
PAW PRINTS

Volume 2, Issue 3

September 30, 2011

From the Principal's Desk Catherine Long

Parent Visitation/Open House-October 10, 2011

As a reminder, Parent Visitation Day is coming up on Monday, October 10. You are invited to visit the school between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and 1:15 through 2:15 p.m. We look forward to seeing many parents since this is a good opportunity to observe our instructional program in action. Visitors are asked to enter the building through the front door, sign in, and obtain a name tag before proceeding to the classroom. Unfortunately, we do not have the space or supervision for younger brothers and sisters on this day. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you not bring siblings to school during this time. We will be following our normal schedule so this will be a time for quiet observation in the classrooms. We look forward to seeing you!

Meet the Superintendent - "Take Two"

On Wednesday, October 19, Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a "Listen and Learn" event from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. This event, rescheduled from September 8 due to inclement weather, 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. If you are not able to attend the event on October 19, Dr. Starr will be holding additional meetings throughout the fall. Times and locations are available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Curriculum for Grades K-2

If you are the parent of a child in kindergarten through grade 2, please check your child's backpack for a *Parent's Guide to the Integrated Curriculum*. This guide provides an overview of the goals in all content areas, the arts, health, and informational literacy. It also includes an overview of topics covered at each marking period as well as a list of web based resources to support the topics. You will find a great deal of useful information.

Flu Vaccination

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will conduct an after school flu vaccine clinic on November 10th for students enrolled at Ritchie Park Elementary School. School Health Services Nurses and School Health Room Aides will administer nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) after school. Nov. 10th is an Early Release day for parent conferences. Students will not be vaccinated unless they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult designated by the parent and bring the completed and signed Consent Form. Please check your child's backpack next week for the notification letter, consent form and vaccine information sheet.

FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has developed an emergency/crisis plan to handle any type of potentially dangerous situation. The plan is

tailored to meet the needs of individual schools. Our school will practice safety and security procedures, called “Shelter/Lockdown Drills” to ensure that the plan meets our needs and to ensure that children are familiar with the procedures. Similar to fire drills, Shelter/Lockdown Drills assure us that everyone will know what to do in an actual emergency. We want you to know that the students are not in any danger during these drills.

Shelter (formally known as Code Blue) puts the entire school on alert status when an emergency or crisis situation arises in the neighborhood or in the building. The types of situations meriting a Shelter status may include approaching severe weather, notification by the police that a criminal suspect is in the area, or medical emergencies in or around the school. Shelter requires all students to be accounted for and under supervision. During a Shelter situation, classroom instruction continues, and teachers await further instruction. If you have any questions about safety preparedness, please contact the school. While we hope we will not have an actual emergency, we are prepared.

Lockdown (formally known as Code Red) is the term used in an emergency/crisis situation that warrants an immediate lockdown of classroom and school facility doors. Lockdown alerts staff that an imminent danger exists inside or immediately outside the building. Some examples may include having an armed intruder or a potentially dangerous person on the school property. It requires staff to move to an immediate lockdown mode with all students, staff, and visitors under supervision. Students, staff members, and visitors proceed to a designated safe area away from doors and windows and do their best to create the impression that their room is vacant. Lights are turned off, windows in doors are covered, and blinds are closed. During Lockdown drills students will practice “staying low, staying quiet, and staying still” as the teacher secures the room.

Meet the Ritchie Park Staff- Lifelong Learners

Each edition of Paw Prints will include a short article by a member of the Ritchie Park staff. They will describe something new they have learned to do over the summer, or since the school year started. The Ritchie Park staff is committed to continuous growth!

Meet Caroline Capoccia

Growing up with two brothers, I was always playing one sport or another. I was a competitive swimmer from the age of 7 through high school. I also played basketball through the 8th grade. One of the only sports that I did not play was golf. If anyone had asked me a few years ago if I’d envision myself a golfer, I’d have said, “not a chance!” Well, that has all changed.

My daughter, now age 11, has become quite an accomplished golfer in her short life. She took up this sport by accident. One might say that her talent was “discovered” by a family friend at the age of 5. Since then, she has gone on to qualify for many tournaments, including the Junior World Championship Tournament in Pinehurst, NC at the age of 8.

So, a few years ago, I decided that I was not going to stay behind and become a “golf widow”. Since my husband was playing, and my son was going to end up playing by default, it was up to me to join in the fun. I started by joining a ladies golf clinic once a week. I was definitely the true beginner! However, I soon realized that my previous experiences as an athlete were definitely in my favor and going to help me conquer the game of golf. It was not too long before I

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Meet Caroline Capoccia con.

was good enough to go out on the course and play 9 holes with the ladies. And, boy was it fun!!

I've been playing now for about 3 years. I enjoy going out to play with my husband and kids, as well as with the ladies. And, of course, I thoroughly enjoy watching my daughter play in tournaments. This is truly a sport that I will enjoy for many, many years to come!



School Vision:

Students, staff, parents and community members will work together respectfully and cooperatively to create a safe, positive, inclusive, and academically-rich environment.

School Mission:

Our students will demonstrate academic excellence, independent thinking, and growth through the arts. Our staff will provide opportunities that challenge students to reach their potential while fostering the enjoyment of learning. Our parents will prepare students for learning and remain active in their children's education. The Ritchie Park community will communicate openly, uphold the PAVE values, and share high expectations for self and others.



Upcoming Events

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| Oct. 4 | Volunteer Orientation & PTA Meeting |
| Oct. 10 | Parent Visitation Day |
| Oct. 13 th | Fall Picture Day |
| Oct. 17 th | NAACP Kick off Meeting at Richard Montgomery HS |
| Oct. 19 th | Listen & Learn with Dr. Starr at Wootton HS |