
PAW PRINTS

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From the Principal's Desk Catherine Long

Thank you for your patience with our new security system. There has been a learning curve for all of us. There were several glitches in the system opening week, but Mrs. Baum and Ms. Zegarra have worked closely with our Security Office to resolve them quickly.

I have one new staff member to introduce. We were very pleased that Ms. Nahid Moradi joined us in the Media Center beginning September 12th. She has been a great addition to our staff. This is now just a half time position so she won't be able to fill all of Mrs. Stylos's shoes, but she will be an asset to our program.

Community Service at Ritchie Park

Every student in grades 1-5 should have received a Ritchie Park School Service Program packet this week. Students who are interested in applying for a job need to turn in an application to Mrs. Capoccia by **Fri. Sept. 23rd**. This program is voluntary for students in grades 1-4, however 5th graders must have a "job" this year. (*Note – Being a patrol, a student council rep or officer, or on the PAVE team counts as a service job.)

George B. Thomas Learning Academy Saturday School

Saturday School offers tutoring and mentoring in reading/language arts, mathematics, and test-taking skills for students in grades 1-12. It takes place Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at 12 high school centers. Enrollment began on September 10. Orientation is September 24. The core program of the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Saturday School offers tutoring and mentoring in

reading/language arts, mathematics, and test-taking skills for students in grades 1-12. It takes place Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at [12 high school centers](#). The closest site to RPES is Rockville High School.

How to Enroll

Registration for the Saturday School is ongoing. Student enrollment continues throughout the year. However, spaces are limited this year due to budget restrictions.

- Parents need to register in person at the Learning Academy Center that their child will attend.
- Parents and students should arrive at the center at 8:15 to register.
- At the time of registration, parents must provide the registration fee per student and each child's most recent report card.
- Every Saturday opens with a motivational session from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. and parents are encouraged to attend.

Additional information about the program can be found at: <http://www.saturdayschool.org/>

Homework Hotline Live (HHL)

HHL began its 26th season of helping students on September 14th.

- 1) Students can watch HHL from 4 to 6 pm on MCPS-TV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89) and through the web at www.AskHHL.org
- 2) Students can ask questions by:
 - a) Calling 301-279-3234

- b) Sending text messages to 724-427-5445 (this spells 7244 ASK HHL on a standard phone keypad)
 - c) Sending a message through the website: www.AskHHL.org
 - d) Posting a message to the HHL Facebook wall (search for “Homework Hotline Live”)
 - e) Emailing a question to: question@AskHHL.org
- 3) **NEW FOR THIS YEAR** – students can send text, email and Facebook questions until 9 pm!
- 4) Parents and teachers can follow HHL on Twitter @AskHHL. It’s a great way to keep up with the latest news about the show.

Celebrations and Changes for Our Cafeteria

Every MCPS elementary school has been honored by the United States Department of Agriculture for their outstanding practices in providing healthy meals, physical activity, and nutrition education to students. A total of 132 MCPS schools—all 131 elementary schools and Stephen Knolls School—are recipients of the Bronze-level Healthier US School Challenge award, sponsored by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. The Healthier US School Challenge initiative encourages all schools to take a leadership role in helping students make healthier eating and physical activity choices that will last a lifetime. In recent years, MCPS has made changes to enhance the quality of foods that are served, provide nutrition education in the classroom and ensure that children have opportunities for physical activity during the school day.

Part of these upgrades to enhancing the food served at every school includes changes to the a la carte items that are sold in our cafeteria. After meeting with our cafeteria manager and a MCPS Food and Nutrition Supervisor, the a la carte items sold at RPES will be different this year. Some items will be available to students when they walk through the lunch line every day. Other items will be sold on a rotating basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The lists

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 James Nelson

When my wife and I moved into our current house, we realized that it was missing something important to use, a place to relax outside, especially in the evening. We decided to build a deck to enjoy. After looking into many contractors and cost estimates, I decided to build the deck myself, or rather, build the deck with the help of friends. I had never built anything so big. I purchased a book on deck building and spent many nights reading each section thoroughly. I even read and reread the Montgomery County code to be sure the deck was built correctly and safely. After I felt comfortable enough, I got started. Each step along the way was a learning experience. I had to use the Pythagorean Theorem to lay out the location of the posts and keep them in line. I also had to calculate the amount of concrete for the volume of the holes I dug. I used measurement and angles skills to cut stringers for the stairs and put up railings that met code. As the project came to a conclusion many weeks past my due date, I had even surprised myself at how much I had learned throughout the process.

of everyday items and Tuesday/Thursday items are included below.

A La Carte Items:

Items Available Everyday

Milk (fat free and 1%)	.60
Water (8oz)	.50
Capri Sun (100% fruit juice, 6 oz)	.75
Baby Carrots	.25
Fresh fruit	.60
Bagel	.75
Bagel w/ Cream Cheese	\$1.25
String Cheese Snack (1 oz)	.25
Yogurt & Fruit Parfait (trial)	\$1.25

Twice a week (Tues/Thurs)

One of the following items will be available:

Rice Krispie Mini treats	.25
Fruit Snack	.35
Scrabble Jr. Crackers	.65
Cereal bar	.75
Pirate's Booty Popcorn	\$1.00
Side Kicks	.65
(100% frozen fruit juice bar, lactose free calcium fortified)	
100% frozen fruit juice bar	.50

All items meet or exceed the Healthy US Challenge nutritional guidelines for competitive foods and the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods as outlined in the MCPS Wellness Policies / Regulations.

If you would like to limit your child's ability to purchase a snack, please send a note to the cafeteria stating that snacks cannot be purchased, or can only be purchased a certain number of times each week. After you send in the note, a message will appear at the register to inform the manager. This is a very small screen on the register so the message needs to be limited to no snacks, or "x" times per week. It is not possible to list the types of snacks a child can purchase.

Programs for the Highly Gifted & 6th Grade Choice Programs

Attention Parents of Third Grade Students

The MCPS Central Office recently mailed applications for the Elementary Highly Gifted Centers (HGC) to all students enrolled in third grade. This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, **you must complete the application and return it by November 7, 2011 to:**

HGC Application
Division of Consortia Choice and Application
Program Services
11721 Kemp Mill Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20902

If for some reason you did not receive the packet in the mail and you are interested, please contact the school, or download the information from the web at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/elementary/highly-gifted-centers.aspx>

The packet is available in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese. If you need a translated application, you can also contact the school or visit the website.

There will be two parent information meetings about the HGC on the following dates beginning at 7:00 p.m. The same information will be presented at each meeting. Feel free to go to the one most convenient for you.

October 3, 2011, Northwest High School, 13501
Richter Farm Road, Germantown

October 10, 2011, Wheaton High School. 12601
Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring

Attention Parents of Fifth Grade Students

The MCPS Central Office recently mailed information related to the Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) Choice program to all students enrolled in fifth grade. This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the MSMC, **you must complete the**

application and return it by November 7, 2011 to:

HGC Application
Division of Consortia Choice and Application
Program Services
11721 Kemp Mill Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20902

If for some reason you did not receive the packet in the mail and you are interested, please contact the school, or download the information from the web at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/>. Applications for the magnet program will be available beginning on September 23rd and Choice program forms will be available by October 14th.

There will be parent information meetings for each program and evening programs are available for completing the application. Details on each of these meetings can be found in the packets, on the website and by calling 301-592-2040.



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	
Sept. 22	Mamma Lucia Restaurant Night
Sept. 28	Early Release for Students
Sept. 29	No school for students and teachers- Rosh Hashanah
Oct. 4	Volunteer Orientation & PTA Meeting