

North Chevy Chase Elementary School
3700 Jones Bridge Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Principal's Post

November 2011
(Month of the Military Family)

The leaves are falling and the November air is crisp and fresh. Can you believe we have already had our first snow fall? As we begin this new month, we also enter the second marking period of the school year. This is a great time to review the progress your child has made since the beginning of the school year and work together to set new goals for the second quarter.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent conference time is here. This is an important time for you to speak with your child's teacher and discuss his/her academic, social, and emotional development. Thursday, November 10th and Friday, November 11th are early release days for students. The afternoons of November 10 and November 11 are reserved for parent-teacher conferences.

You can expect to hear about your child's specific learning progress and how well your child is meeting grade level objectives. Your partnership with the school is critical to the success of every student. Please try to honor your scheduled time since the teachers have many back to back conferences. It may be helpful for you to write down a few questions to ask the teacher during the conference. If you have not set up a conference, please contact your child's teacher.

Remember that students will be released at **1:00 p.m.** on both **November 10** and **November 11**. Please be sure your child knows his or her after school arrangements for the early release days.

Preserving Valuable Instructional Time

One of our goals at NCC is to enable "teachers to teach, and students to learn." In order to accomplish this goal, we strive to protect the valuable instructional time in the classroom from unnecessary interruptions. Parent requests to get messages to their child or the teacher during the instructional day causes a significant interruption of the teacher's ability to keep a concentrated focus on instruction. Instruction is also interrupted when students arrive late to school. It is important that every student arrive at school on time. When a student arrives late, he or she does not benefit from the important routines and work already in progress. We are asking for your help by making every effort to set your days plans with your children before sending them to school each day. The following are helpful ways you can assist us with ensuring that instructional time is maximized for all students.

· Make sure your child is "on time" for school each day. Instruction begins promptly at **9:15 a.m.**

· Inform your child, before leaving for school in the morning, of any changes to regular plans for after school.

· **A note must be sent to your child's teacher if there is a change from the normal routine.** If you are going to pick your child up before his or her regular dismissal time or during the day for an appointment, please send a note for the teacher with the specific pick-up time. Then, come to the office at the designated time and sign out your child.

Finally, if you need to speak to your child's teacher, please make arrangements in advance by requesting an appointment. "Drop-ins" cannot be honored as this can interrupt the teacher's preparations for the day or instruction once the bell has rung.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to preserve valuable instructional time!

A Reminder: Parents, Please come to the office!

Please be reminded that all parents, grandparents and other visitors/volunteers need to check in the office first when visiting NCC. Volunteers are asked to sign in the log located on the counter in the office each time they enter the building and take a badge. It is necessary to have this procedure primarily for the security of our children. In addition, we cannot get credit for your volunteer hours unless there is documentation. (We only receive credit for volunteer hours when parents chaperone field trips, if they sign in.) Other visitors are also reminded to handle forgotten lunches, books, instruments, messages and other business through the office staff. It is very disturbing to a teacher, para or volunteer who is working with children to have an unexpected visitor pop in. Parents are always welcome to observe their children in the classroom, but we ask that you make these arrangements in advance with the teacher. Please help us protect our children and their instructional time by always coming to the office first whenever you enter the school. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

Dr. Starr's Listen and Learn Event

On Wednesday, November 16, Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a "Listen and Learn" event from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East-West Highway, Bethesda. This event, rescheduled from October 10, is an opportunity for parents and community members to meet Dr. Starr and to offer their views and perspective on what is working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve.

Dr. Starr has a keen interest in hearing directly from parents as he sets his priorities for the school system. This is also an opportunity for parents to learn more about his educational philosophy and leadership style.

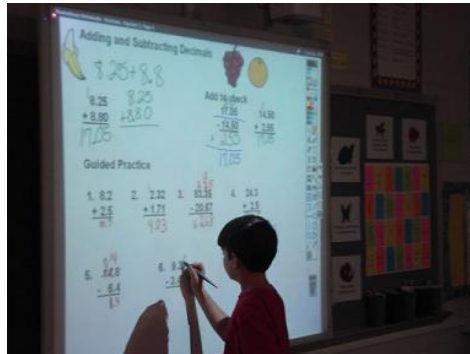
I encourage all of you to attend the upcoming "Listen and Learn" event. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided.

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/BCC_SupterintendentsRecommendation10142011.pdf

Halloween

I want to thank all of our families who came out to enjoy and support our students during Friday's Halloween parade and classroom parties. We hope you had as much fun as the students. Thank you to our room parents for putting together such great parties. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers for their planning.

Technology Upgrades:



It is essential that our students are exposed to and gain knowledge about technology that will enhance their learning experience in the future. We would like to thank the PTA for purchasing Promethean Boards for the third grade classes. I am happy to share that the boards have been installed and are in use in all third grade classes. The teachers and students are very excited.

Additionally, we would like to thank the PTA for the following:

- ✓ Reimbursement to teachers for expenses
- ✓ Staff breakfast during Pre-service week
- ✓ Staff Dinner before Back to School Night
- ✓ Vouchers for teacher purchases at the Book Fair
- ✓ Providing the mulching and weeding service outside of the media center. The area looks amazing and we can't wait to use it.
- ✓ Fasst Math License (a computer program for students to work on Math Facts)
- ✓ Digital Camera's and a color printer for the Digital Arts class

...and many, many more. We truly appreciate ALL that you do for the staff and students here at NCC.!



Spotlight on Success

Student of the Week - Each week teachers at all grade levels, as well as the specialists, select a student as Student of the Week. Students are recognized on the morning announcements for their leadership, determination, responsibility, hard work, or overall good citizenship. At the end of the month all students who were awarded Student of the Week are invited to have lunch with the principal. Please look at the showcase in the front hallway of the school for a picture and write up of those students. Students selected for the month of October were:

October 10th

Grade 3 - Megan Bickel

Grade 4 – Katie Bettman

Grade 5 – Raiden Williams

Grade 6 - Drew Packs

Specialist - Jay Hesslink

Teacher - Ms. Moore

October 17th

Yiannis Hakiotis

Isaiah Sullivan

William Birks

Paige Moffitt

Shani Williams

Ms. Jin Lin

October 24th

Ryan Beal

Lydia Hamilton

Trey Taylor

Seanna Monroe

Melissa Carr

Ms. Kouwenberg

Student Government Association (SGA)

On Friday, October 14th we held our annual SGA elections.

Congratulations to our new North Chevy Chase Elementary School SGA Officers!

President-

Taylor Hermes

Communications Managers-

Nicole Chapman/Anna Fraser

Secretary-

Sadie Bagdasian

3rd grade Vice President-

Cole Philpott

4th grade Vice President-

Katie Bittman/Jenna Kirsch

5th grade Vice President-

Jack Loughlin/Conor Dickinson

6th grade Vice President-

Brian Weber/Conor Kelley

Flu Vaccine Clinic

On Friday, November 10, 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will conduct a flu vaccination clinic at North Chevy Chase Elementary School. Parents must sign up for appointments by contacting the school's health room. The two-hour clinic will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.

Website Updates

Please visit our website frequently to check on updates. Mrs. Deb Ford and Mrs. Tinney have worked diligently to ensure that all the information is update and accurate.

Important dates for the Bulldogs in November/December

November

7 -9 - Outdoor Education (sixth Grade)
10 - Free Flu Vaccine Clinic @ NCC 1:00 -3:00 pm
10, 11 - Early dismissal 1;00 pm
14 -18 - SGA Canned Food Drive and Spirit Week
16 - Picture Re-takes
23 - Early Dismissal 1:00 pm
24 - 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

1st - Sixth Grade Parent Articulation Meeting with principal from Westland 7:00 pm @ Chevy Chase Elem.
8th and 9th - Drama Club Production 7:00 p.m.
21st Chrous/Band-Orchestra Winter Concert - BCC High School 7:30 p.m.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support and partnership to help student achieve their very best.

Sincerely,

Reneé D. Stevens