

Poolesville Elementary School

From the Desk of Mr. Robbins:

Time continues to fly on by! Winter break is one month in our rear view mirror and spring break is only eight weeks away - we'll be busy in these weeks leading up to the break. We are excited for our instrumental music and choral concert on Monday evening at 7:15 at Poolesville High School, our Valentine's Day parties in two weeks, and state testing in March. Eight weeks will come and go before we know it!

In this issue of the Principal's Newsletter, I will be sharing information on student service hours for our graduating fifth grade students, open transfer season, the spring talent show, fourth grade fundraising efforts, instructional reading levels, and MAP-R testing. Maryland School Assessment (MSA) information will be shared in next month's newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Student Service Learning Hours (SSL)

A graduation requirement for all students in MCPS is to attain student service learning hours. Students may begin accumulating these hours after they complete fifth grade. For more information about SSL hours, please visit www.mcpsssl.org.

Change of School Assignment (COSA)

COSA season opened on February 1, 2012 and runs through April 1, 2012. During this season all students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) may request a transfer to another school in the system. In order to be considered for such a transfer, parents must be able to document a unique hardship that necessitates a change in school assignment.

Students at Poolesville Elementary School are provided an additional alternative as they may choose to attend Monocacy Elementary. If you wish for your child to attend Monocacy Elementary for the 2012-2013 school year, the COSA form must be completed, however the admittance process is open. If you would like a copy of the COSA booklet or have additional questions about the process, please see me.

Talent Show

Ms. Wendy Gotlewski is coordinating this year's "PES Got Talent" show. Start preparing your acts now as the showcase will be held May 4, 2012 at Poolesville High School. Ms. Gotlewski and her committee are searching for all types of talent. We ask that the acts are no longer than 3 minutes, kid-friendly, and include no animals. There will be much more information in the coming weeks.

Fourth Grade Fundraising

The fourth grade students of PES are getting ready to embark on an exciting field trip to the Chesapeake Bay. Although a wonderful learning experience, the trip is also very expensive. The students are hoping to earn \$1,500.00 to help defray the cost of the trip. Please stay tuned as the 4th grade class will be sponsoring numerous fund raisers in the next few months.



February 3, 2012

Spring Break from

April 2nd—April 9th

Dates to Remember

2/6—Instrumental Music Concert

2/14—Valentine's Day Classroom Parties

2/20—No School President's Day

3/1—Jump Rope for Heart

3/2—Early Dismissal

3/12 and 13—3rd and 4th Grade Reading MSA

3/14 and 15—5th Grade Reading MSA

3/16 and 19—3rd and 4th Grade Math MSA

3/20 and 21—5th Grade Math MSA

3/22-28—MSA Makeup

3/30—No School Professional Day

4/2—4/9 Spring Break

4/16 and 17—Kindergarten Orientation (No School for Kindergarten Only)

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Instructional Reading Levels

As a school we have been providing parents with students' instructional reading levels. Instructional reading levels are the levels at which your children are currently reading in class. These reading levels should not be too challenging for your child, however, they should not be easy for the children either. These levels are determined not only by your child's proficiency in decoding words and fluent reading, but also through their oral and written comprehension of text. This leveling system was created by researchers/authors, Fountas and Pinnell, and is used throughout MCPS. The chart below depicts the minimum level students are to be reading at to meet grade level standards during each quarter of the school year.

Grade Level	End of 1st Quarter	End of 2 nd Quarter	End of 3 rd Quarter	End of 4 th Quarter
Kindergarten	N/A	Level 1	Level 2-3	Level 4
First Grade	Level 5-7	Level 8-11	Level 12-15	Level 16-17
Second Grade	Level J	Level K	Level L	Level M
Third Grade	Level M	Level N	Level O	Level P
Fourth Grade	Level Q-R		Level S-T	
Fifth Grade	Level T-U		Level V-W	

MAP-R

MAP-R reading assessments are given to all students in grades three through five in the fall, winter and spring. We use this data to monitor students' reading growth and to diagnose student reading needs and subsequently plan for instruction. It is also used as a predictor model for student performance on the reading MSA. This data is often communicated to parents in report card comments, interim reports or various other means of communication. The charts below can help you to better understand what your child's results mean. If you have any further questions about the MAP-R or instructional reading levels, please contact Ms. Johnston, Reading Specialist or myself.

MAP-R Cut Scores for Predicting MSA Performance

Grade	Fall*			Winter**		
	Not Proficient	Proficient	Advanced	Not Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
3	<182	182-210	>210	<190	190-216	>216
4	<188	188-214	>214	<196	196-219	>219
5	<197	197-215	>215	<203	203-219	>219
6	<202	202-217	>217	<209	209-221	>221
7	<208	208-226	>226	<214	214-229	>229
8	<213	213-229	>229	<219	219-232	>232

- The end-of-year reading benchmarks for Grades 3–8 reflect where students are expected to perform in reading at the end of the year and indicate proficient or advanced MSA levels.

Reading Benchmark***		
Not Met	Met	Exceeded
<194	194-215	>215
<198	198-220	>220
<203	203-222	>222
<209	209-224	>224
<213	213-226	>226
<217	217-230	>230