



# DOLPHIN PRIDE

SOUTH LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Message from Administration

Dear South Lake Families,

Exciting things are happening at our school! The Back-to-School nights were a huge success. Parents learned about our school priorities for the year - student safety, student learning and family involvement. They also received important information about how our children succeed. The Parent Compact, which focuses on our commitment to our families and the Discipline Policy, which outlines our expectations was distributed. Please review the discipline policy with your child then sign and return the confirmation form.

Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a "Listen and Learn" event on Monday, October 3, at Watkins Mill High School from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. This event is an opportunity for parents and community members to meet Dr. Starr and to offer their views and perspectives on what is working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided.

This year, our school day begins with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to walk with their children to the classroom. Please say good-bye to your child by 8:55, the beginning of announcements, so our children will be ready to begin their day by 9:00 a.m.

The PTA is sponsoring its first fundraiser of the year. By now, you should have received the Joe Corbi catalogs highlighting food items and gifts that can be purchased. Hurry! This fundraiser ends on October 3rd. Orders will be available for pick-up on Thursday, November 10th.

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Important Dates:**

- 9/28 12:35 Early Dismissal -  
Rosh Hashanah begins at  
sunset
- 9/29 No School -  
Rosh Hashanah

### LOOKING AHEAD

- 10/3 Highly Gifted Center  
presentation at Northwest High  
School 7:00 pm
- 10/3 Listen & Learn with Dr. Starr  
7 - 8:30 pm @ Watkins Mill HS
- 10/12 & 10/13  
Individual School Pictures
- 10/13 Magnet Program presentation at  
Clemente MS 7:00

## WEATHER CHANGES

As the weather turns colder, please be sure your children have adequate clothing for the changing temperature. The building temperature is regulated through a central system in MCPS. Since the heat has

not been turned on, classrooms may feel a little cool. Additionally, children will go outside for recess unless it is raining or the wind chill is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Have your child dress in layers

so that they are comfortable both in the classroom and outside.



## SOUTH LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Celeste King, Principal

Orinda Nelson,  
Assistant Principal

18201 Contour Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20788

Tel. 301-840-7141

Fax. 301-840-7549

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.edu](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.edu)



*Nurturing a  
Community of  
Thinkers*

# PTA

Hurry! Join the South Lake Elementary School PTA by September 30th for only \$5. In October the individual membership will be \$10. Your participation in the PTA can make a difference in your child's educational experience.

Let your voice be heard! PTA meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the media center. The next meeting is October 4th. This meeting will feature a presentation about the highly gifted centers and choice programs. Parents will also have the opportunity to try a critical thinking challenge. Spanish language interpretation will be available.

### Information Nights

The MCPS Parent Academy is holding 9 information nights to answer questions about the new Curriculum 2.0 that is being implemented in Kindergarten - Second Grade. Curriculum 2.0 blends language arts and math with science, social studies, music, art, and physical education in a way that spurs creativity and critical thinking skills. Come learn more during the information night on September 22 at Gaithersburg ES, 35 North Summit Ave., Gaithersburg 20877. For information on other locations please call the office. All information nights are on **Thursdays from 7:00—8:30 p.m.**

### Highly Gifted Center

An application to the Highly Gifted Center, housed at Clearspring Elementary School in Damascus, has been mailed to the home of each third grade student. This program, which is designed to meet the needs of highly gifted and motivated learners, provides a learning environment that enriches, accelerates and extends the MCPS curriculum. A parent/guardian information

meeting will be held on October 3, 2011 at 7:00 at Northwest High School in Germantown to provide parents with additional information about the program. While admission to the program is highly competitive, consider recommending your child.

### Middle School Magnet Program

You are invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7:00p.m. at Clemente Middle School to learn more about the Upcounty Center Program for the Highly Gifted. This is a parent/student information meeting to discuss the two rigorous programs for students in grades 6-8. One program focuses on math, science, and computer science, while the other focuses on humanities and communication arts. Applications are available online at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special programs](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special%20programs) or from your child's homeroom teacher. Please mark your calendars and attend this meeting if you are interested in having your child apply.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY



### Dismissal

The main entrance becomes congested at the end of the day with parents and family members waiting for our children to be dismissed. We need your help to keep the main entrance clear so our students can:

- dismiss safely
- find their parents
- unite with their siblings to walk home
- walk to their buses.

### Parking

For the safety and security of the students please obey the parking restrictions around the school. Please use the car rider circle, located to the right of the main entrance when transporting your child to school by car. Remain in your vehicles and wait for a student patrol to assist your child in exiting the vehicle safely on the passenger side next to the curb.

### **Parking is not permitted along the curb in the drop-off circle.**

We appreciate your support and consistent effort to keep your children safe.

### Fire, Lockdown and Shelter Drills

Throughout the school year the students and staff will practice what to do in an emergency. During a fire drill everyone must leave the building, including any visitors. During a Lockdown drill no one is allowed in or out of the building.

Instruction stops for everyone to move to a secure location and remain quiet. During a Shelter drill, instruction continues and the office staff receives updates from emergency personnel in case the situation changes. Please speak to your children to reassure them that these drills are meant to keep us safe in the very unlikely event that an emergency occurs.