



THE GREENCASTLE Gazette



Volume 1 Issue #3

The bi-weekly newsletter from Greencastle Elementary School

October 7, 2011

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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



10/19 PTA Family Night at Chick-Fil-A; 5:00-9:00 p.m.

10/19 Field Trip: Kindergarten to the Pumpkin Patch

10/19 Creating Original Opera Tea 7:00pm - Mrs. Moore's Class

10/19 4th Grade Art Contest entries due to Ms. Lowe

10/20 5th Grade Egg Drop Science Experiment

10/21 No School: MSTA Conference

10/24 Hearing and Vision Screening 9:00-9:30 a.m. (Health Room)

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

10/26 Field Trip: 3rd Grade to Imagination Stage

10/26 Blanton Pictures (Pre k-2nd)

10/27 Blanton Pictures (3rd-5th)

10/27 Understanding the IEP: Parent Training at Greencastle

10/28 1st Marking Period Ends

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

10/31 No School for Students: Professional Day for Teachers

Dear Greencastle Families:

Can you believe that we have just finished our first full month of school for the 2011-2012 school year? Wow! It has been truly a wonderful start to the year for me and I hope that it has been for you and your family as well.

Maintaining a safe and secure environment is of the highest priority. Therefore, we at Greencastle Elementary School would like you to know that we continue to be vigilant in ensuring our school is properly secured.

To enhance the safety and security of students and staff, exterior building doors are properly closed and secured throughout the school day. We ask that all visitors to the school follow the school's visitor sign-in procedures. **All visitors should have either a visitor's sticker or a MCPS ID badge.** If an unknown person is walking through our hallways, staff will direct the individual to the office to follow proper sign-in procedures.

Finally, Mrs. Ruth and I will be presenting the GES Principal's Writing Awards for September to selected students. This award is given every month to Greencastle students to recognize their efforts and final products in writing. Please stop by the bulletin board in the main hallway (starting around October 19th) to see pictures of the monthly winners and their published work for the current month. Enjoy this warm weather while it lasts!

R. Kevin Payne

Special Education Workshops!!!

Are you a parent of a student with special needs? If yes, Greencastle is offering some exciting workshops that you may be interested in attending.

Please SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

October 27th- **Understanding the IEP.** This workshop will focus on the IEP document and understanding what it means. We are encouraging parents to bring their child's IEP . (5:00 pm in the media center, please RSVP)

November 3rd- **Behavior Management.** This workshop will focus on addressing aggressive and defiant behaviors at home and in the community. (Time has not been confirmed)



December (date and time to be determined) —**SPEECH/LANGUAGE Goals at Home.** We are planning to have a workshop that focuses on how parents can support speech/language goals at home.

A LETTER FROM THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Parent/Community Member,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Education, I would like to invite you to participate in one of our upcoming community conversations as we look to plan for the future of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). We have a world-class school system in our county, but we want to make it better and we want to hear your ideas. These discussions are an integral part of our strategic planning and budget processes as we confront challenging issues ahead.

In these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever that we hear directly from the community about what matters to you in our school system. These conversations allow community members to engage in deeper discussions around areas such as what you value about MCPS; how to continue to provide for the academic success, equity, and excellence for our students in these financially challenging times; and what information would be helpful to the community to understand the budget and the strategic plan.

We are inviting you to participate in one of two community events. The first event will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard, West, in Silver Spring, 7-9 p.m. **[The first event for October 12, 2011 has been cancelled]** The second event will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, in Gaithersburg, 7-9 p.m. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. so the event may start promptly at 7 p.m.

Foreign language interpretation will be available in Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Sign language interpretation can be requested at least one week prior to the event by calling (301) 517-5539 or (301) 517-5582 (Voice/TTY). Childcare also will be available.

For more information about the community conversation events, visit our website. To register to participate, please call (301) 279-3617 or email Martha_Sequeira@mcpsmd.org. When registering, please let us know if you will need foreign language interpretation or other special accommodations. Registration will cease the Friday before the respective event.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Barclay, President of the Montgomery County Board of Education

GREENCASTLE GREATNESS CHALLENGE

This year the Greencastle Community will get fit together by participating in a fitness challenge. We will call it the Greencastle Greatness Challenge. The Greencastle Greatness Challenge is our version of the biggest loser. The competition just started and we are excited about getting fit.

However, we are wondering if anyone in the Greencastle Community will be able to assist us in supporting this worthwhile venture. We are looking for a parent or community member that would teach an exercise class at Greencastle at least 1 day per week. We would be willing to pay a small fee if necessary. If you are interested, or know someone who can help out, please call Mrs. Grigsby at 301-595-2940 for more information.



Thank you very much for helping our community to get healthy!

Cafeteria Corner: This year, we are again offering a lunch loan program. When students run out of money in their accounts, Mrs. Kash (cafeteria manager) will still provide students hot lunches and charge their accounts. MCPS will only allow a negative balance of \$10.00. After this threshold is passed, students will only be given a cheese sandwich (no extra food items or milk). Please monitor the balance in your child’s SNAP account. Mrs. Kash will send home a letter when a SNAP account balance gets low or goes into the negative.



Health Room Spotlight

The Greencastle Health Room has a new direct phone number: 301-890-5731. You can now call this number directly when sharing information on your child’s health. Of course, you can still call the main office to reach the health room and you will be transferred to the health tech or the nurse.