



# RONALD MCNAIR ELEMENTARY

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

Eileen Macfarlane, Principal  
Principal

Howard Wohl, Assistant  
Assistant Principal

October, 2009

Dear Parents,

Although it seems as if the students just returned to school, I can tell by their good behavior that they have been in school for a few weeks practicing the routines and following the rules of the school. Students are well behaved and acting respectfully and responsibly. They are very focused on their lessons in the classrooms. They seem to have internalized the school's motto: "Work hard. Be nice."

In last year's surveys, both parents and students expressed an interest in dealing with teasing and bullies. As part of the curriculum, Mrs. Smith, the school counselor meets with all of the students to talk about how to deal with students who tease or bully. She will meet with students again this year to teach or reinforce D.E.B.U.G. strategies that the students can use if someone is bothering them. Please review the D.E.B.U.G. information and strategies that are in this newsletter with your child.

In addition to the D.E.B.U.G. strategies, students now have an outlet in which to express their concerns (including students who are bothering them) in order to solve problems. The weekly class meeting agendas are developed with input from the students. Talk to your child about class meetings and the issues the students have discussed. As a compliment to these action steps, the PTA Cultural Arts Program arranged for the Bright Star Theater to present, "The Lady of Bullyburg" this past Thursday for all of the students. Students seemed to enjoy and learn from the production. Additional resources for you are as follows:

[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov) [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)  
[www.aap.org/healthtopics/violprev.cfm](http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/violprev.cfm)

You will also find the October calendar attached with many opportunities for you to get involved. This calendar is perfect for posting on the refrigerator! I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely yours,  
*Eileen Macfarlane*

REMINDER: MONDAY, SEPT. 28

NO SCHOOL

FRIDAY, OCT. 2  
FRIDAY, OCT. 16

EARLY RELEASE STUDENTS DISMISSED 12:55  
NO SCHOOL