



February 3, 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/>

## It's Half-Time

We've completed the first week of the second semester. With the Superbowl looming, one could say that we've had two awesome quarters. We're leading! In order for us to maintain our lead throughout the coming quarters, we'll need a good offense and a strong defense. Let's be mindful of penalties...we don't want any!

As we continue into this new semester, please help the Knoll and make sure that our children arrive on time. Teachers escort their students from outdoors and into the building at 8:40 a.m., weather permitting. Our opening bell rings at 8:50 a.m. regardless of weather conditions. This marks the official beginning of our day. Hence it's important that all students are seated in their classrooms by at 8:50 a.m.

For our students continued safety to school, we kindly ask all tardy students be accompanied by a parent/guardian into the building. We have a cadre of parent volunteers and office staff that register those students who arrive after 8:50 a.m. Students are marked tardy, given passes, and then sent to their classrooms.

If you happen to have any questions about our student-arrival game plan, call us. It's critical that we impress upon our students the importance of coming to school on time. Remember, regardless of the team that wins Sunday's Superbowl, all of us belong to the best, Strawberry Knoll Elementary School! Gooooooooooooooooooooo Knights!!!

## Using the Report Card as a Tool

Students brought home their report cards on Wednesday. The report card contains snapshots of your child's learning. Please take time to review your child's report card with him/her. Join us as we encourage our students to work hard this new quarter. Indeed, when used in the correct manner, the report card can provide our children with the right attitude about learning at the Knoll!

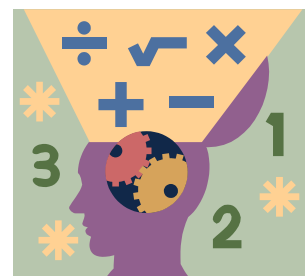
### "Million Minutes of Reading Challenge."

Last week marked the start of our "Million Minutes of Reading Challenge." Mrs. Forman, Reading Specialist, held grade level assemblies to get students motivated to increase the amount of independent reading completed outside of school. Research shows children become better readers by having the opportunity to read more and read often. For this challenge, students may read comic books, magazines, recipes, picture books, chapter books, and more. The possibilities are endless. Students will keep track of the number of minutes read each day on a reading log sent home by their teachers.

Our goal is simply to challenge each and every child to read often, and have fun doing it. When you visit the Knoll, be sure to take a look our reading progress. Teachers and students will keep track of the amount of minutes read per week, which will be displayed outside of classrooms. At the end of the each week, Mrs. Forman will track the entire school's progress on our "Million Minutes of Reading" bookworm displayed outside of the main office. Happy Reading!

### FAMILY MATH "KNIGHT" COMING SOON

All SKES students and their families are invited to join us for Family Math "Knight" on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the All Purpose Room and surrounding hallways. You may also visit the Computer Lab to explore math websites. There will be math activities that appeal to a broad range of interests and ages. You are invited to come and go as your schedule allows. A variety of math centers will be available and teachers will be on hand to guide you through the activities and answer any questions. So mark your calendars now and come join in the mathematics fun. It should be a great evening for everyone! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schoenfelder, Staff Development Teacher



## IMPORTANT DATES

2/07/12	7:00 p.m. P.T.A. Meeting—Media Center
2/13/12	9:00—10:00 a.m. MOCK MSA—Grades 3 & 4
2/14/12	2:00 p.m. Valentine's Day Parties
2/15/12	9:00—10:00 a.m. MOCK MSA—Grade 5
2/16/12	7:00—8:30 p.m. Math "Knight"
2/20/12	HOLIDAY—President's Day
2/21/12	7:00—8:30 p.m. Feasibility Study —Media Center
2/23/12	7:00—8:30 p.m. P.T.A Science Fair—All-Purpose Room
2/28/12	Class Pictures
2/29/12	9:00 a.m. 4th Grade Wax Museum—All-Purpose Room

### Activslates!

Here at the Knoll some of our Knights are now using some of the latest high tech teaching tools thanks to our recent purchase of wireless Activslates! The Activslates are basically digital clipboards with a wireless pen that allows interaction between the user and a projected image. This portable tool allows students to interact with lessons right from their desks which promotes high levels of student engagement. By using the slates students become more than just observers of a presentation they become active participants. Mrs. Ado's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class has been using an Activslate since November and they are excited to see how other classrooms will be integrating this new technology into their classrooms. A special thanks to the technology committee and the PTA for their support of our efforts to bring this new technology to Strawberry Knoll!

### Student Transfer Application Season Scheduled From February 1 through April 1, 2012

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a change in school assignment for their children from their home school may begin the process during the current transfer season, which will be held from February 1 through April 1, 2012.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, students in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes of students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- An older sibling in the requested school
- A continuation in a feeder pattern from middle to high school, except when affected by boundary changes
- A documented hardship situation

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request an assignment change form and the *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* that describes the process and provides useful information. Assignment change forms, which are contained in the information booklets, will be available in schools beginning the first week of February and on the school system Web site at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) shortly thereafter. The booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Special programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet. Should there be more requests for language immersion programs than space available, a random, computer generated lottery will be conducted. Every effort will be made to notify parents of the assignment decision by May 15, 2012.

For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at 301-592-2040 or visit the website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice>.

For more information about the transfer process, parents are asked to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 301-309-MCPS (6277). Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.



# Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation is in the planning stages. Please help us estimate the number of students who will attend kindergarten at Strawberry Knoll during the 2012- 2013 school year.

According to the Maryland State Law, a child must be five years old by September 1, 2012 in order to enter kindergarten for the 2012- 2013 school year. Kindergarten attendance is compulsory. Parents who do not plan for their children to attend kindergarten at the Knoll will need to contact Mr. Kaplan after May 1, 2012 and complete an enrollment waiver. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this fall, please complete the form below, and return it to the school office by March 19, 2012. Also, if you have a neighbor or friend who has a child of kindergarten age for fall 2010, please pass this information sheet to them.

**Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2012 and Friday, May 11, 2012.** Additional information will be provided in upcoming newsletters. Please return the bottom portion to the Strawberry Knoll Elementary School office by Friday, March 19, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Strawberry Knoll Elementary School Kindergarten Survey 2012 - 2013

The following child will be five years old by September 1, 2012.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



In order to expedite your receiving forms for Kindergarten Orientation, can the orientation packet be sent home with an older child in your family?

- Yes Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_
- No Please mail the packet to my home address.



Montgomery County Committee on Hate/Violence  
and  
Montgomery County Office of Human Rights  
Present



# **Bullying in Schools:**

## ***A Community Symposium on Prevention and Intervention Strategies***

*A Free Community Forum and Discussion  
for Parents, Students, Educators, Members and Leaders  
of the Business and Faith Communities*

Reception to follow

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**  
**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza  
One Veterans Plaza  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

**MARTIN CASTRO**, Chair  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Keynote Speaker

**VALERIE ERVIN**, Councilmember  
Montgomery County Council  
Moderator

Panelists from:

- Johnnie Williams, Youth Advocate
- Montgomery County Public Schools
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Gay-Straight Alliance of Walt Whitman High School

Please request sign language interpreters and  
accommodation by January 31, 2012

For information:

CommitteeonHateViolence@montgomerycountymd.gov  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hmrtempl.  
asp?url=/content/humanrights/OnHate.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hmrtempl.asp?url=/content/humanrights/OnHate.asp)





# Parents in the Know

## Focus on Math

### Multiplication Tricks

Math facts can be hard to remember. Here are some tricks that can make remembering multiplication facts easier for your child.

**Times 6:** If you multiply an even number by six, the answer and the problem will both end with the same number ( $6 \times 2 = 12$ ,  $6 \times 4 = 24$ ,  $6 \times 6 = 36$ )

**Times 9:** Equals ten times the number, minus the number ( $10 \times 8 = 80$ ,  $80 - 8 = 72$ )

**Times 12:** Equals ten times the number, plus two times the number ( $10 \times 5 = 50$ ,  $2 \times 5 = 10$ ,  $50 + 10 = 60$ )

Remember that every math fact has a twin that may be easier to remember for your child ( $12 \times 8 = 8 \times 12$ ). Understanding this makes him or her only have to learn half of the multiplication times table!

**Based on:** "Multiplication Tips and Tricks", Math Is Fun, <http://www.mathsisfun.com/multiplication-tips-tricks.html>



### Board Games

Many of the board games you have at home can be used to teach and practice math skills your child is learning at school.

**Hungry, Hungry Hippos:** Addition and Subtraction

**Trouble:** Counting

**Monopoly:** Money

**Battleship:** Geometry

**Chinese Checkers:** Patterns

**Based on:** "Board Game Ideas for Math", LoveToKnow, [http://boardgames.lovetoknow.com/Board\\_Game\\_Ideas\\_for\\_Math](http://boardgames.lovetoknow.com/Board_Game_Ideas_for_Math)

### Making Problem Solving Fun!

**Q. Which weighs more a pound of gold or a pound of feathers?**

A. They both weigh a pound.

**Q. What is alive and has only one foot?**

A. A leg.

Children love jokes and riddles. You can find many fun math jokes and riddles if you search the Internet or your library.

Math Riddles in Silly Rhyme 1, by Carrie Kirchner (K-2)

Riddle-Iculous, by Joan Holub (3-5)

### Taking the Fear Out of Math

Many children and even some parents are afraid of math. However, there are five simple rules to remember to overcome math anxiety.

1. There are many ways to solve problems. Be open to new ways of doing things.
2. You often learn as much from a wrong answer as a right one. So, learn from your mistakes.
3. Be willing to take a risk. Trying new things can be scary.
4. Practice "mental math". Being able to do math "in your head" helps build confidence, speed, and accuracy.
5. Calculators can be helpful. However, children shouldn't rely on calculators.

**Based on:** "Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics", by the U.S. Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/math.pdf>

### What Research Says



Parents can and should be involved in their child's education in many ways. However, providing your child with academic support at home is one of the most powerful ways that you can influence your child's school success. A study conducted by the Harvard Family Research Project found that parents who provided their child with extra school support, including activities such as participating in reading activities and extra math review had a significant effect on their children's performance in reading and math, often in less than 12 weeks.

**Based on:** "Building Parent-Teacher Relationships," Reading Rockets, <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/19308>



# Padres en Saber

## Matemáticas

### Exámenes

Mire cuántos de éstos términos sabe.

**Angulo agudo:** Menos de 90º

**Sumando:** El número que suma con otro número

**Analog Clock:** Reloj con manecillas

**Billón:** mil millones

**Números cardinales:** Grupo de números, cosas, etc. (ej. 4 estudiantes 3 gatos)

**Cuerda:** Una línea recta en un círculo

**Circunferencia:** La distancia de un círculo

**Commutative Property:** Cuando los números en un problema de suma o multiplicación cambian de lugar, pero la respuesta es igual

**Congruent Figures:** Figuras del mismo tamaño y forma

**Decímetro:** Diez centímetros

**Denominador:** El número debajo de una fracción y representa cuanto hay en total

**Equilátero:** Todos los lados son iguales

**Forma expandida:** Enseña el valor de cada número  
ej.  $487 = 400 + 80 + 7$

**Operación inversa:** El opuesto de \_\_ (suma a sustracción y multiplicar a dividir)

**Línea de simetría:** Una línea que divide algo en la mitad

**Mean:** El promedio de un número

**Números ordinales:** Palabras que enseñan orden (primero, segundo,...)

**Perímetro:** La distancia de un objeto

**Pictografía:** Una gráfica que usa fotos para representar lo que está medido

**Calificación:** Dice cuanto hay

Based on: "Multimedia Math Glossary", Harcourt School Publishers, <http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/math2/indexk.html>



### Juegos de Matemáticas

Problemas matemáticos son difíciles pero la única forma de memorizarlos es con práctica. Cuando su hijo/a tenga que practicar, traten estos juegos..

**Adivinanzas:** Escriba adivinanzas en varias fichas. Por ejemplo, "Yo soy un número que puedes dividir por dos y cuatro. Cuando sumas la respuesta es ocho ¿Qué número soy?"

**Respuesta:** 16

**Memora:** Escriba 10 a 20 problemas matemáticos en varias fichas y escriba las respuestas en otra ficha. Después dale vuelta a las fichas y traten de encontrar soluciones.

Based on: Geraldine Campbell, "Count 'Em up: 5 Skill-Building Math Activities", Scholastic Parents, <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3749771>

### Preguntas Matemáticas

Varias veces es bueno preguntar a su hijo sobre su tarea porque lo ayuda a pensar sobre el problema y la respuesta. La próxima vez que quiere que su hijo le esté costando, haga estas preguntas:

¿Qué dice las instrucciones?

¿En dónde tenemos que comenzar?

¿Qué información sabes para resolver la pregunta?

¿En qué parte hay los problemas?

Dime lo que has hecho.

### Investigación



Lo que aprende su hijo/a en la escuela es un plan que pone el estado. Es plan es:

1. valor de matemáticas
2. tener confianza
3. aprender cómo solucionar problemas matemáticas
4. como usar palabras en matemáticas
5. como resolver en matemáticas

¡Pregunte a la maestra/o como puede ayudar!

Based on: David L. Haury and Linda A. Milbourne, "Helping Your Child Learn Math", ERIC [http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content\\_storage\\_01/0000019b/80/15/d5/c/f.pdf](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/15/d5/c/f.pdf)