



RONALD MCNAIR ELEMENTARY

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

Eileen Macfarlane, Principal

Donna Michela, Assistant Principal
FEBRUARY, 2012

Dear Parents,

I know you received your child's second quarter report card and reviewed it with your child. The teachers are helping the students identify and establish goals for the remainder of the school year and you might want to help your child focus on an area he or she could improve. The best approach is to look at the report card, data notebook and work completed with your child and point out strengths and one area your child could improve. It could be work/study skills or a specific content area. After identifying the area, decide what is getting in the way of your child's success. Is it time spent on homework, organization, rushing through work or paying attention in class? Then, establish a plan for success with checkpoints and incentives. Keep the plan a priority and check progress regularly. The emphasis is always on effort based improvement. At McNair we have three quotes we say often: "What we are learning is important. You can do it. I won't give up on you."

Lessons at school are designed to connect learning to life experiences. It is critical that your child sees the importance of what he/she is learning by understanding its application. Your support in providing those experiences is instrumental. Learning to put something together by reading directions and following directions on a map are real life skills that your child will appreciate. Writing to family and friends and writing and reading a grocery list are also meaningful. Further, counting and sorting or adding the ingredients in a recipe are two ways to connect the learning at school with the experiences in life.

It has been wonderful to see the children play outside in these unusually warm temperatures for winter. Everyone at McNair is enjoying this spring-like winter and I hope you are, too!

Sincerely yours,
Eileen Macfarlane

REMINDER: FEB. 1 - REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION
 FEB. 3 - AWARDS ASSEMBLIES (GRADES 3-5)
 FEB. 20 - PRESIDENT'S DAY - HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER INFO

The Principal's Newsletter is sent home on or near the first of each month. Each newsletter has a calendar for the month attached. This calendar is perfect to post on your refrigerator or anywhere in your house that you keep track of activities. You may also access the newsletter and calendar at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ronaldmcnaires/>.

IMPORTANT ITEMS

Emergencies can arise at any time. **It is important to your child's safety that we have your current address and current home and work numbers on file.**

Please label all of your student's personal items with their name (especially lunch boxes and jackets.)

Remember to check our Lost & Found rack outside the front office periodically for missing items.

It is Ronald McNair's policy that pets are not allowed on the school grounds. Please refrain from bringing your pet with you to drop off/pick up your child and from walking your pet on school grounds.

ATTENDANCE

We would like to remind parents that they MUST sign their child(ren) in at the office if they arrive to school at 9:15 a.m. or later. It is extremely important that you do not send your child into the building alone. They may not be able to gain entrance due to the security system.

NEW VISITOR SYSTEM

Our new security system is now completely in place with the addition of the Visitor Management System. Visitors and volunteers at McNair are now required to produce their driver's license or government issued identification when entering the building. Your identification is entered into the Visitor Management System, which adds you to our daily log and produces a visitor/volunteer label. Please be patient as we implement this new portion of our security system.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Please join us as we congratulate our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students for their academic achievements during the second marking period. We will hold our Awards Assemblies on Friday, Feb. 3rd beginning with the 3rd grade at 9:30 am. The 4th grade will follow at 10:00 and we will conclude with the 5th grade at 10:30. Congratulations to all our students on their achievements.

FIELD TRIPS

Our **first graders** will travel to the Adventure Theater for a performance of *The Snowy Day* on Tuesday, Feb. 7th. Buses will leave promptly at 9:45 am. Students are asked to please bring a bag lunch to school that day. Please remember to send in your permission slip and field trip fee, if you have not already done so.

On Monday, Feb. 13th, our **second grade** will visit the Baltimore Aquarium! This is a wonderful opportunity for all of the second grade students to see different animals and their habitats. The students will leave promptly at 9:00 am! They are asked to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a bag lunch. Permission slips and the field trip fee are due by Feb. 8th.

The **first and third grades** will each have an in-house visit from Mad Science this month. Third grade will learn all about sound on Feb. 22nd and 23rd. Our first grade will experience Mad Science's "Magnets" on Feb. 29th and March 1st. Please see the attached calendar for your child's specific time.

NEWS FROM MRS. WYATT

Mrs. Wyatt's total knee replacement surgery was a success and she is well on her way to a full recovery! In Mrs. Wyatt's absence, Mrs. Jackie Group has taken over her P.E. classes. Mrs. Wyatt is available via email.

Jump Rope for Heart is just around the corner! The activity will be held this year on Tuesday, February 14th for grades K, 1, 3, 4, and 5. Grade 2 will have their event on Wednesday, February 15th from 2:35-3:20. During this event, students will help to fight heart disease and stroke by taking turns jumping a short rope in a small group.

Opportunities will be given to earn prizes with more information going home with your child the last week in January. Jump roping skills will be worked on in P.E. classes prior to the event. Feel free to contact Mrs. Wyatt at Cheryl_P_Wyatt@mcpsmd.org if you have any questions or concerns.

DONATIONS, PLEASE!

In order for the Kindergarten project, "Success in Math: It All Begins in Kindergarten!" to come to life, it must receive more donations before it **expires on February 5th**. An integral part of our philosophy of teaching math to young children is that they use manipulatives to make the learning concrete - various counters, number cubes, etc. We would like to have these materials available for our kindergarten students and need your help! If you would like to donate to our account so we can purchase the needed Math supplies, please go to this website, www.donorschoose.org, and search "Ronald McNair." Our account should pop right up. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Weyrauch at 301-353-0854.

YEARBOOKS

Don't miss your chance to capture your child's "McNair Memories". Reserve your copy of the 2011-2012 Ronald McNair Yearbook TODAY!!! Get your order in soon... a limited quantity is available. Order forms are available in the main office and the cost is \$26.00. Yearbooks will be delivered in June.

HOMWORK HELP

MCPS-TV supports student achievement by offering a new and improved homework assistance service. *Homework Hotline Live (HHL)* will be available 4-6 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, both on MCPS cable TV and www.AskHHL.org. **Students can contact the *Hotline* by calling 301-279-3234, visiting www.AskHHL.org, texting to "7244 ASK HHL", posting to Facebook at "Homework Hotline Live" or emailing question@HHL.org.** Students can send text, email and Facebook questions until 9 pm!

PARENT ACADEMY

Registration is now under way for the winter 2012 MCPS Parent Academy. Parents can choose from an exciting lineup of sessions that include preparing for a college education, bullying, and helping students develop good organizational skills. A series of workshops for beginning computer users and another series on special education also are being offered. Parent Academy workshops are free of charge, and voluntarily taught by MCPS staff members and representatives from community organizations. Interpretation and childcare services are free. The winter 2012 schedule of workshops brochure came home in your child's backpack. Brochures are available in the main office. Additional information and online registration is available on the Parent Academy website at www.mcpsparentacademy.org.