

# Montgomery Knolls Elementary School

"Where Learning Is Magic!"



Principal, Mrs. Deann Collins  
Assistant Principal, Mr. Graham

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

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER, #2

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

## Calendar of Events

### September 2011

Tuesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

Back to School Night, 7-8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>

Early Release Day, students dismissed  
at 12:35 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>

Rosh Hashanah, **NO SCHOOL** for  
students

### October 2011

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

PTA meeting, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Open House, parents to visit the  
school from 9 to 11:30 or 1:30 to 3:00

Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Professional Day for teachers, **NO  
SCHOOL** for students

### Emergency Information

During the first week of school, you should have received a white 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.

Dear Montgomery Knolls Families,

We are looking forward to seeing you at our annual Back-to-School Night that will be held next Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 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! There will also be activities in the All-purpose room and the gym, where MKES students can participate in while the parents visit their child's classroom.

One of the most important papers sent home during the first week of school was 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 12th. 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. Soria and Mrs. Chimenian are available daily if you would like assistance with completing the form. Please just call and make an appointment.

Finally, if you have not done so already, please complete and return the following items **as soon as possible**:

- Directory Withholding Form/Authorization for Release
- White Emergency Paper
- Montgomery Knolls Discipline Policy
- Free and Reduced Priced Meals Form

Sincerely,  
Deann M. Collins, Principal

### Changes In Your Child's Transportation

If your child will be going home in a different way than their normal schedule, please send a note to school with your child. In order for your child to ride on a different bus or with a friend home on the bus, we **must** provide the bus driver with a note. Also, if your child will be a walker some days plus ride the bus other days, please provide us and your child with a schedule. Thanks for your support!

## 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 Cafeteria and are supervised by school staff until 8:40 a.m. Classroom instruction begins PROMPTLY at 8:50 a.m. If your child is eating breakfast at school it is important that they arrive to school on time.

## 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!**

## 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 September 24th through April 26 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Montgomery Blair HS. For further information and registration call 301-320-6546 or 301-320-6545.

## 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.

## Developing the School Improvement Plan

All schools develop or revise a School Improvement Plan (SIP) each school year. Our school is currently continuing to draft the 201-2012 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 me, Mrs. Collins at 301-431-7667.

## LISTEN and LEARN EVENTS

Dr. Joshua P. Starr, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), has announced dates and locations for 10 "Listen and Learn" events he is hosting this fall to meet with school system stakeholders.

The events will provide Dr. Starr an opportunity to meet with a variety of parents, students, staff and community members to hear their observations and perspectives on MCPS.

The complete schedule of staff and community meetings is available at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/listen>