

Montgomery Knolls Elementary School

"Where Learning Is Magic!"



807 Daleview Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301-431-7667

Principal, Mrs. Deann Collins
Assistant Principal, Mr. Vincent Fazzalare

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER, #2

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Calendar of Events

September 2008

Thursday, September 24th
School Assembly – *Blue Skye*

Monday, September 28th
No School – Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 30th
Flu Clinic @ MKES for Students

October 2008

Friday, October 2nd
Early Release 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6th
PTA Meeting @ MKES 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Monday, October 12th – Columbus Day
Open House – 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, October 16th
No School – MSTA Convention

Monday, October 19th
Parent Group Meeting 7 – 8:30 p.m.
(Guidance Counselors from MKES & PC)

Wednesday, October 21st
Kindergarten field trip to Brookside
Nature Center

Dear Montgomery Knolls Families,

Back to School Night was a huge success! We had about 150 parents in attendance. Thank you to all of the parents that provided us with feedback on the clarity of the information that was presented and suggestions on how we can improve this event next year. In reviewing the feedback, many of the parents stated *“The program was very informative and meeting the teacher was a highlight; My child’s classroom was very bright and interesting. The program was very informative; it made me feel very comfortable with my child’s teacher and the level of education my child will get; It was very helpful having a program for the children.”* If you attended Back to School Night, but have not had an opportunity to provide us with feedback, please send this information to school with your child.

One of the most important papers sent home during the first week of school is the application for the Free and Reduced-price Meals program. This program allows students from income-eligible families to receive free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches. Students who were eligible last year will only receive a free or reduced meal until October 13th. If your family qualifies for Free and Reduced-price Meals, please complete the form and return it promptly to the school office. If you need a form, please stop by the office or give us a call and we will send one home with your child. Also, Mrs. Rodriguez and Mr. Alcoba are available daily if you would like assistance with completing the forms. Staff from Linkages to Learning are also available to provide assistance.

Our next school event will be our first joint PTA meeting with Pine Crest ES on Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Montgomery Knolls. Translation and babysitting services will be provided. You will have an opportunity to learn how you can be an active participant in the PTA and also provide input on the PTA budget. Looking forward to seeing you at this event!

Sincerely,

Deann M. Collins
Principal

Emergency Information

During the first week of school, you should have received a yellow emergency information sheet. This information is very important for the school since it tells us how to contact you in case of an emergency. In emergency situations we will use this information to contact you, so it is important that we have correct daytime telephone numbers and other contacts. Please don't forget to let us know immediately if phone numbers have changed. If you need help in completing this form or other forms, please contact the office.

Student Lunch Account

Please make sure that your child has money in his or her lunch account. If your child's account is running low on money or is empty, you will receive a letter from the cafeteria manager. Also, please help your child memorize their pin number by having them practice at home. One strategy is to have your child use the telephone to pretend that they are typing in their number.

Attendance

All students are to enter the building at 8:30 a.m. We have noticed that many students are arriving prior to this time without adult supervision; **please do not drop your child off at school before 8:30.** Walkers and students that are dropped off enter the main entrance to the school. Bus riders enter near the portable in the front of the school. All students report to the All-Purpose room and are supervised by school staff until 8:40 a.m. Classroom instruction begins PROMPTLY at 8:50 a.m.

Developing the School Improvement Plan

All schools develop or revise a School Improvement Plan (SIP) each school year. Our school is currently drafting the 2009-2010 SIP by examining data collected from Student assessments and parent and staff surveys. This data is used to determine where we will focus our efforts to enhance and improve instruction based on the needs of our students, staff and parents; to allocate resources; and to plan parent and staff training. Parents are an important and vital part of the SIP process. We welcome your participation on our team so that your ideas and suggestions can be incorporated into our school's Plan. To be part of our SIP team, please contact Mrs. Deann Collins, Principal, at 301-431-7667.

FluMist (Nasal Vaccine)

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will be administering the *FluMist* (nasal vaccine) at Montgomery Knolls on Wednesday, September 30th, 2009; **this is not the swine flu vaccine.** If you want your child(ren) to receive the FluMist, please make sure you return the permission slip sent home approximately two weeks ago. If you need another copy, please stop by our main office.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our building; however, for the safety of students, we ask that **all visitors report to the main office, sign in, and receive a visitor badge.** This will indicate to our students and staff that you are a "safe" person in our building. Even if you visit often, please wear a badge each time. If you are bringing a "forgotten" item to your child (for example, homework, lunch), please bring the item to the office and we will make sure that your child receives it. To minimize interruptions to our instructional programming, please do not take these items to the classroom.

REMINDER: THE LOWER DOOR IS USED FOR DISMISSAL ONLY. ALL VISITORS MUST ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN DOOR!

Announcement

Pilot Program for 3-Year-Olds

The **Montgomery County Public Schools** is looking for three-year-old children in the Montgomery Knolls Elementary School's geographical area who can benefit from an early learning preschool experience. This will be the third year for the PILOT Program at Montgomery Knolls ES. We are now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. Classes will begin in September 2009 and run through June 2010 matching the holidays with the MCPS K-12 program calendar. The program is based on the same model as the Child Development classes located in MCPS high schools. Children will be provided with a structured learning experience in a classroom program with age-appropriate preschool activities. Students will work on developing the skills needed to address the **MCPS PreKindergarten Curriculum** and data will be collected using the Early Childhood Observation Record, ECOR, a developmental observation system used in MCPS. Children will be peers and friends with children who have disabilities who will also be served in the classroom. Classes will be taught by a **certified teacher and assistant.** The class size will be up to 13 children, including six preschoolers with disabilities.

- **Child must be age three to enroll in the program**
- **Low fee for materials and supplies**
- **Parent must provide transportation**
- **Two mornings per week, 2 ½ hours each morning (Tues/Thurs or Wed/Fri)**

Please contact Tracey Cramer at Montgomery Knolls ES, Preschool Education Program, at 301 431-7636, or Lil Kilgallen, PEP Coordinator, at 301 279-2016, to apply for a space in the three-year-old PILOT class at Montgomery Knolls.