



ROSEMONT NEWS

WHERE EVERY STUDENT ROCKETS TO SUCCESS

November 2009

Calendar Items

Wednesday, November 11	Early Release Day, Report Cards Distributed Students Dismissed at 12:35 p.m., NO CAPP or PRE-K
Thursday, November 12	Early Release Day, Students Dismissed at 12:35 p.m. NO SCHOOL FOR CAPP or PRE-K STUDENTS
Friday, November 13	Individual Pictures Taken
Monday, November 30 – Friday, December 18	SGA Food Drive
Wednesday, November 25	Early Release Day, Students Dismissed at 12:35 p.m.
Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27	Holidays, Thanksgiving
Friday, December 4	PTA Family Fitness, 7:00 p.m.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On November 11th and 12th, we will be holding parent-teacher conferences at Rosemont. The purpose of parent-teacher conferences is to provide an opportunity for an exchange of information between parents and teachers. Teachers spend a lot of time preparing for the conferences and I would encourage you to do the same. Below are some suggestions of ways you can prepare for the conference and some questions you may want to consider asking the teacher:

1. Decide what questions you are going to ask the teacher. Some suggested questions include:
 - What are my child's areas of strength and concern?
 - Is my child doing as well as he/she should in school? Is he/she working to his/her potential? How is he/she progressing in each of his/her individual subjects?
 - What kind of grouping do you use? What data are you using to determine where to group my child? May I see the data?
 - What kind of books or other instructional materials is he/she using? May I see samples?
 - May I see some of his/her work?
 - What method is used to evaluate or grade school work? May I see examples of the rubrics you use?
 - What is your policy on homework? How is it graded and how does it affect the grade?
 - Have you observed any special interests, abilities, or aptitudes which my child may have?

- Are there any special problems relating to discipline or socialization? Does he/she respect the right and property of others?
 - How well does my child communicate?
 - Is my child motivated?
 - How can we help at home? What role should we play in relation to homework?
 - What specific suggestions for improvement do you have for my child?
2. Discuss the conference, if possible, with your spouse and child. Let each member contribute ideas for questions and discussions. If possible, both parents/guardians should try to attend the conference.
 3. Determine what you should tell the teacher to give him/her a better perspective and understanding of your child. The more the teacher knows about your child, the more easily he/she can construct a program to help the child achieve his/her potential. Some questions the teacher might ask include:
 - What does the child say at home about school? What does he/she like? What doesn't he/she like?
 - What do you see as the child's strengths and assets? What do you see as his/her weaknesses?
 - To what kind of discipline does he/she respond?
 - What does he/she enjoy doing most often at home in his/her free time?
 - How is his/her general health? Are there any problems the school should know about?
 - What are the child's responsibilities at home?
 4. Be on time for the 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.
 5. Try to arrange for a babysitter for your children. This prevents them from distracting you or the teacher during the conference. Arrange to share baby-sitting time with a neighbor.
 6. 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.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Sweeney, Principal

Rosemont's School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Our plan was recently completed for the 2009-2010 school year with input from parents, staff, and administrators. The SIP is now available to parents and the community. In accordance with Title I of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB Act), parents who have concerns, need further clarification, or require additional information about the SIP may send written comments to the school principal. Written comments will be kept on file at the school and discussed during SIP review meetings throughout the year. If you would like a copy of the SIP, please call the school at (301) 840-7123. A copy of the SIP is also available on our web site.

MCPS Inclement Weather Procedures

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.

Closure of School

When schools are closed systemwide, all instructional programs and extracurricular activities in schools are canceled. Private day-care providers in school buildings may elect to stay open if the schools are closed but the administrative offices are open. In extreme conditions, administrative offices also may be closed. If this occurs, private day-care programs located in school buildings are closed as well.

Delayed Opening

A delayed opening means that schools open two hours later than scheduled. All buses operate on the same delayed schedule and, therefore, the pick-up times are two hours later than normal. When elementary schools open on a delayed schedule, the following programs are canceled— Morning sessions of half-day Head Start, prekindergarten, and other specialized programs or field trips scheduled before 10:30 a.m. Activities that begin after 10:30 a.m. will be held as scheduled. Afternoon sessions of prekindergarten begin at the regular time. Full day Head Start follows the same schedule as other full day programs. Parents should continue to check for radio, television, or Web announcements in the event a decision to delay the opening of schools is reconsidered and a decision to close schools for the day is made (by 7:00 a.m.).

Early Dismissal

An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours earlier than scheduled. All buses operate on that same early schedule and, therefore, drop-off times are 2.5 hours earlier than normal. When elementary schools close early, afternoon prekindergarten and other early childhood programs are canceled, as well as any special programs or field trips scheduled after 10:30 a.m. Morning prekindergarten and morning half-day Head Start students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. Full day Head Start classes will dismiss with regular kindergarten through Grade 5 students.

Public Announcements

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, Montgomery County Public Schools Cable TV (Comcast Channel 34, Verizon FIOS Channel 36, RCN Channel 89), Outlook, on the Internet at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and on a recorded telephone message at 301-279-3673. Emergency e-mail announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes on the school system's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made by 5:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 a.m.

Weather Conditions and Decisions

The school system uses a variety of sources of information to determine whether to close schools, delay the opening of schools, or dismiss schools early. These sources include actual physical inspection of road and school conditions by transportation officials and other staff at areas throughout the county, and an analysis of independent reports from the National Weather Service, Accu-Weather, and the news media. The most severe weather conditions within the county are used as the basis for decision-making. Consistent procedures are maintained in order to respond quickly to emergency weather conditions and protect the safety and well being of students.

All public schools within Montgomery County adhere to the same schedule concerning emergency weather conditions. The decision to change school operations is made by the superintendent of schools or his designee and affects all schools within the school system.

PTA News

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm is our Family Fitness Night, where everyone in your family can have fun playing in the Rosemont gymnasium. Gym resources will be at your disposal, including such things as balls, hula hoops and jump ropes. Let's show our kids that fun can include exercise! It is important that all children there be supervised by a parent/responsible adult at all times.

We are Rosemont and we should show our support – that's why we'll be having a t-shirt sale in December. Please look for this information and plan to show your support for Rosemont by buying and wearing our school t-shirts!

Volunteers are still needed for all sorts of Rosemont activities – if you are interested, please email Donna O'Neill at: to_do@verizon.net or call her at 301-987-0807.

Volunteer babysitters are needed, high school aged and adult, to help out during PTA meetings. Those school-aged that sign-up can receive Community Service Credit for graduation. If you know someone who would be interested, please have them email Donna O'Neill at: to_do@verizon.net or call her at 301-987-0807.

Mad Science is coming (hopefully) to Rosemont!

What is Mad Science? It is a hands-on science program that intertwines discussion, lecture and experiments.

Who can join? Any K – 5 student interested in learning about science or wanting to work on experiments.

Where is the class? It will take place after school at Rosemont.

How do we bring it to Rosemont? We will need 17 interested students to form a class.

How much is it? We will have the choice of a 4 week (\$56), 6 week (\$84) or 8 week session (\$112). The recommend session length is 8 weeks and we are hoping to start an 8 week class

We will be sending out a flyer soon to gauge interest in the program and also the desired length of the program.