

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, #3

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Calendar of Events October, 2009

Friday, October 2nd

Early Release 12:35 p.m.

Saturday, October 3rd

George B. Thomas begins @Montgomery
Blair H.S. 8:30 a.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.

Thursday, October 15th

Community Forum @JFK H.S.–7-9:30 pm

Friday, October 16th

No School – MSTTA 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

Monday, October 26th

Hearing & Vision Screening (K & Gr. 1)

Thursday, October 29th

Hearing & Vision Screening (K & Gr. 1)
Pre-K (a.m. and p.m.) and Head Start to
Homestead Farm 9:30 a.m.

Dear Montgomery Knolls Families,

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!

Secondly, MCPS will begin converting from air conditioning to heating on October 3, 2009. It will take approximately two to three weeks to convert all schools. Early fall temperatures can be erratic; therefore, during the conversion process, please encourage your children to dress with the weather forecast in mind.

Finally, we hope that you will be able to join us on Monday, October 12th for our annual Open House from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. You are also welcome to visit the Pre-K (P.M.) class from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. You will have an opportunity to visit and volunteer in your child's classroom. Students should still report to school on time at 8:30 a.m. We hope you can come see your child learning!

Sincerely,

Deann M. Collins
Principal

Future Important Calendar Dates

November 2nd – Professional Day (No school for students)
Counselor Parent Group Meeting (7 to 8:30 p.m.)
November 4th - LifeTouch Individual Photographs
November 11th – Early Release (12:35 p.m.)
Parent Conferences (p.m.)
November 12th - Early Release (12:35 p.m.)
Parent Conferences (p.m.)

Developing the School Improvement Plan

All schools develop or revise a School Improvement Plan (SIP) each school year. This summer we updated 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.

School Procedures-Reminders and Updates

In an effort to ensure student safety, we are consistently working with the MCPS Department of Safety and Security to share parents' concerns and discuss ideas for modifying some of our school procedures. Below you will find some reminders and updates regarding our current procedures:

- All outside doors, except the front door, and portable doors remain locked during the school day; the swipe card system is installed on all outside doors.
- Two second grade teachers come to the cafeteria in the morning to escort the second grade students to the portables; the first grade teachers meet their students in the hallway and walk them outside.
- The first and second grade students in the portables have scheduled classroom bathroom breaks where the teachers walk the students into the building; if the students need to use the bathroom before or after this time, they come in small groups of five students.
- Building Service has developed a rotating schedule where they walk outside to monitor the surrounding school area and watch when there may be small groups of students coming inside to use the bathroom; the teachers use this schedule too as a guide for when to send students to use the bathroom if the need arises
- All teachers have reviewed and practiced safety procedures with students for entering and leaving the building for different situations.
- A support staff member is available to assist second grade students with going to the bathroom at 11:00 a.m. and after recess at 1:30 p.m.
- Umbrellas have been provided to teachers for students to use when entering the building on rainy days.
- Mrs. Moran waits for all second grade students to finish their breakfast in the morning and then walks with them out to the portables by 9:00 a.m.
- Mr. Pompei and Ms. Brophy monitor the bus arrival and students, including the Pine Crest students until 8:50 a.m.
- Mr. Alcoba remains outside near the first and second grade portables and Mrs. Sathe remains near the first grade portables at the top of the school until 9:10 to assist with escorting late students that are dropped off by their parents.
- When parents come to drop off or pick-up their child, we are asking that they sign-in and then walk to the classroom; the office alerts the teacher that the parent is on his/her way; during recess, building service and the recess aides are notified.
- If students are working with staff members that pull them for small groups, these teachers take the students for breaks before and/or after class.