



January 6, 2012



STRAWBERRY KNOLL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Strawberry Knoll News

18820 Strawberry Knoll Road  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879  
E. Frank Kaplan, Principal  
Rosemary Ford, Assistant Principal  
Web Site Address—<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/strawberryknolles/>

## Reflections from Mr. Kaplan

Anniversaries allow us to reflect upon personal and professional accomplishments. Oftentimes the two become one as we ponder where we were and remember those who were with us during special times. I'm sure our fifth grade parents can recall their children's first day of school, as can those staff that began their teaching career at the Knoll. **This past**



**Thursday was a special day** for me as I celebrated my 35 year anniversary as a teacher. Little did I know as a sixth grade teacher at the American School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, that I would one day become principal of the "berry-best" elementary school in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Time passes quickly, particularly as we reach that point in life when being 50-something isn't all that old. To my wonderful staff, precious students, and caring SKES parents, thanks for making my job as "teacher on special assignment," the best job I've had these 35 years. Happy 2012!

## Dismissal Update

We want to thank you for honoring our requests to use the crosswalks when walking your children, and observing the no entry times into our parking lot, especially during dismissal. As you noticed, a set of cones has been placed along Strawberry Knoll Road so our busses have exclusive access to and from the Knoll each afternoon. Thanks again for you cooperation.



## Stop and Think!

Our school's mission inspires us to serve as a caring, hardworking community of learners. One way we fulfill the SKES mission is by developing self-discipline in each student. Our students will continue to engage in classroom social skills instruction through the *Stop and Think* program. The common school-wide language used in the *Stop and Think* program is as follows:



We invite you to support the implementation of the Stop and Think program. Ask your child/children to share *Stop and Think* language and signs with you. Encourage your child/children to apply the Stop and Think skills at home.

Together, we can encourage all students to *Strive for Knowledge, Excellence, and Success!*

## HOLIDAY

Monday, January 16,  
2012

No School for  
Students and Staff  
Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Birthday

## IMPORTANT DATES

January 13 Hearing and Vision Rescreening  
January 16 No School—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday  
January 18 2nd Grade Gifted and Talented Screening  
January 19 6:30—8:30 p.m. Fitness and International Night  
January 20 2nd Marking Period Ends  
January 23 Professional Day—No School for Students

### Architect Firm Selected for Feasibility Study

We are pleased to announce Delmar Architects, a local firm based in Olney, was selected to oversee the feasibility study for the much needed addition. Delmar was quite exact with our school's needs as follows:

- Where is the best location for the addition?
- How will accommodations be ensured for the arrival and drop-off of disabled students during construction?
- The school needs additional parking and a longer student drop-off/pick-up route. Most students are transported by car.
- The kindergarten and pre-kindergarten team need to be kept together.
- The administrative suite needs to be reconfigured to provide a main entrance security vestibule that can be monitored from the main office.
- The school needs a set up for a portable TV studio.

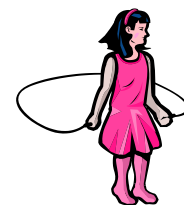
Mr. Smith, kindergarten team leader, Mrs. Baker, P.T.A. co-president, and Mr. Kaplan met with MCPS and Delmar representatives yesterday after school and discussed a time table for gathering staff and parent input. Needless to say, the plan to build a 10-classroom addition with modifications to our parking lot, drop-off/pick-up circle and main office depends upon the coming year's budget. We will keep you apprised of this exciting venture!

### Strawberry Knoll Elementary School Hosts Fitness and International "Knight"

Strawberry Knoll's "noble knights" and their families are invited to participate in our upcoming Fitness "Knight" on Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Our school's physical education department looks forward to sponsoring the semi-annual event in conjunction with the school P.T.A.'s sponsored "International Knight". Over 100 families participate in fitness night so get ready to join in on the fun. Students will engage in activities at various stations designed to increase their heart-rate, muscle flexibility, along with developing movement skills. Jumping rope, muscular scooter races, performing jumping jacks, push-ups, doing sit-ups and sit-reach stretching are among the activities available for students. The evening's fun will conclude with a respiratory activity, called *The Pacer Test*, developed by The Cooper Institute as a fitness-gram challenge, students and parents tested their cardio respiratory endurance.

Families whose children are in Pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd grades are asked to participate in the gym from 7:00 p.m.—7:45 p.m. With parent help, and a quick change of some activities, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades students and their families will be in the gym from 7:50 p.m.—8:30 p.m. This will give families time to enjoy "International Knight."

We look forward to hosting Fitness and Arts "Knight" this spring!



## Fifth Grade Students Participate in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Writing Contest

Three fifth grade students' writings about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were submitted for review to the City of Gaithersburg. We are pleased to include writings by Yasmine Jemli, Kayla Currie, and Nicole Aguilar. As you will see, each author captured the essence of Dr. King's character and vision.



### Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Devotion to Us

Yasmine Jemli

Dr. King's persistence saved us from the unjust.  
Almost all the self-discipline was taught by Dr. King.  
Reconsidering things, the government changed the law, and now everyone has rights.  
Trustworthiness led to freedom.  
I can make a difference by treating other people how I want to be treated.  
Dr. King's leading of the bus boycott was something that showed his bravery.

Love, hope, and kindness are what made Dr. King a great leader, you can be a leader too by helping someone.  
Using my time to stop violence is how I can make the world a better place.  
Together we can fulfill Dr. King's dream by being kind to everyone.  
Helping is going to be number one on my to-do list.  
Ever been treated badly? Well forget the past and move forward.  
Remember if you want to be like Dr. King befriend someone.

### "I Have a Dream"

Kayla Currie

Dr. King once said, "I have a dream." To keep that dream alive, we need a sense of pride.  
Don't hide your face because of your race. Dr. King had persistence, you can too. Don't judge anybody by their skin color, just get to know them and play with them. Love yourself.  
Don't be anybody else. To keep his legacy alive, always have pride on your side.

### MLK Jr.

### A Great Leader

Nicole Aguilar

To keep Dr. King's dream alive, I can tell people not to judge other people by their race or how they look. It's what's inside that counts! For example, I have a disabled brother and I see a lot of people that look at him and call him names. That makes me angry. I can tell them to stop staring and not to judge people by their looks or race or how different they are.  
That's how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wants us to keep his dream alive.

# Strawberry Knoll International Night

**Date & Time: Thursday January 19, 2012, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**Place: Strawberry Knoll Elementary School Cafeteria**

**Country Table:** Would you like to host a table with artifacts from your country? A tri-fold board can be used to hang posters, maps, flags, etc. Picture books, toys, currency and other craft items can be displayed on the table. Snack food, flag pins, candy and other small giveaways are welcome. Exhibitors are encouraged to dress up with national costumes.

**Entertainment:** We are looking for Individuals or groups to perform on the stage representing any culture. If you've got talent or know someone who has a talent let us know, please make your SKES debut at this event.

**International Cuisine:** Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share with other families. Please label your dish and list the ingredients and country of origin.

If you would like to volunteer without too much attention, you can help with set-up, clean up, or be a cashier for our drink sale. Contact Richard Rodriguez at 612-716-9348 or richard.rodriguezarmy@gmail.com for any questions in English or Spanish.

**Mesa representando un Pais:** ¿Te gustaría representar a tu país? Déjanos saber y te asignaremos una mesa para que coloques artesanías, fotos, videos y/o platos típicos,; si deseas puedes vestirte con la ropa típica de tu país, comparte con nosotros el orgullo que sientes por tu nación.

**Entretenimiento:** Estamos buscando grupos o individuos que hagan danzas folklóricas para tenerlos en tarima, si conoces de alguien déjanos saber para incluirlo en este evento.

**Comida Internacional:** Si gustas puedes traer un plato de con comida típica de tu país para compartirlo con todos. Por favor etiqueta el plato con la lista de ingredientes usados para su preparación y el país de origen.

(Please detach and return the bottom portion to your homeroom teacher to sign up by 6 Jan 2012.)

(Por favor corte este formulario y devuelvalo al maestro del salon de su hijo en o antes del 6 de enero)

Country to represent /País a representar	Would like to volunteer for: <b>(Please circle)</b>		
	Country Table Mesa de País	Performance Acto	Other Otro
Student(s) name, grade and homeroom teacher / Alumno, grado y maestro(o):			
Description of your service/ Que servicio o acto desea prestar:			
Parent's name(s)/ Nombre del Pariente:	Telephone / Teléfono:		
	Email / Correo electrónico:		
	Cell / Número de celular:		

SKES

International Night Volunteer Application / Formulario de Volu

**Pre- kindergarten/Head Start Parent Workshop**

When: Thursday, January 19, 2012  
10:00—11:30 a.m.

Where: Strawberry Knoll Elementary (Pre-K Class)

Topic: "Parents Involved in Basic Skills" and  
Language and literacy

\* Explore ways to help your children learn at home through  
hands-on activities.

\*Parents will create a take-home activity to share with their child

Prekindergarten/Head Start

Taller para padres

Cuando: Jueves 19 de enero, 2012 a al 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Topico: "Como Trabajar con Nuestrors Hijos en Casa Haciendo  
Actividades Basicas"

\*Los padres crearan nuevas actividades y compartiran con  
sus hijos en case.

Presentado por: Nuha Khalaf, Trabajadora de Servicios Familiares/Mary Kate Ryner, Especialista de Lenguaje

**Se proveera interprete**

**MC Adventures**

Discover Science, Humanities, and the Arts!

Saturday, January 21, 2012

9:00 a.m.—2:50 p.m.

Germantown Campus

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/mobile/mcadventure.html>

A special one-day enrichment program for Gifted and talented students in grades 4—6.

Students will attend three small group sessions. Instructors are from the Montgomery College faculty and staff, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Montgomery County community. MC Adventures accepts students on a first-come, first served basis.

