



THE GREENCASTLE Gazette



Volume 1 Issue #4

The bi-weekly newsletter from Greencastle Elementary School

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Visit our website! <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/greencastles/>

Our Mission: The students, staff and families of Greencastle Elementary School will work together as a community of learners to provide high expectations and successful learning experiences for ALL!

Important

Upcoming Events



10/24 Hearing and Vision Screening
9:00 am—2:30 pm

10/24 Fieldtrip: K to Sharp's Farm

10/25 Fieldtrip: PEP/PreK and 1st
Grade to Pumpkin Patch

10/25 Blanton Pictures (3rd-5th)

10/26 Blanton Pictures (Pre-K –2nd)

10/26 Field Trip: 3rd Grade to Imag-
ination Stage

10/27 Understanding the IEP: Parent
Training at Greencastle: 5:30 pm
(RSVP)

10/27 Fieldtrip: Grade 4 Toby's Din-
ner Theater

10/28 Fall Into Books Celebration

10/28 1st Marking Period Ends

10/28 Dollar Decades Dress-Up
Dance-a-Thon 7:00pm Gym

10/28 Fall Into Books Celebration

10/31 No School for Students: Pro-
fessional Day for Teachers



11/1 Second Marking Period begins

11/1 PTA Mtg 7:00 pm Media Ctr

Dear Greencastle Families:

Thank you to the many parents who joined us for our annual Open House! We had a wonderful turnout. The students loved being able to demonstrate how hard they work and were thrilled to share their day with you. I know you are proud of their efforts and progress. Thank you for coming and supporting the children and the school.

Cold and flu season is here! The Greencastle community is pulling together to stay healthy. Our students and staff have been washing their hands frequently and using hand sanitizer to combat germs. Our parents have donated many boxes of tissues and hand sanitizers for classroom use. Our building services staff has been disinfecting the building routinely. In this issue of the Gazette, we have listed some suggested best practices for protecting you and others from getting sick this flu season.

Finally, parent conferences are scheduled for November 10th and 11th. These two days will be early dismissal half days so that teachers and parents can hold conferences to discuss student achievement. In this issue of the Gazette, you will find some helpful tips to consider before parent conferences. This is a great time to strengthen the home-school partnership in increasing student achievement.

Have a great end of October!!!

R. Kevin Payne

TESTING SCHEDULE

The 2011-2012 testing schedule has been finalized and is as follows:

Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	Reading	March 12-13 (Grade 3, 4) March 15-15 (Grade 5)
	Math	March 16-19 (Grade 3, 4) March 20-21 (Grade 5)
Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	Science	April 30– May 4 Window (Grade 5)
Terra Nova 2 (TN/2)		April 16-20 (Grade 2)

Please put these dates on your calendar to avoid scheduling doctor's appointments during the testing window.

For more information on the Maryland School Assessments, go to the Maryland State Department of Education website at: www.mdk12.org. At this website, you can look at the data and compare us to other schools in county and in the state.

Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences

The parent-teacher conference is an opportunity for parents to spend one-on-one time with their child's teacher to discuss how their child is doing in school. The conference also can help parents and teachers discover ways that they can work together to support the child's interests and needs. We ask that parents arrive to the classroom a couple of minutes before their assigned time. This year's conferences will be held on Nov. 10th and 11th. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade will be dismissed early on those days. Greencastle students will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m. Please contact your child's teacher to make an appointment. It is crucial that you are on time to your conference.



Here are some things for parents to think about before arriving at the conference:

- 📖 Typically, a conference will last 15 to 20 minutes and may include a discussion of classroom work, assessments and any extra support your child may need.
- 📖 Ask to see examples of your child's work. Discuss whether your child is on track for advanced coursework. Are there enrichment opportunities or other extra support that may benefit him/her?
- 📖 Ask how you can support learning at home, especially with homework.
- 📖 Aside from report cards, ask about the best ways to keep up-to-date on your child's progress. Be sure to bring up your child's special interests and abilities, along with any special health or family concerns.
- 📖 Contact the school in advance if you need an interpreter, or bring someone who can interpret for you.
- 📖 If you have more to talk about than your assigned time will allow, ask for a follow-up meeting with the teacher.

George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy

Saturday School

Saturday School offers tutoring and mentoring in reading/language arts, mathematics, and test-taking skills for students in grades 1-12. It takes place Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at 12 high school centers.

Enrollment starts September 10. Orientation is September 24. For more information, please call the office of the director at 301-320-6545 or visit www.GBTLearningAcademy.org



IMPROVED GES WEBSITE

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

Please visit our improved website. Information includes:

- ◆ Links to instructional curriculum
- ◆ Emergency preparedness information
- ◆ Cafeteria information (lunch/breakfast)
- ◆ Greencastle staff email addresses



SAY NO TO GERMS:

Even though the weather doesn't show it, it is flu season. Below, you will find some tips from the Health Department to protect you and your family from the flu. Personal hygiene measures are effective in preventing the spread of flu and other communicable diseases.

The following basic practices can help prevent you and your family from sharing colds and flu.

- 📖 Wash hands frequently--always before eating and after using the rest room.
- 📖 Keep hands away from your face and mouth.
- 📖 Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- 📖 Contact your health care provider if cold or flu symptoms persist.
- 📖 Please keep your child home when they are ill.



Our goal is to keep everyone at Greencastle healthy and learning. Should your child have a fever greater than 100°, he/she may NOT come to school and must stay home for a full 24 hours after the fever ends. Students aren't allowed to return to school even if they have been given fever reducing medicines, like Tylenol or Motrin.

Please call the main office to inform us that your child is sick. Don't forget to send a note to your child's teacher as to why your child was absent. All notes to teachers should include a date, the teacher's name, the child's full name, the date and reason why the child was absent, parent's name, parent's signature and a phone number where the parent can be reached.

GES will have a Flu Mist Clinic on November 11th, from 1:30-3:00 pm (appointment only). Stay healthy!!!