Montgomery County and the Metropolitan Area.

Magnet Middle Schools & MCPS Enrichment Programs

The deadline for applications for Middle Magnet Schools is **Monday, November 7, 2011.**

There are two magnet programs available: Eastern Middle School, which has a Humanities and Communication Program and Takoma Park Middle School with a Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science magnet program. Both programs are merit-based and very competitive; the application and testing process is extensive. During the month of October, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will hold various parent information meetings about the magnet programs at Eastern Middle School, Takoma Park Middle School, as well as other enrichment programs throughout the county.

The deadline for applications for the **Elementary Highly Gifted Center** is **Monday, November 7, 2011.** The **Elementary Center Program for the Highly Gifted** provides a learning environment for Grade 4 and Grade 5 students that enriches, accelerates, and extends the MCPS curriculum. It is designed to meet the needs of highly gifted and motivated learners in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. The program focuses on critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and communication skills.

For more information on the application process and parent meeting dates log onto <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/>.

If you have any questions about these application processes, or need additional help, contact me (Mrs. Green) or our school counselor, Mrs. Willis.

Musically Yours

Mr. Fisher, Ms. Meshbane, Mr. Neil

We are off to an excellent start! We are happy to welcome two new members to our Glen Haven Family. Mr. Fisher is our new part time General Music Teacher and Mr. Neil is our new Instrumental Music teacher.

If you have a fourth or fifth grader, now is the time to sign up for instrumental music. Don't procrastinate and if you

lost your papers, just ask Ms. Meshbane or Mr. Neil for another one. We have lots of extras! October chorus rehearsals are under way for 4th and 5th grade students and students in the 5th grade chorus will have an opportunity to audition for the MCPS Honors Chorus this fall.

On October 13, 2011, the 5th grade will be treated to a county wide free National Philharmonic Orchestra concert at Strathmore Hall! Look out for the permission slips.

Musically yours,
Mr. Fisher, Ms. Meshbane & Mr. Neil

Shelter in Place/Lockdown Drills

Shelter in Place and Lockdown drills are terms used in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to alert staff to emergency situations in or near a school building (Shelter in Place), or indicating imminent danger (Lockdown). These drills were formerly known as Code Blue and Code Red.

Each Montgomery County Public School **must** hold at least two Lockdown and Shelter in Place drills each year. This is to ensure staff and students are familiar with the procedures. All MCPS schools must also practice a Weather Related Shelter in Place drill.

The calling of a Shelter in Place alerts the staff that an emergency exists at or near the school building. All students must be in their classrooms under close supervision but the entire building is not in a lockdown mode. Often, the details of a Shelter in Place depend on the nature of the situation.

The term Lockdown is used to describe an emergency/crisis situation. The calling of a Lockdown tells the staff that eminent danger exists inside or outside of the building and requires moving to an immediate lockdown mode. All students must be under adult supervision while a Lockdown is in effect. This means no one can be in the halls or restrooms.

For more information regarding Lockdown, Shelter in Place, and emergency preparedness, please visit the MCPS website at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

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<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/school/glenhavenes/>