



# RONALD MCNAIR ELEMENTARY

301-353-0854 | 13881 Hopkins Road, Germantown MD 20874

Eileen Macfarlane, Principal  
Principal

Howard Wohl, Assistant  
Assistant Principal

November, 2009

Dear Parents,

It is our hope that 100% of you will participate in the parent-teacher conferences on Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12. Sometimes, as you prepare for the parent-teacher conferences, you may not know what to expect or what questions to ask. In order to be an active participant in this parent-teacher partnership, it is important to do some preplanning for this conference. I have attached a handout, *Tips for Parents for Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences*, which I hope will be helpful as you begin to think about your conference.

Coffee and tea will be available, courtesy of our PTA, outside the office on the afternoons of Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12. Please feel free to pick up a cup and take it with you to your conference. There will be some additional information and handouts available on the table for you. So please, take a few minutes to stop by.

I am sorry that many of you have had colds and the flu. The staff is making a tremendous effort to communicate with you and your child about make up lessons and make up homework. If your child has been absent, please help your child complete the make up work and return it to school. Please continue to reinforce the importance of good habits like frequent hand washing and covering sneezes. Thank you and stay well.

Very truly yours,  
*Eileen Macfarlane*

REMINDER: MONDAY, NOV. 2 NO SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11 EARLY RELEASE STUDENTS DISMISSED 12:55  
THURSDAY, NOV. 12 EARLY RELEASE STUDENTS DISMISSED  
12:55  
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23 EARLY RELEASE STUDENTS DISMISSED  
12:55

THURSDAY, NOV. 24 NO SCHOOL

FRIDAY, NOV. 25 NO SCHOOL

\*\*\*REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR ON SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>.

### Health News

Information has been sent out regarding the H1N1 clinics being held in 3 high schools around the county. The clinics will be held at Northwest High School, Northwood High School, and Rockville High School. These clinics will be providing the flu nasal spray only and are for ages 2-18. Because there are currently limited doses of H1N1 vaccine available, it is important that those in the target high risk groups receive the vaccine first. There will be clinics for Montgomery County residents not in the target high risk groups at a later date.

Check the county website for frequent updates on vaccine availability as well as upcoming clinic dates and locations. ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu)) The flu information line is open Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. The number is 240-777-4200. Ronald McNair will not be holding a flu clinic.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please be on time for your Parent-Teacher conference and stick to the subject most important - your child's educational progress. If the time scheduled for you is not convenient, plan with the teacher for an alternate time - before school or a phone conference if necessary.

Try to arrange for a babysitter for your children. This prevents them from distracting you or the teacher during the conference. Arrange to share babysitting time with a neighbor.

Ask the school to provide an interpreter if it would help you benefit more from the conference.

Follow up the conference by discussing it with your child. Talk about his/her strong points as well as things which need improving. Try to use the suggestions which come out of the conference discussion. Keep in touch with the teacher if problems or needs arise after the formal conference time has passed. Maintain the two-way communication which fosters the basis for improved education for your child.

Working together, we can achieve success!

### McNair Town Hall Meeting

Please join us Tuesday, November 17 for our first Town Hall meeting of the 2009-2010 school year. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm in the gym. Babysitting will be available in the multi-purpose room and you will have the opportunity to purchase pizza

and drinks. We look forward to an evening of sharing of ideas and thoughts about the education of your children at McNair.

### **Congratulations**

Awards assemblies will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> for grade 3-5 students who have earned a Citizenship Award, Honor Roll, or Principal's Honor Roll. Parents are welcome to join us in the Multi-purpose Room to celebrate our students' achievements. The times are as follows:

9:30 Grade 3

10:00 Grade 4

10:30 Grade 5

### **College Is Not That Far Away**

Kingsview Middle School will be hosting a College Funding Information Night on Thurs. November 5 from 6:30 to 8:00 in the All-Purpose room. This evening is sponsored by College Savings Plans of Maryland, Montgomery College, and MCPS. Their goal is to increase college awareness and financial preparation of elementary and middle school parents. See the flyer link below for more information:

[www.edline.net/files/Oa8deff5764509d73745a49013852ec4/Coffee\\_Conversation\\_and\\_College.docx](http://www.edline.net/files/Oa8deff5764509d73745a49013852ec4/Coffee_Conversation_and_College.docx).

### **Holiday Giving**

The Holiday Giving Project is a coalition of nonprofit, faith-based, public and private groups that collect and distribute food, gifts, and/or gift cards for Thanksgiving and the December holidays to needy Montgomery County individuals and families. This project is not an entitlement program, but is strictly based on referrals by social workers, school counselors and other professionals. Interfaith Works is the coordinating agency for this year's Holiday Giving Project. Resources are limited and based on donations; we want to make certain that those who need and want assistance this holiday season receive it.

McNair parents who wish to be referred should contact: Ms. Ann Smith, the guidance counselor at 301-353-0854. Referrals will be made through a secure site on the internet. The last date for making referrals for the December holidays is November 30, 2009. The zip code coordinating organization will contact the family with details on where and when to pick up their holiday basket or gift cards.

### **Appreciation Corner**

The students and staff of Ronald McNair owe many, many thanks to the following wonderful volunteers:

Mrs. Hannum and Mrs. Edwards for providing us with a great way to kick off our school year with our Back-to-School Picnic.

Mrs. Tran, who organized and served over 300 donuts on our Donuts for Dads mornings. She also will spend many hours this year maintaining our school marquee.

Mrs. Hannum, who organized our tasty ice cream social.

Mrs. Abbouchi and Mrs. Sood, for providing us with a wonderful opportunity to enrich our lives through reading with our Scholastic Book Fair.

Mrs. Hannum and Mrs. Madoo, for organizing and orchestrating a healthy way for our students to help their community through our Walk for the Homeless.

Mr. Schneider, who tirelessly handed out and collected the Lavender Fundraiser forms. The Fundraiser items will be in very soon. He has also organized our PTA Restaurant nights.

Mrs. Barney, for bringing exciting educational opportunities to the students through the PTA's Cultural Arts program.

Mrs. McCutcheon, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Pautienus, for collecting the wonderful individual artwork from our students, having it processed and organizing it's delivery.

Mrs. Carrai, for organizing our beautiful spirit wear sale.

And last, but not least, our PTA President, Mrs. Kibak, for keeping everything, including the above events in order!!

## **Job Opportunity**

Are you looking for something to do for a few hours while the kids are in school? Something that doesn't require an everyday commitment? What if you could help out the school at the same time?! Then being a Lunch Hour Aide Substitute is for YOU!! Approved applicants would be called in when a lunch hour staff member is out for some reason. The hours range between 11:00am - 2:45pm. The pay is \$13.88 an hour. To become eligible you must be fingerprinted at a cost to you of about \$65. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Sharpe in the office or at 301-353-0854.

## **Winter, Winter Everywhere**

### **Outdoor Recess**

As the weather changes and the days get colder, please remember to send your child to school dressed for the weather. Our students go outside for recess everyday unless the temperature dips below 32 degrees. Coats, hats, and gloves are always a good idea in the winter.

### **Inclement Weather**

Winter weather emergencies, such as snow and ice, may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, a delayed opening, or an early dismissal. We have attached a letter which provides information about the procedures used when such disruptions occur.

## **Get Your Yearbook Here!**

What better way to preserve the memory of your child's elementary years?! It's time to place your order for the 2009-2010 edition of the Ronald McNair Elementary Yearbook. If you place your order before Winter Break the cost is only \$20. After Winter Break, the cost will be \$24. An order form sheet is attached for your convenience. The sheet has 2 order forms in case you need to order for more than one child. Everyone who purchases a yearbook will have their name entered in a drawing to win a free yearbook! Please call Mrs. Cosgrove at the school with any questions about the yearbook.

## **PTA News**

### **Glory Days Fundraiser**

Please continue sending in your receipts from visits to our local Glory Days on Mateney Road. The school receives a percentage of each receipt turned in.

### **PTA Meeting**

Please join us for our November PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00pm.

### **Mangia, Mangia**

The PTA Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Friday, Nov. 13 from 5:30 to 8:30pm at Kingsview Middle School. Reservation forms are available in the office.

## **MCPS NEWS**

### **GEORGE B. THOMAS LEARNING ACADEMY**

You still have the opportunity to enroll your child in the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy. This tutoring and mentoring program can help your child reach his/her potential through individualized assistance with school work, study skills, and test-taking skills. Please call 301-320-6545 for more information.

### **HIGHLY GIFTED CENTERS**

The application materials for the Upcounty Center Programs for the Highly Gifted at Roberto Clemente are available in the office. All fifth graders are eligible to apply. These are exciting opportunities for interesting and challenging experiences at Roberto Clemente Middle School. One program focuses on math, science, and computer science, while the other program focuses on humanities and communication arts. The application deadline is:

Mon. Nov. 2, 2009, 7:00pm Application Workshop at Wheaton HS

Mon. Nov. 9, 2009 Application deadline, postmarked or delivered

### **Magnet Programs**

The school also has information about the Middle School Magnet Consortium programs at Argyle Middle School, Loiedermann Middle School, and Parkland Middle School. The *Choice* form for the MSMC is available on the MCPS website and in the office. The *Choice Form* is due November 9, 2009. Selection for the MSMC schools is done by lottery.

On Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009, Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology will hold an Open House starting at 7:00pm.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!!**

