

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, #1

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

Calendar of Events

September 2009

Thursday, Sept. 3rd

Back-to-School Picnic 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 7th

Holiday-Labor Day – Schools Closed

Tuesday, Sept. 15th

Back-to-School Night
6:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17th

MCPS Community Forum 7-9:30 p.m.
@ Quince Orchard High School
15800 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Saturday, Sept. 19th

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, Sept. 28th

Holiday-Yom Kippur – Schools
Closed

Dear Montgomery Knolls Families,

Welcome back to school! Last Monday we began another great school year. The students did an awesome job with learning and following procedures and asking for help. They also had fun making new friends and seeing old faces.

Every other Thursday, the principal's newsletter will be distributed to our students. My newsletter will include information about our school community and important information related to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school.

We will use the Red Thursday folder to send home information each week. Several important items have been sent home for your review and/or completion. If you have not done so already, please complete and return the following items **as soon as possible**:

- Free and Reduced Lunch Application – youngest in family
- Directory Withholding Form
- Yellow Emergency Paper
- Montgomery Knolls Discipline Policy
- Flu Mist Permission Slip

Please remember that in the event of an emergency we must be able to contact someone, so please be sure that we have the most current phone numbers. Also, if you know that there may be times when someone else will be picking up your child from school, please be sure that their name is on your child's yellow emergency form. We will ask the person picking up your child for their name and to see a picture ID.

The staff and I thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming all of our families at our Back-to-School Night on Tuesday evening, September 15th at 6:45 p.m.

Sincerely,

Deann M. Collins, Principal

Back to School Night

Our Back-to-School Night will be held on Tuesday, September 15th from 6:45-8:30 p.m. This event will give you the opportunity to meet our teachers, hear about classroom routines, and information about the MCPS curriculum. I strongly encourage you to attend.

Thank You to Our PTA

Thanks for a wonderful Back-to-School breakfast. We appreciate all you do for us!

Montgomery Knolls Spirit!

We are continuing the tradition of Friday being our school spirit day! Students are encouraged to wear red and white every Friday to show their school spirit.

Lunch Menu

At the beginning of each month, your child will bring home the lunch menu. The format is the same from last year; it looks like a folded "menu" that you get at a restaurant. Please review the menu choices daily with your child. Also, there will always be a third menu option of grilled cheese that the students can choose.

Arrival

All students are to enter the building at 8:30 a.m. Walkers and students that are dropped off enter the main entrance to the school. Bus riders enter through the lower doors in the front of the school. All students report to the All-purpose room and are supervised by school staff until they are walked to their class at 8:40 a.m. In order to allow the smooth flow of traffic for our buses and cars, parents should not park their car along the drop-off loop in the front of the school. Classroom instruction begins daily at 8:50 a.m.

Dismissal

All students are dismissed beginning at 3:05 p.m. Walkers and students that are being picked-up are dismissed through the lower side entrance on Daleview Drive. Bus riders are dismissed through the main entrance of the school.

We appreciate parents refraining from parking along the two corners at the entrance of our school parking

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.

Saturday School

MCPS is proud to announce the continuation of the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. Saturday School. This program focuses on English, math, and science in grades 1-12. The program meets each Saturday morning October 4 through May 2 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Montgomery Blair HS. For further information and registration call 301-320-6545

Professional Qualifications

Our school is fortunate to receive supplemental funding through Title I, a federal grant program for schools that serve communities with students who have high economic needs. The federal legislation that establishes Title I regulations is known as the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB Act)*. The NCLB Act requires the Montgomery County Public Schools to inform you that you have the right to request information about the professional certification qualifications of your child’s teacher, substitute teacher, or paraeducator (formerly titled instructional assistant).

Other Information

The Montgomery County Board of Education will hold two public forums to provide parents, staff, students and community members the opportunity to give their input on important issues affecting MCPS. Anyone wishing to speak at the forums to address the following question: *“During difficult economic times, what priorities in the MCPS strategic plan should we focus on to improve achievement of all students?”*

Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, MD and

Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring, MD

FLES

If you are interested in Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES), please contact the PTA regarding information about classes. FLES is a language and culture program where children learn another language such as French, Chinese, or Spanish. You can also learn more about FLES at www.fles.org.

Parent Community Coordinator

John Alcoba is the MKES Parent Community Coordinator. Services he provides include coordinating different activities, resources and programs for parents and students. He can also facilitate meetings between parents and school personnel. Mr. Alcoba is bilingual in English and Spanish. If you have any concerns, questions or ideas, please contact him at the school, 301-431-7667.