



# Neelsville News



The Neelsville MS PTSA Newsletter

March 2011

## IN THIS ISSUE –

- From the Principal's Desk – pg 1-2
- PTSA President's letter – pg 3
- Book Fair – pg 4
- Staff Appreciation Lunch – pg 5
- Chick-fil-A Nite – pg 6
- Domino's Nite – pg 7
- Roy Rogers Nite – pg 8
- Chick-fil-A Nite – pg 9
- Neelsville News Info – pg 10

## UPCOMING EVENTS –

- **March 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**  
>Chick-fil-A Night (4 – 8 pm)
- **March 31<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)**  
>No School for Students
- **April 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday)**  
>Boys Soccer vs. Clemente (3-4 pm)  
> Math Night (7:30 - 8:30 pm)  
> 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter begins
- **April 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**  
>Roy Rogers Nite (3:30 pm – 7:30 pm)  
>Domino's Nite (4:00 pm- 9:00 pm)
- **April 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**  
>Book Fair (8:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
>MSA Science for 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
>6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Ed
- **April 12<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**  
>Book Fair (8:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
>PTSA meeting (7:00 pm – 9:00 pm)  
>6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Ed  
>7<sup>th</sup> grade Field Trip
- **April 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**  
> Book Fair (8:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
>Book Fair Evening Hours  
(6:30 pm – 8:00 pm) Media Center  
>Chick-fil-A Night (4 – 8 pm)  
>6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Ed
- **April 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**  
>Book Fair (8:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
>6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Ed
- **April 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**  
>Book Fair (8:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
>6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Ed
- **April 18<sup>th</sup> - April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
>Spring Break & Easter Holiday
- **April 27<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**  
>Girls Soccer vs. King (3 -4 pm)  
>"Straight A" Dinner  
(7-8 pm – Cafeteria)
- **April 29<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**  
>Staff Appreciation Lunch (tentative)



## From the Principal's Desk

The third marking period is coming to a close on March 30<sup>th</sup> and the fourth quarter will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Students still have time to "catch up" on any of their missed assignments to make this third quarter the best ever.

*Did you know* that students will not graduate if they have not passed the **4 required High School Assessments (HSAs)**? There are three ways to pass these tests - a) by passing all four exams with the required cut off scores, b) meet a minimum combined score of 1602 or c) pass with the "Bridge Plan". **The MSA is a good predictor of how your child would do on the HSAs.**

### Four Core (Foundation) Tests

The four HSAs— algebra/data analysis, biology, English, and government—are based on the Core Learning Goals which clearly outline course content and learning objectives for each content area. The content covered in HSA-related courses and on the HSAs is a basic level of knowledge that will be built on as a student continues his/her education.

### Know the Score

The passing scores for the 4 HSA content areas are:

- Algebra/Data Analysis: **412**
- Biology: **400**
- English: **396**
- Government: **394**

A student who earns a state-approved score on certain Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests does not have to take the HSA in the related subject. The student will receive the passing score for the content area. Scores are mailed to the local school system (LSS) 6 weeks after the test was taken. The LSS then sends the individual student scores to the schools. The schools are responsible for sending students' scores to parents/guardians. Contact your child's school if you do not receive his/her HSA scores in a timely manner.

### Know the Plan

Each local school system has a plan of when HSA-related courses are typically offered to students. The school counselor can help plan a course of study for your child to graduate from high school as well as help prepare him/her for the future.

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### **Know the Options**

There are a number of options for meeting the testing requirement, including:

- Passing all 4 HSAs ;
- Earning a combined score of 1602 on the four HSAs (This Combined-Score Option allows students to offset a lower score on one HSA with higher score on another HSA.); OR
- Using the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation, this allows students who meet the eligibility criteria to complete one or more projects in an HSA content area. More information about the Bridge Plan can be found on the HSAexam.org website.

### **Students with Accommodations**

Students with disabilities are entitled to receive both instructional and testing accommodations as outlined in his/her IEP. If you have questions about your child's accommodations for an HSA or Mod-HSA, or for the Bridge Plan, contact your child's teacher or IEP team.

**The Mod-HSA is an alternative test for students with an IEP** who meet specific participation criteria. A student with an IEP who has taken and failed the HSA once may have the opportunity to take the Mod-HSA if approved by the school.

### **Take and Retake**

The HSAs are given in October, January, May, and July/August. Students can retake an HSA as many times as necessary to earn either a passing score or a score high enough to allow them to use the Combined-Score Option. Students who do not pass one or more HSAs must be offered locally-administered or approved assistance.

### **Help at School**

Students who do not pass one or more HSAs must be offered locally-administered or approved assistance. Each school system has developed strategies for providing assistance, which could include sample test reviews, tutoring, or after-school or Saturday instruction. The school determines what assistance will be provided to students. A student who fails an HSA and is considering the Bridge Plan is required to participate in locally-administered or approved assistance and retake the test a second time. The student is responsible for taking advantage of the assistance to help prepare for retesting.

### **ALERT MCPS and ALERT Montgomery**

I would also encourage our parents to sign up with Alert MCPS, so you will get a text message or email with up to date information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/emergency/sources/alertmcps>

ALERT Montgomery is also a good way to receive up to the minute information affecting our region: <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/register.php>



-- Dollye V. McClain

## **LETTER FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT**

Hello Everyone,

How did the MSA testing go? I hope everyone scored high! I know you all did your best. Just keep your spirits high. You are two-thirds of the way through this school year and spring break is just around the corner. Staff and teachers, did I tell you how much we appreciate the hard work you all do? Remember staff appreciation week is coming soon!

Parents please keep encouraging you children to do well! We need to work with the school administration to help keep order in the school! There have been too many physical altercations in past weeks. Do you talk to your child about what to do if someone bothers them? Who to tell? Where to go? What to say? How to behave?

If you take a second, look at our school, we are making large academic gains. We must teach the students how to behave in public places. The teachers, staff and Ms. McClain can not do it all. We the parents must hold our children accountable for their behavior, because if we do not, the school system and legal system will! Believe me; we do not want to have our children's behavior put us parents in a terrible position. So let's do our part to help reduce the bad behavior going forward.

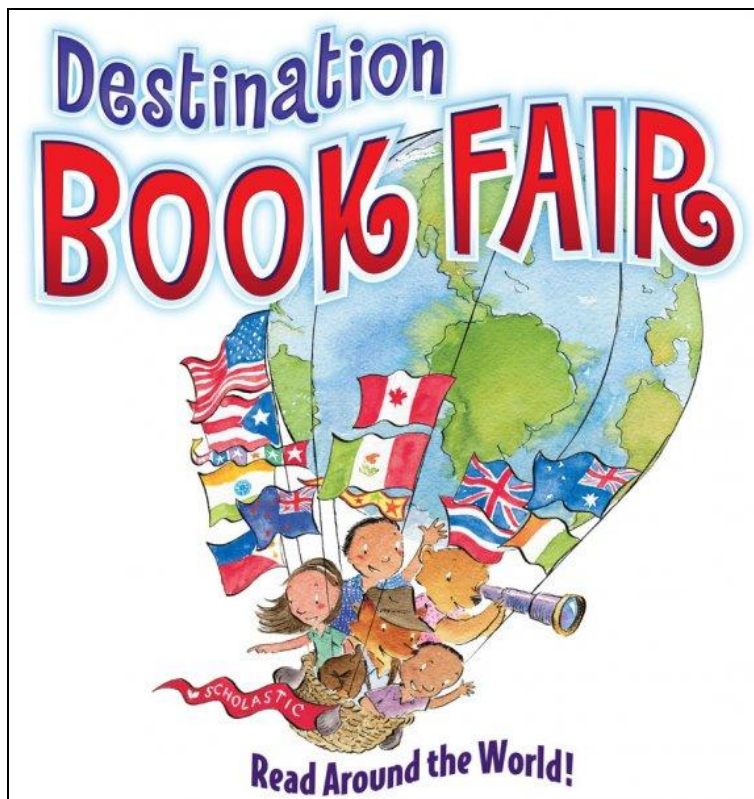
Neelsville PTSA will be looking for new executive board member for the upcoming school year, 2011-2012. Some of the positions are: Treasurer, Membership, Vice President, Newsletter Editor and MCPS Delegate. We have meetings the second Tuesday of every month during the school year. Please come out and get involved with your child's school, we need your help!

Sincerely,

Art Butler  
Neelsville PTSA President



**COMING SOON ...**



**WHAT** - A Week-long Scholastic Book Fair hosted by the NMS PTSA

**WHERE** - Neelsville Middle School Media Center

**DATE** - Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**TIME** - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Daily.

**Evening Hours for Parents** - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

*Student volunteers helping with the book-fair will be able to earn SSL hours.*



## Texas Barbeque Staff Appreciation Lunch

Dear Parents,

The PTSA is planning to host an appreciation lunch for the 102 teachers and staff at Neelsville MS. Lunch will be served during the three regular lunch shifts to avoid any disruption of students' schedule. Our theme for the appreciation lunch is "Texas Barbeque."

The lunch is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2011. I will be sending another announcement in a couple of weeks for the menu. Any donation of your time, food items or money is greatly appreciated. If you would like to help in any way, please send an email to: [tda8664@yahoo.com](mailto:tda8664@yahoo.com) with your contact information.

Thank you very much.

Transcie Almonte

# 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.**



# 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, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 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)**

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### DOMINO'S PTA PIZZA FORM

SCHOOL: Neelsville Middle School    TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011    FAMILY'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL OF SALE \$: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 - Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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

Do not feel like pizza then come to Roy Rogers for dinner from 3:30pm to 7:30pm. This is a great chance to get to meet other Neelsville parents and share information. Drive thru orders are also accepted. Remember to mention that you are supporting Neelsville Middle School.

# 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 - Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. Please mention that you are a Neelsville family when placing your order so the school can get credit

No DRIVE THRU will be accepted for the fundraiser.

**PARENTS – GET CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED!!**

- **Edline** – Student’s grades and assignments. [www.edline.net](http://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@yahoo.com](mailto:NeelsvillePTSA-subscribe@yahoo.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**

- Editor/Publisher:** Minita Benipuri  
**Submit Content to:** [mabenipuri@yahoo.com](mailto:mabenipuri@yahoo.com)  
**Deadline by email:** The Friday after the PTA Meeting  
**Deadline in print:** The Wednesday after the PTA Meeting  
**Distribution Date:** Online by the second Wednesday after the PTA Meeting

PTA Meeting	Print Deadline	Email Deadline	Online
Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 15	Apr 19
May 10	May 11	May 13	May 17



**Mark Your Calendar – PTSA Meeting Schedule**

April 12

May 10