



From the Principal's Desk

Dear McAuliffe Families,

Happy 2012 to all! This school year is going by so quickly, I can hardly believe it's already January and 2012 has arrived. I hope everyone had a safe and peaceful winter break. I enjoyed spending time with loved ones and friends and a little time relaxing! I am always excited about the wonderful opportunities the new year brings. Don't forget to set those New Year's Resolutions and try to stick to them! This is a great activity for kids too. Get your children involved with making some resolutions for the new year. I have quite a few ideas in mind for my children!

As a reminder, the end of the second marking period is quickly approaching. Please check and double check with your children to make sure they are on track with ending the quarter on a positive note. The quarter ends on January 20th, which is just under 3 weeks away. If there are particular achievement areas in which your child is not performing well, there is still time for them to pull the grade up. Contact your child's teacher to find out how to help them improve their grade if necessary.

Mrs. Coates

Testing Season Begins

MCPS participates in many assessments throughout the school year for our students at various grade levels. Over the next month or so students in grades K-2 will be participating in MClass testing, which is testing used to accurately determine reading levels and reading skills. These students will also be participating in the MAP-P test, which is a computerized test that lets us know what students know and understand about mathematics. Our third through fifth graders are taking the MAP-R test this month into the first week of next month. This test is much like the MAP-P test. It is also a computerized test but this test lets us know more about our student's basic reading skills. These tests help us gather information about student's strengths and weaknesses in the area of reading. There is no way for students to prepare for any of the tests listed above, so studying for the tests at home is not necessary. Reading levels, once determined through the testing are reported on report cards and teachers in grades 3-5 inform parents of their child's performance on the MAP-R. There are, of course many informal assessments our teachers use on a day to day, week to week, or month to month basis.

Newsletter attachments:

>MCPS Reading Levels

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

12500 Wisteria Drive

Germantown, MD 20874

(301)353-0910

Wanda Coates, Principal

wanda_p_coates@mcpsmd.org

Allison Peterson, Assistant Principal

School News and Notes



PBIS News

We held our second Leader's Lunch on December 8th. It was great to see so many happy and smiling faces! Many students earned the BIG Respect ticket and had their names entered into the drawing for the leaders' lunch, however, only a certain number of students were randomly selected to participate. The following students earned our big RESPECT ticket and had their names drawn to participate in the lunch:

Kindergarten

Sydney Johnson
Malachi Lugares
Lyndsay Hill
Angel Naranjo
Imani Snowden
Daisy Flint

First Grade

Tressor Apenou
Renzo Del Rosario
Joey Martinell
Kenny Nguyen
Maggie Foster
Shaim Siddiqui
Chava Brown

Second Grade

Khady Ndiaye
Gelila Isayas
Alyssa Versage
Connie Coreas
Caroline Quiroga

Third Grade

Alioune Diop
Emily Lachance
Matthew Dastouri
Anna Moitoza
Maya Herman

Fourth Grade

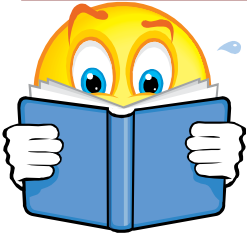
Trevon Pritchett
Cameron Bristol
Sean Quiroga
Jlen Johnson

Fifth Grade

Kayla Randolph-Water
Victor Gorvie
Carolina Stevenson
Fernando Alvarez
Ariana Colachgua

We ended 2011 with an exciting Celebrate McAuliffe Assembly. We learned about holiday traditions around the world, saw a power point with our Stars of the Week, recognized winners of the Writing Contest, and saw a power point of all of the student created dioramas! We kicked off the year with another Celebrate McAuliffe Assembly on the first day back from the break. During this time we discussed rules and expectations for the remainder of the school year to make sure we all came back to school on the right track and ready to learn.

Parent Information



News from the Reading Room

In the last newsletter I promised to provide you with a copy of the Montgomery County Public Schools reading level chart to help you understand reading levels a little better. The attachment was missing so it is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please see attached.

Battle of the Books

The second year of Battle of the Books began in December. Students in grades grouped into teams to read and answer questions based on the books. Students battled against another team to accumulate points for each book they read. At the end of five rounds the winning team will battle against teachers answering questions based on the books they read. This will be a school wide assembly that will take place in June.

Congratulations to all the participants of Battle of the Books. The first round took place and students did great! The current standing is....

First Place: The Hawks

Second Place: Reading Worms

Third Place: Golden Readers

Fourth Place: Bubbles

Fifth Place: Shooting Stars

Sixth Place: Red Dragons

Seventh Place: Titans

Eight Place: Cutie Pies

Remember that this is only the first of five rounds, it is still any teams game to battle against the teachers in June!

Book It!

McAuliffe is continuing to participate in the Pizza Hut Book It program. Each month students will receive a monthly calendar. If he or she reads 20 minutes a night they can color in the date they read. Students who read five or more days a week and turn in a calendar signed by the parent will receive a certificate for a FREE personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. At the end of the year, the class with the most participation will receive a Pizza Hut party for the class.

This month and last month Mrs. Jensen Stone's class had the most participate with 97% each month. Remember the key to being a better reader is to READ, READ, READ! Please encourage your child to read 20 minutes a night and fill out the calendar.

Parent Information

From the Reading Room (continued) ADD MORE MIRAC INFO HERE!!

Writing Contest

The Maryland International Reading Association Council held a Young Author's Contest for students in grades 2-5 in December. Congratulations to all students who entered the contest. In addition to this contest we held our own writing contest and the following students were recognized as our winners.

Everyone who entered the contest will receive an anthology of the McAuliffe entries.

The winners for the McAuliffe writing contest were:

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Grade 2 | Allison Bejeck |
| Grade 3 | Divya Mathur |
| Grade 4 | Isaac Lee |
| Grade 5 | Ashley Rucker and Kaitlin Baetsen |



Congratulations McAuliffe Students! You are all All-Stars!!

Upcoming Winter Parent Academy Workshops

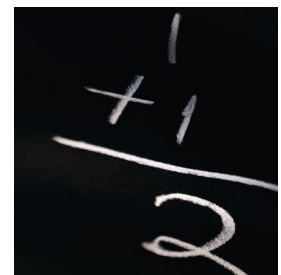
Registration is now under way for the winter 2012 Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Parent Academy. Parents can choose from an exciting lineup of sessions that include preparing for a college education, bullying, and helping students develop good organizational skills. A series of workshops for beginning computer users and another series on special education also are being offered. Parent Academy workshops are free of charge, and voluntarily taught by MCPS staff members and representatives from community organizations. Interpretation and childcare services are free. Brochures with more information will be coming home soon.

Saturday School Information

The end of the first marking period has come and gone and you might have concerns about your child's progress in school. The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy provides an opportunity to work in partnership with MCPS to address the academic needs of your children. The Academy is still enrolling students at all 12 Saturday School sites. Parents must register their son/daughter for the program in person at the Saturday School site that their child will attend. At the time of registration, parents must bring:

* Registration fee (\$50 non-FARMS / \$40 FARMS) per student. A payment plan option is also available (see attached).

* Families in need of additional financial assistance may request a waiver of the registration fee through a request in writing to the Saturday School site Center Director.



Parent Information

Weather-Related Changes to our Regular Routine

Cold weather means it's time to begin thinking about winter weather and its potential impact on our school schedule. Winter weather emergencies may cause disruptions in the school's operations such as a delayed opening, early dismissal or school closure. The decision to close schools because of weather is always for the entire system. Please tune in to your local news or radio station or the MCPS website, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org>, for information regarding school closures. You can also obtain information by calling the information line at 301-279-3673 and by subscribing to *Quick-Notes* and/or *Alert MCPS*. More information on using these resources can be found on the next page.

Below you will find information about the procedures used when school closing occurs.

Closure of School

When schools are closed system-wide, all instructional programs and extracurricular activities in schools are cancelled.

Delayed Opening

A delayed opening means that schools open two hours later than scheduled. All buses operate on the same delayed schedule. Therefore, student pick-up times are two hours later than normal. Morning Head Start, pre-kindergarten, field trips and other programs that are scheduled before 10:30 are cancelled.

Early Dismissal

An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours earlier than scheduled. All buses operate on the same early schedule. Therefore, drop-off times are 2.5 hours earlier than normal. Mid-day Head Start, afternoon pre-kindergarten, and afternoon/evening activities are cancelled.

It is important to have an emergency plan with your child/children should school be dismissed early due to weather, no heat, no power, or any other unforeseen circumstances.

Cold winter weather is quickly approaching!

Any time the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit, we make every attempt to get the students outdoors for recess unless there is snow or ice on the ground or the impact of the wind chill makes it too cold. **PLEASE** be sure to send your children to school dressed appropriately for the weather with hats, gloves, scarves, and hats! Dressing in layers works particularly well during the cold months.



Parent Information

How to Receive MCPS Emergency Information

MCPS QuickNotes

Receive emergency announcements, as well as other school news and information, via email through MCPS QuickNotes. Sign up at www.mcpsquicknotes.org. Information is available in six languages.

Alert MCPS

Alert MCPS provides information about major changes in school system operations via text messages delivered to devices you register, such as cell phones, smart phones, and pagers. Signing up for Alert MCPS is free, but check with your wireless provider about charges associated with text messages. Messages are provided in English and Spanish. Parents and staff can also sign up to receive messages for specific MCPS schools. This service would be used for situations that affect one or a small number of schools, such as a power outage. Sign up at <http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/>

Twitter

A Twitter account allows you to follow MCPS updates, including emergency messages, on your computer, cell phone, or mobile device. Go to <http://twitter.com/mcps> to follow MCPS or to create an account.

MCPS Website

Changes in school operations due to weather conditions or other emergencies are posted on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org. Messages are posted in English and Spanish.

Recorded Information Line

To hear a recorded message about changes in school operations in English and Spanish, call 301-279-3673.

MCPS TV

Emergency messages, news about MCPS, coverage of Board of Education meetings, and more, are provided on Comcast Cable Ch. 34, Verizon Ch. 36, and RCN Ch. 89. For more info, visit www.mcpstv.org.

TV and Radio: Local Stations

Tune in to local TV and radio stations for news about changes in school operations due to weather conditions or other emergencies.

School Calendar

January

- 2 Holiday, **NO SCHOOL**
- 6 Highly Gifted Center Testing, Grade 3
- 13 Class pictures
- 16 **NO SCHOOL** Dr. Martin Luther King ,Jr Holiday
- 20 End of Marking Period 2, Fun Friday 3:00-4:30
- 23 **NO SCHOOL** for students—Professional Day for teachers
- 27 Family Fun Night, Bounce Fest



February

- 1 PTA Meeting, 6:45
- 3 Instrumental Music Concert, 7:00
- 20 Holiday, **NO SCHOOL**
- 22 Vocelli Pizza Dining In Night

S. CHRISTA MCAULIFFE ELEMENTARY

Our Vision: A community school where parents and staff work together as partners for the development of the whole child.

Our Mission: A partnership of parents and staff preparing our children for the future.

Visit us on the web!

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/mcauliffees>

