

NORTH CHEVY CHASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3700 JONES BRIDGE ROAD
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

Principal's Post
October 7, 2011

Please Note, No School on the following dates:

October 21st - MSEA Convention

October 31st – Professional Day

Back to School Night

Our Back to School Night was a great success. Thanks for taking the time to be with us. It was wonderful to see so many parents. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year.

Open House

October 10th

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Open House, or Parent Visitation Day, is on Columbus Day, **Monday, Oct 10, 2011**, which is a holiday for many government workers. All MCPS schools have scheduled open houses for their parent communities on this day. Parents and guardians are welcome to visit NCC between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to observe students in the classroom.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month



North Chevy Chase Elementary is a peaceful and friendly learning environment where bullying, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated. All students, parents, or staff members are

encouraged to report any act of bullying, harassment or intimidation. This can be done by emailing or calling the teacher, the guidance counselor, Mrs. Leahy-Jones, or Ms. Stevens, principal. Since there is a difference between age-related behaviors and bullying, when an issue arises, the administrator along with the school counselor investigates the incident. Parent reporting forms are available in the office as well as on the MCPS website.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

If you would like to explore more information about bullying with your children, please feel free to visit www.pacerkidsagainstabullying.org.

Gymnasium Update

Yes, finally, construction on the gymnasium has begun! I told you it would happen. The first phase of the project was to take down the fence and bushes along Manor Road. A beautiful new brick retaining wall, with North Chevy Chase written on it, will replace the fence. This portion of the project should be completed by the beginning of December. Construction on the actual gymnasium is also underway. We are still scheduled for a summer 2012 completion of the entire project. Look for monthly construction updates in this newsletter.



Playground Equipment –

The old playground equipment has been removed and the new playground equipment has been ordered and should be installed by the first of December. We are anxiously awaiting its arrival. I will keep you posted.



George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy Saturday School Program –

Are you looking for some tutoring and mentoring in reading/language arts, mathematics and test taking skills for students in grades 1 – 12? Saturday School may be just the answer that you are looking for. For 25 years, the Saturday School has helped the students of Montgomery County enhance their mastery of core academic subjects.

Saturday School is held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the following MCPS high schools: Blair, Northwest, Wheaton, Kennedy, Paint Branch, Rockville, Watkins Mill, Gaithersburg, Springbrook, Einstein, Magruder and Sherwood. Parents must register in person at the Saturday School site that their child will attend. At the time of registration, parents must bring:

- *Registration fee (\$40 for FARMS/ \$50 for non-FARMS) per student. Financial assistance and a payment plan options are available for students who are not able to pay the Saturday School registration fee.*
- *A copy of student's most recent report card.*

****Middle and high school students can receive SSL hours when they volunteer as tutors at Saturday School.***

You can find out more information by visiting the Saturday School Website www.saturdayschool.org or you may contact Michael Thomas, Executive Director at Michael_A_Thomas@mcpsmd.org

Halloween is coming, Boo!

Class Halloween parties will be on Friday, October 28th – Party with parade (pending due to construction and weather) will be from 2:00-3:15 pm. Please choose a costume that is appropriate for your child. It should fit and not impede movement. Please do not send masks to school and do not choose a costume which is gory. We do not allow any weapons as part of costume even if the weapons are plastic. Leave those at home.



Role of the School Counselor

From Ms. Leahy-Jones:

Hi! I wanted to introduce myself to those families who are new to NCC. This is my fifth year at NCC and my twenty-second in MCPS. I am thrilled to be working again with your son/daughter at NCC! If you are from MCPS, you are probably familiar with my role, but for those who are new to NCC or MCPS, I wanted to share my job responsibilities with you.

First, I visit all the classrooms at NCC regularly. Each grade level team decides how I visit the classroom. For example, in 3rd grade, I visit through homeroom, whereas in 5th grade I visit through Reading/Language Arts class. During classroom guidance visits, I cover topics that are salient to that grade level. Each week, your child's teacher meets with their grade level team. At team meeting, many items are discussed, such as: curriculum, grade level concerns, students, field trips, etc. Many lessons that I plan come from specific needs expressed from the team. Lessons also come from issues that are brought to my attention from other staff and parents, which support the MCPS counselor standards. MCPS standards come from five developmental areas: academic, personal, interpersonal, career and healthy development. For example, in grades 3 and 4, students are learning about the power of words, and how words have an effect on people. We read the book, Just Kidding by Trudy Ludwig to illustrate this issue (personal/interpersonal). This lesson brought some great discussion and personal experiences from students. In grades five and six, we are talking about setting goals and managing stress (academic and personal). Next month, we will be talking about healthy choices during Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is a school-wide MCPS initiative to heighten awareness about healthy choices. Students will listen to daily morning announcements about healthy foods and activities and I will be teaching lessons specific to each grade level about healthy living. For example, in grade 3: prescription drug safety, grade 4: harmful effects of smoking cigarettes, grade 5: alcohol abuse/ and grade 6: marijuana and other harmful drugs.

Much of my time is spent in the classrooms delivering lessons, every other week. Spending time in the classrooms helps me be proactive while providing the opportunity for me to be visible and approachable to your child. Students who need to see me fill out a counselor referral slip. Forms are kept in each classroom and outside my office. The referral slip is broken into 3 types of problems (small, medium and big). This year, I have tweaked the referral form so that 3rd & 4th have one type of form (using bears) while 5th & 6th grade have a different form (using different size bags) to illustrate how we carry our problems around. During the first week of school, Ms. Stevens and I had grade level Town Hall Meetings that reviewed this process. Ask your child to describe the process to you.

Additionally, I see children in small groups. The most popular groups are daily lunch bunch groups where students ask to have lunch with me or the child's parent/teacher has asked that I meet with him/her. I spent the first couple of weeks of school getting to know students who are new to NCC (from outside the BCC cluster). NCC has over 50 new children! It was fascinating to learn where students were schooled prior to coming to NCC. This year, we have many students from the surrounding areas and from places such as: England, Spain, Sengal, Maine, and South Carolina. I also meet with small groups to address a particular topic/situation, such as grief/loss, family changes, and friendship. Please feel free to let me know if there is a way I can help your child or if you have any questions. The best way to reach me is through e-mail: Victoria.A.Leahyjones@mcpsmd.org.

Finally, another responsibility that I have is Student Service Learning Coordinator. If you have a student in grade 6, you are familiar with this graduation requirement. All MCPS students are required to complete 75 SSL hours by the time they graduate from high school. This process (of earning hours) starts the summer entering sixth grade. Your child was given explicit instruction on how to do this at the end of fifth grade, in classroom guidance. I will spend another class period reviewing this during health class. Again, should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. It is a pleasure working with your child!



North Chevy Chase Gently Used Coat Drive

Happy Helpers for the Homeless was founded in February 1993 by Executive Director Amber Coffman, Their mission is to provide food, toiletries and clothing with compassion and a smile; and to spread the belief that if all those able, got involved, the human tragedy of homelessness would be solved.

We are asking students to please bring in gently used winter coats (children's and adult sizes) to donate to Happy Helpers in an effort to help keep the homeless men, women & children of Maryland a little bit warmer during the cold winter months. Please give a bit of your heart to the homeless.

Inkjet Recycling

Did you know that used inkjet cartridges from your home computer can be recycled right here at North Chevy Chase? And better yet, we receive a \$1.00 credit for each cartridge we send in towards future inkjet cartridge purchases for our school. We have a collection box in the office. Please drop off your cartridges there or send them in with your child.

Please Mark your Calendar

October -

10 – Columbus Day – Open House for Parents 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

11 – PTA Community Night Fundraiser Louisiana Kitchen

18- Sixth grade Parent Meeting for Outdoor Ed

21 – No school MSEA Convention

28 – End of first marking period

31– Professional Day for Teachers

November

7 -9 - Outdoor Education (sixth Grade)

10 – Free Flu Vaccine Clinic @ NCC

10, 11 – Early dismissal

23 – Early Dismissal

24 – 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

Sincerely,

Reneé D. Stevens