



December 9, 2011



STRAWBERRY KNOLL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Strawberry Knoll News

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Students and Staff Welcome the Season with Music!

Yesterday's significant drop in temperatures tells us winter is here. December is an exciting month for students and staff as we prepare to celebrate the holiday season with music. Last night Mr. Bowden, choral director, led our fifth grade chorus as they sang before a packed house of proud families and staff. Our fifth grade chorus will perform "Sounds of the Seasons" again on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 in the cafeteria at 2:00 p.m. Join us.



Mr. Gale, instrumental music teacher, and his fourth and fifth grade musicians look forward to entertaining you with holiday tunes on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Our musicians are ready to perform.

Finally, in keeping with a long-standing Strawberry Knoll tradition, we invite our Strawberry Knoll families to join us for our annual All-School Holiday Sing - Along on Friday, December 23, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the gym. Music abounds at the Knoll!

Four Tips to Problem Solving

Our noble knights continue to strengthen their problem solving skills. Among the seven indicators measured on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) problem solving remains the area of greatest growth needed by many of our students. Please review the *Four Tips to Problem Solving* with your children.

They are as follows:

Step One: Find out (what needs to be solved.)

Step Two: Make a plan.

Step Three: Solve it.

Step Four: Look back.

If you have any questions about your child's math progress, feel free to contact his/her teacher.

Reporting Bullying

Each MCPS school has access to a form available on the MCPS web site to assist parents, students and close adult relatives in reporting an incident of bullying. As in the past, charges of bullying will be investigated by school administrators and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Parents may also obtain a copy of the bullying report form at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/>.

Public Announcements

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Cable TV (Comcast Channel 34, Verizon FIOS Channel 36, RCN Channel 89), Outlook, on the Internet a www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and on a recorded telephone message at 301-279-3673.

Emergency announcements are available by signing up for MCPS *QuickNotes* and *Alert MCPS* text and e-mail notifications on the school system's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 a.m.



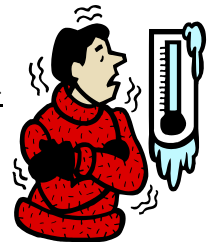
Annuncios Públicos

Información acerca de las operaciones escolares se anuncia públicamente cuanto antes posible, a través de las estaciones de radio y televisión, por Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) TV por Cable (Canal 34 de Comcast, Canal 36 de Verizon FIOS, Canal 89 de RCN), Outlook, por Internet ingresando a

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org y por mensaje telefónico grabado, llamando al teléfono 301-279-3673. Los anuncios de emergencia se pueden recibir por correo electrónico suscribiéndose al boletín informativo *QuickNotes* de MCPS y a través del servicio de mensajes de texto y correo electrónico *Alert MCPS* (Alerta MCPS). Si las escuelas deben permanecer cerradas, o si se demora el inicio de la jornada escolar, el anuncio se difunde a más tardar a las 6:00 a.m. (o la noche anterior, si fuese posible). Si las escuelas deben cerrar temprano, el anuncio se difunde a más tardar a las 11:00 a.m.

The Cold Weather's Here!

The change in weather reminds us winter is here. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. Thermostats throughout the building are set to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Additionally, students will continue to go outdoors for line-up/recess when the outdoor temperature including wind chill factor is at or above 32 degrees Fahrenheit.



Lost and Found Collection Grows

Our collection of children's coats, jackets, scarves, mitten, gloves, and other wear continues to grow. Our Lost and Found rack is available for parents and students to visit between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity and those in need during the winter break.

Upcoming Dates

December 15	1:45—2:45 p.m. Instrumental Music Concert 7:30—8:30 p.m. Instrumental Music Concert
December 20	2:00—2:45 p.m. Chorus Assembly—Grs. 3,4 and 5
December 23	2:00 p.m. Holiday Sing-a-long
Dec. 24— Jan. 2	Winter Break
January 3	Staff and Students Return
January 19	6:30—8:30 p.m. Fitness and International Night

Crosswalk Wise

Safety remains a priority for all of us. We need your help. Please make sure to use the crosswalks when walking your children to and from school. We kindly ask that you not walk through our parking lot during arrival and dismissal periods. A number of buses and daycare vans rely upon our pedestrian free parking lots. We will include more information about our efforts to ensure pedestrian safety, and in particular the challenge we face with those families walking through the side parking lot during dismissal in our next newsletter. We thank you in advance for honoring our request and using the crosswalks.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Update:

Our third grade teachers have completed their recommendations for those third grade students who applied to the Center for the Highly Gifted at Clearspring ES. Students will be tested at Strawberry Knoll on Thursday, January 18, 2012. If you have any questions about the Highly Gifted Program, please contact Mrs. Ford at 301 840-7112.



Maintain Routines for Smoother Holidays

Excitement abounds among students and staff as we begin the holiday season. With visitors, parties, gifts and special meals, we know our noble knights can become overwhelmed. As we celebrate the many wonderful holidays these next few weeks and prepare for winter break, it's critical children maintain established routines. You may wish to consider the following:

Maintain a regular bedtime. Staying up late for a family gift exchange is fine, however staying up late every night of the winter break isn't.

Monitor food and drinks. Instead of caffeinated soda at holiday parties, offer water or juice. Try to limit sweets as well.

Include time for quiet reading. Make reading a family affair.

Happy Holidays!

We reminded students about the importance of being patient and prepared during this past week's morning announcements. We even asked them to thank you, our parents for your patience during arrival and dismissal times, and when in the main office or at home/work waiting for a returned phone call/email. Being patient and prepared are life-long skills.



As we approach this holiday season, we encourage you to stress the values of patience and preparedness with your children. Continue to create memories with them, especially during the upcoming winter break. Spend time outdoors with your children. As a family, make time to read. Share your artistic talents with one another. Sing the song of life for all to hear into the new year!

See You Next Year!

We wish you and your family a safe winter break. School will remain closed for students and staff December 24, 2011— January 2, 2012.

