

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. John Graham

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER, #1

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Calendar of Events

September 2011

Monday, Sept. 5th
Holiday–Labor Day – Schools Closed

Wednesday, Sept. 7th
Back-to-School Picnic 5:00–7:00 p.m.
at Pine Crest for students and families

Tuesday, Sept. 20th
Back to School Night, 7-8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28th
Early Release Day, students dismissed
at 12:35 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 29th
Rosh Hashanah, **NO SCHOOL** for
students

October 2011

Monday, October 10th
Open House, parents to visit the
school from 9 to 11:30 or 1:30 to 3:00

Monday, October 31st
Professional Day for teachers, **NO
SCHOOL** for students

Dear Montgomery Knolls Families,

Welcome back to school! This 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 or will be 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
- White Emergency Paper
- Montgomery Knolls Discipline Policy (coming home next week)

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 white 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 Picnic on September 7th at 5p.m. at Pine Crest ES, and our Back-to-School Night on Tuesday evening, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Collins

A Big Thank You!

We would like to thank Mrs. Brabazon, Mrs. Grosperre, and Ms. Guthrie for planting flowers and weeding the front of our school. Our school is very grateful for their hard work!

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.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The correct dates are November 10th and 11th.

Lunch Menu

At the beginning of each month, your child will bring home the lunch menu. 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. You can add money to your child's account by sending money to school or online at the MCPS website. Please be sure to include your child's PIN number on the check.

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 Cafeteria 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. Siblings are not allowed to play on the playground equipment at the back of the school.

We appreciate parents refraining from parking along the two corners at the entrance of our school parking lot, to allow our buses and cars easy access.

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.

Parents may not go to the classrooms to drop off or pick up students unless they have been directed by the main office staff. Parents must report to the office first.

Construction

The scope of the work includes a two story 15 classroom addition, a new gymnasium, and a new Linkages to Learning office space.

Summary of activities:

- Gymnasium, 15 classrooms, Linkages to Learning space, and modified bus loop are completed
- New blacktop play area is almost complete
- New playground equipment will be installed soon; the field will be seeded so that new grass can grow
- Gym, All-purpose room (APR/Cafeteria), and blacktop will be used for recess temporarily; Gym and APR will be used for indoor recess
- New sidewalks have been created around the back of the school and on the side near the new ball field
- The last three portables near the front of the school will be removed within the next few weeks
- A swipe card system has been installed on the front door and lower entrance door; all outside doors are locked; front entrance is locked by 9:15 a.m.
- Paving of the parking lot will take place next summer

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 21st from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at Montgomery Blair HS. For further information and registration call 301-320-6546 or 301-320-6545.

Parent Community Coordinator

Mrs. Rossi Chimenian is the MKES Parent Community Coordinator. Services she provides include coordinating different activities, and finding resources and programs for parents and students. She can also facilitate meetings between parents and school personnel. Mrs. Chimenian is bilingual in English and Spanish. If you have any concerns, questions or ideas, please contact her at the school 301-431-7667.