



Neelsville News



The Neelsville MS PTSA Newsletter

January 2011

IN THIS ISSUE –

- **From the Principal's Desk – pg 1-2**
- **Classroom notes – pg 3**
- **Note from PTSA President – pg 3**
- **Outdoor Ed – pg 4**
- **SSL Notes – pg 5**
- **Teen Dating – pg 6**
- **Roy Rogers Nite – pg 7**
- **Domino's Nite – pg 8**
- **Chick-fil-A Nite – pg 9**
- **Neelsville News Info – pg 10**

UPCOMING EVENTS –

- **January 18th – 21st**
>Semester Exams
- **January 21st (Friday)**
>2nd Quarter, 1st Semester ends
> Principals Coffee with parents (8:30 am – 9:30 am)
- **January 24th (Monday)**
>No school for students
- **January 25th (Tuesday)**
>3rd Quarter, 2nd Semester begins
- **January 26th (Wednesday)**
>Incoming 6th Grade Parent Meeting (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) NMS
- **January 27th (Thursday)**
>Spelling Bee
>Girls Basketball vs. Clemente (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
> 7th & 8th Grade Parent Articulation Meeting (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
- **February 2nd (Wednesday)**
>Report Cards distributed
> Roy Rogers Night
>Outdoor Ed Parent Info Meeting (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm), NMS Cafeteria
- **February 3rd (Thursday)**
>Group Pictures
>Boys Basketball vs. Baker (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
>Variety Show (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm)
- **February 4th (Friday)**
>Variety Show (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm)
- **February 8th (Tuesday)**
>PTSA meeting (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) Media Center
- **February 9th (Wednesday)**
>Outdoor Ed – Snow Day (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
> "Straight A" Dinner (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) Cafeteria
- **February 10th (Thursday)**
>Girls Basketball vs. King (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
- **February 16th (Wednesday)**
>Boys Basketball vs. Rocky Hill (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a restful Holiday season and have entered 2011 with renewed energy and commitment to our students' success. As the first semester comes to a close on January 21st and the second semester begins on January 25th, it is important that we remember some of the resources available to make your child successful. We have a great number of resources that both students and parents can tap into to assist in monitoring student progress and success. **Edline** with on-line grades is an excellent source of information. Teachers are expected to update their sites every two weeks. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, coinciding with activity bus days, the Media Center is open after school and there is an organized homework help. Our extended day program is currently helping students improve their reading and mathematics skills. There are many other less formal ways teachers can work with students but the key thing is students taking advantage of the one-on-one help teachers provide. Students who are struggling, but do not take advantage of these opportunities truly have no excuses.

Our **Advisory Program** provides grade appropriate instruction and information that is often outside of the normal curriculum. The Advisories meet every day for 25 minutes and the hope is to accomplish many instructional and administrative tasks. Focus areas include study skills, literacy, D.E.A.R, decision-making, preparation for MSA. Our teachers follow their advisory class so stronger relationships can be established and nurtured. The by-product of this program is students getting to know additional adults in the school who can provide mentoring support.

Maryland School Assessment (MSA) Updates

If you have a child in middle school, as a parent you will find the following state website of interest:

<http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/assessment/index.html>

On this website you will be able to view public release items and student responses in reading comprehension, vocabulary, word study and mathematics. Additionally, there is a section on frequently asked questions and more information about the MSA for reading and mathematics. In other sections of the website you will find information about the voluntary state curriculum and specifically what is tested on the assessment.

(Continued on page 2...)

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You can help your child to perform well on these tests, if you stress the importance of reading each question carefully and responding carefully to the whole question. Teachers have been working on test taking skills and providing individual feedback to each student.

This year students will take the **MSA** on **March 7, 2011** and testing will run through **March 16, 2011**. It is vital that all students be in school and well rested for each day of testing.

MAP-R

Our MAP-R testing begins on January 15, 2011 - February 11, 2011. Montgomery County Public Schools is continuing to use reading assessments to provide teachers and families with more information on the progress of students in grades 3-8 to assess reading achievement.

The MAP-R, published by Northwest Evaluation Association, has many benefits to taking the test using computers, including the ability to customize the test for each student and to provide information quickly to teachers and families. The results from the MAP-R are given to your child and are available to parents and guardians to review through your child's English teacher. The MAP-R is a nationally normed test, which also matches with state and local reading standards. Because this is a national test, a child's performance can be compared with the performance of other students across the country. To learn more about the MAP-R, you can visit the following website: <http://www.nwea.org>

PEACE DAYS

Neelsville will begin implementing Peace Days beginning January 25th. What are Peace Days? A Peace Day is defined as a day (for each grade or the entire school) where there are ZERO OFFICE REFERRALS. When a particular grade accumulates a certain target level of peace days, the entire grade level will be recognized. The target levels are (accumulated days): 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, and 175 days. At each target the grade levels will receive rewards. The specific rewards will be determined based on student feedback, but may include ice cream socials, after school dances, field days, and other great incentives.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION, EDLINE

Please understand that MCPS has concerns about our ability to contact parents and students in the event of an emergency. Emergencies might be related to school closures, a threat, or the need to convey critical information to parents. We have two venues to assist us in communicating with parents: The Connect-Ed calling system and Edline. Connect Ed is the vehicle by which you can receive telephone calls from school and important information can be communicated to you by voice, in an expeditious manner. Edline is another venue for us to communicate with you via e-mail, and also simultaneously permit you to access your student's real-time grades. MCPS is requesting your cooperation in assuring that your contact information is up-to-date. An active telephone number is required to be on record, preferably with voice-mail ability. A current e-mail address is also required in order for you to receive email announcements. Please be sure to check your student's Edline account and ensure that the information recorded is correct and current. If you do not have an Edline account, please obtain one. Assistance in obtaining an Edline account is available by contacting Mr. Robert Smith (Robert_L_Smith@mcpsmd.org). You may also contact our registrar, Mrs. Menocal (Nelcys_Menocal@mcpsmd.org), to ensure that your telephone number on record is updated. Up-to-date information is critical to our ability to contact you in the event of an emergency, and your assistance is very much appreciated.

-- Dollye V. McClain

NOTE FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a great holiday break!

Currently our students are taking exams. I know they will do very well. Students just do your best!

Staff we do appreciate your hard work and I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Lunch.

Parents here are some questions we should ask ourselves everyday: Are we teaching our children good behavior? Do our children know how to be respectful to each other and to all adults? Do you ask your children about their school day? Do you talk to your children about BULLYING? Do you know the different types/forms of BULLYING? Could your child be a BULLY? Who are your children friends?

Parents, you must pay attention to your children's activities and the friends they hang out with.

Parents please do not hesitate to call the school or a PTSA board member if you have any questions.

Let's make sure our school environment stays positive and safe for everyone!

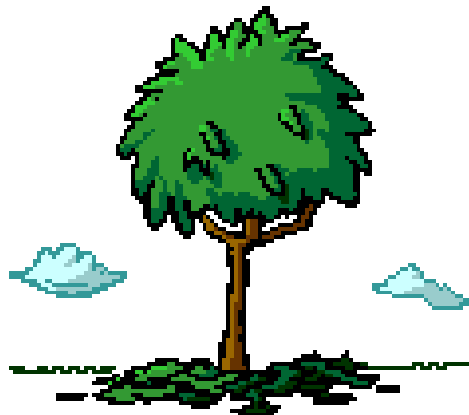
Sincerely,

Art Butler
Neelsville middle school
PTSA President

CLASS ROOM NOTES

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a nice winter break. In Quarter three, students will learn new before, during, and after reading strategies as they read and apply them to autobiographies and biographies. Students will also look closely at ways to understand unfamiliar vocabulary, and they will continue to work on responding effectively to brief constructed response (BCR) prompts. Students will complete a culminating activity by reading a biography independently then incorporating the information into a computer project. Students should be reading at home every night for 30 minutes and taking AR tests regularly.

Seventh grade science students are continuing their study of nutrition and the human body. We have completed our first dissection – chicken wings – which we hope the students share with you over the dinner table sometime! We will be completing our next two dissections within the next month, which will be sheep eyeballs and frogs. Students will also be completing the project for this unit which is to create a nutritionally balanced menu. - (Karen Doerrler)



CALLING ALL 6TH GRADE PARENTS!!!!

PLEASE COME TO AN

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

7:00 p.m.

In the Neelsville Middle School

Dining Room



Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

January 2011

SSL: Promotes Social Responsibility.

- Make a resolution to address real community need through involvement with pre approved organizations and opportunities.
- Service learning activities may involve **advocacy action**. Advocacy activities may include letter writing, public presentations, and involvement in community events to promote one's views on issues of interest. Advocacy action, like all other SSL actions must be supervised by representatives from nonprofit, tax exempt organizations.
- All activities for which SSL hours are awarded must be secular (non-religious) in nature. Service-learning activities sponsored by religious organizations must address real need beyond their membership in the broader community.
- All SSL opportunities should begin with a preparation phase. Students are made aware of the need they will be addressing and what is expected of their involvement.
- Get involved in meaningful service with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center on the Martin L. King, Jr. Day of Service January 17.

Choose Respect Montgomery Teen Dating Conference

WHAT - 2nd Annual Choose Respect: Montgomery Teen Dating Conference

FOR - Students in Grades 7 - 12 and their Parents

WHEN - Saturday, April 9, 2011,

WHERE - Montgomery College, Takoma Park Campus

MORE INFO - Call 240-777-5573

Saturday, April 9, 2011, the 2nd Annual Choose Respect: Montgomery Teen Dating Conference will take place for Students in Grades 7 - 12 and their Parents, at Montgomery College, Takoma Park Campus.

Workshops will be available on healthy teen dating behaviors, recognizing abuse in dating relationships and misuse of technology.

There will be separate workshops for Parents - offered in English and Spanish regarding teen dating relationships.

Free lunch and raffles will be available. For more information call - 240-777-5573.

This is sponsored by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Montgomery County in collaboration with many other county agencies and organizations.

*Susan Morgan
Resource and 8th grade Counselor
Neelsville Middle School
301.353.8071*

Neelsville Family Night at Roy Rogers



Please join us for the Neelsville Family Night at Roy Rogers

Where - Roy Rogers

19775 Frederick Road
Germantown, MD 20876
301-540-8634

When - Wednesday, February 2nd, 2011

From - 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Come out and support Neelsville and have dinner at Roy Rogers. This is a great chance to get to meet parents and share information. Neelsville student show your support for your PTSA and help raise 25% for many activities at your school. See you there from 3:30pm to 7:30pm. Drive thru orders are also accepted. **Remember to mention that you are supporting Neelsville Middle School.**



Domino's Family Night

Where - 13050 Middlebrook Rd.
Germantown Md. 20874
301-540-3388
&
Flower Hill Way
Gaithersburg Md. 20879
301-869-3000

When - Thursday, March 3rd, 2011

From - 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Take a night off of cooking and order pizza at Domino's! Help the Neelsville PTA raise money with every order purchased. Remember when placing an order to give the driver or cashier your order slip so that the school can get credit. Thank you for your support.

(CUT THIS FORM AND GIVE TO THE DRIVER AND CASHIER WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER)

DOMINO'S PTA PIZZA FORM

SCHOOL: Neelsville Middle School TEACHER: _____

DATE: Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 FAMILY'S NAME: _____

TOTAL OF SALE \$: _____

Neelsville Family Night at Chick-fil-A



Please join us for the Neelsville Family Night at Chick-fil-A.

Where - Chick-fil-A

19945 Century Blvd
Germantown, MD 20874
(240) 686-1110

When - Thursday, March 17th, 2011

From - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Come out and have dinner. Parents this is a great way to meet other Neelsville parents and could build a support system to help your child. Students you could help support your school by joining us from 4pm to 8pm. **Please mention that you are a Neelsville family when placing your order so the school can get credit.** *20% of the sales (eat in/ carryout) from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm will be donated to the Neelsville PTSA.*

No DRIVE THRU will be accepted for the fundraiser.

PARENTS – GET CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED!!

- **Edline** – Student’s grades and assignments. www.edline.net
- **NMS Website** – Morning announcements at NMS. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/neelsvillems/>
- **Quicknotes** – MCPS email news - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/>
- **NMS PTSA Yahoo Group** - PTSA information - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeelsvillePTSA/>

Don’t forget to join the new NMS PTSA Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeelsvillePTSA/>)

You don’t have to be a PTSA member to join. Membership is open to all parents/guardians of current NMS students and NMS staff. Email NeelsvillePTSA-subscribe@yahogroups.com to submit a membership request. You can choose to receive the emails in the form of a daily or weekly digest. Please send the following information with your membership request –

- Parents – your name, your child’s name, your child’s grade
- Staff – your name, department.

ABOUT THE NEELSVILLE NEWS

Neelsville News is the monthly newsletter published by the Neelsville PTSA. We hope that you will find this a valuable resource for keeping up to date with PTSA news, notes and events, as well as an excellent tool for communicating important PTSA and school information to our school families. If you have any questions or comments on the newsletter or would like to submit an article, please email the editor.

General PTSA information like names of PTSA board members, meeting dates, **forms for joining and volunteering**, and back issues of the newsletter are **available online at the Neelsville Middle School website** under the “Parents” tab.

Please note that there are limitations as to what can/will be printed in the Neelsville News. All content is subject to space limitations, PTSA by-laws, and the discretion and approval of the PTSA President, Principal, and/or Newsletter Editor. Not all content that is submitted will be printed. The Newsletter Editor, PTSA President and Principal individually and collectively reserve full editorial license to determine what content is most appropriate for and/or considered of interest to the general readership of the Neelsville News.

About the Neelsville News

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PTA Meeting	Print Deadline	Email Deadline	Online
Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 11	Feb 15
Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 11	Mar 15
Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 15	Apr 19
May 10	May 11	May 13	May 17



Mark Your Calendar – PTSA Meeting Schedule

- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10