

**WELCOME TO
WASHINGTON GROVE ELEMENTARY
2009-2010**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our school! We are very happy to have you and your children join our extended family of learners. Visualize a school where the children are excited about learning, discipline problems are minimal, the learning environment is structured so all children have an excellent opportunity to succeed, parents and community members volunteer to support children's learning, and parents bring their career, cultural, linguistic, and other skills to school to enrich the curriculum. That's Washington Grove Elementary School! We invite you to join our partnership.

Susan Barranger
Principal

SCHOOL HOURS

Grades K – 5	9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
AM Pre-K	9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Head Start	9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
PM Pre-K	1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



SCHOOL BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES

Breakfast – **FREE** to all Students – See message below

Elementary School Lunch - \$2.50	Milk - \$.60	Fruit Slushes - \$.50
Reduced Lunch - \$.40	Ice Cream - \$.50	Chips - \$.65

Fruit Slushes may be purchased on Monday and Tuesday, chips on Wednesday, and ice cream on Thursday.

MARYLAND MEALS FOR ACHIEVEMENT, FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

All students at Washington Grove Elementary will have the opportunity to eat breakfast at school each morning at no charge. Students will eat in their classrooms. Breakfast will include milk, juice or fruit, and an entrée such as a muffin, bagel, croissant sandwich, French toast sticks, or cinnamon roll. **Parent volunteers** are needed to help distribute the breakfasts to the classrooms each morning. If you would be willing to help one day a week, please phone Mrs. Tadesse.

This program, which is called Maryland Meals for Achievement+ (MMFA+), will be funded with money from the federal School Breakfast Program.

Researchers from Harvard University say the program helps students do better in class and improves attendance, tardiness and other behaviors. Staff reports a decrease in students' complaints of hunger and tiredness. We are fortunate to be among the schools statewide selected to participate in the program again this school year.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

Applications for the free and reduced lunch program are available from the school office.

LUNCH AND RECESS SCHEDULE

Grades K - 1

Recess 11:45-12:15

Lunch 12:15-12:45

Grades 2 & 3

Recess 12:15-12:45

Lunch 12:45-1:15

Grades 4 & 5

Recess 12:45-1:15

Lunch 1:15-1:45

On half days, lunch is served 30 minutes earlier, with no recess.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT FIGURES FOR 2009-2010

	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Projected enrollment	54	57	57	52	40	42
Actual enrollment	50	59	56	51	42	47

We are pleased to continue implementing the lower class size ratio in first and second grades and the full-day kindergarten program with lower class size.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE GAITHERSBURG CLUSTER HAS A SATURDAY SCHOOL?

The Saturday School is a tutoring and mentoring program that enhances the academic performance and achievement of students in Grades 1 through 12. The mission of the program is to accelerate students' mastery of academics, specifically reading, math, and science. On Saturday mornings, from 8:30 to 11:00 AM, volunteer tutors work with students on core subjects and teach successful learning/studying strategies. Students also have access to computer labs to assist them in researching information for assignments and learning valuable technology skills. The Saturday School is more than academics! Issues of self-esteem, social and emotional growth, and motivation also are addressed. Brochures and information about enrolling will be available in September!

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

The Principal's Newsletter is printed on yellow paper and has calendar information as well as articles of interest. Be sure to watch for it! If you do not receive a newsletter on a regular basis, please remind your child to bring one home. Extra copies are available in the school office, if needed.

WASHINGTON GROVE WEBSITE

Have you visited our web page? Our Internet address is:
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/washingtongroves>

MARKING PERIODS

<u>Marking Period</u>	<u>Marking Period Ends</u>	<u>Report Cards Distributed</u>
1st	October 30, 2009	November 11, 2009
2nd	January 22, 2010	February 3, 2010
3rd	March 26, 2010	April 14, 2010
4th	June 16, 2010	June 23, 2010 (mailed)

PARENT CONFERENCES

At the end of the first marking period, a parent/teacher conference is scheduled for all students. This is in addition to the report card itself. (Kindergarten parents participate in a conference with their child's teacher in November, and receive report cards in February and June). These conferences serve as a vehicle to open lines of communication and to foster positive parent-teacher relationships for the benefit of your child. Your attendance at this November conference is critically important.

Throughout the rest of the school year, either the parent or the teacher may feel the need for additional conferences. If parents wish to meet with a teacher, they should arrange this meeting in advance. Arrangements can be made by sending a note to the teacher or by calling the office.

VISITORS (Parents included)

When visiting the school, you are required to stop at the office before going elsewhere in the building. We ask you to sign in using the computer at the visitors/volunteers table and put on a guest/volunteer sticker. When you are ready to leave, please sign out on the computer. This procedure applies to all visitors anytime they plan to be in the classrooms or hallways.

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER

Parent volunteers are needed in many capacities at Washington Grove from working in the classrooms with children to making teaching materials at home. If you would like to become a parent volunteer, please complete the volunteer form distributed at the beginning of the year or phone and leave messages for our PTA volunteer coordinator at 301-840-7120.

REPORT OF STUDENT ABSENCES

Please telephone the school office at 301-840-7120 to report your child's absence. A message system is in operation when school is not in session for your convenience. MCPS policy requires that we verify every student's absence daily. Telephoning us to report this absence will greatly reduce the number of calls we will need to make. Your assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated. A written note to your child's teacher explaining the absence should follow any absence from school.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

No medication will be administered in school without the parent's/guardian's written authorization and a written physician's order. This includes both prescription and over-the-counter medications. The parent and doctor must complete form 525-13, Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication. The medication must be delivered to school by the parent/guardian or an adult designated by the parent/guardian. MCPS and school health department personnel will not administer medication brought to school by a child. This is necessary for the safety of all students.



LATE OPENING, EARLY DISMISSAL, AND CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

It is sometimes necessary to delay the opening of school, send students home early or close schools entirely because of bad weather or other emergencies. Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on radio and television stations, Cable Channel 60 (converter box), Cable Channel 6 (cable ready) or Cable Channel 34 (digital), Outlook, on the Internet at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or at Schools-Out.com, and on a taped telephone message service at 301-279-3673. 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 announcements are made by 11:00 a.m. Please discuss with your child the procedures they are to follow in the event of a late opening, early dismissal, or school closing.



Rather than calling the school office, please use one of the above resources for information.

Parents may receive automatic e-mail notification directly to your mailbox about weather closings. You may subscribe by going to Schools-Out.Com. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click "I Want E-Mail."

STUDENT SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Please discuss with your child the importance of exercising safety and common sense in coming to school and returning home. On the first day of school the staff will share the need for safety in this regard. Some of the things I will request that they discuss with students are:

*Reporting directly to school from home in the morning and returning home immediately after school has been dismissed.

*Refusing to stop and talk to strangers, to accept gifts of any kind from strangers and never getting into a vehicle with anyone other than parents or someone designated by them.

*Being aware of residents between home and school to whom they might go for assistance if an emergency of any kind did occur.

*Alternate arrangements if keys are lost.

*What to do in case of a missed bus, late opening, or an early dismissal. In a continuing effort to keep WGES a safe and secure building, we will be locking exterior doors after morning arrival. The side doors near the gym walkway will remain unlocked for entry by visitors who are asked to report to the office immediately upon entering.

In an effort to make arrival and dismissal a safer time for all students, safety patrols are located at the driveway with orange pylons. At arrival, parents will drop their children off at the Kiss and Learn. At dismissal, no cars will be allowed to enter the school driveway, so parents may pick their children up at the walkway on Oakmont Street near the school sign or at the walkway on Chestnut Street. It is recommended that Pre-K and kindergarten parents park on Chestnut Street and walk to the building to pick up their children. If you are visiting the school prior to dismissal, please plan on waiting until the pylons have been removed to proceed out of the parking lot. The safety patrols need your support and cooperation as we keep our arrival and dismissal times safe.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Parents who have transportation issues and feel that their issues have not been resolved may call Pat Snowden, the Shady Grove Transportation Supervisor, at 301-670-8272.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EVACUATION PLAN FOR WGES

In the event that there is an emergency and we must evacuate the building, the following plan will be in effect: Students will leave via the normal fire evacuation routes. The students and staff will assemble at the lower end of the school boundary near the Walnut Hill housing area where attendance will be taken and students will wait for buses. Students will be transported to the Gaithersburg High School auditorium. There they will await buses that will transport them home at the conclusion of the regular school day.

DRESS CODE

Your child should wear comfortable clothes to school. Shoes for physical education and recess should be comfortable and safe. High heels or flip-flops that can damage ankles and cause sprains are not suitable. If your child comes to school in inappropriate clothing we will try to loan him/her a tee shirt to wear or phone you for help. Although we respect the individual right of children to select clothing of their choice, we also must be sure that the selection is responsible in choice and that it does not offend others or interfere with the educational process in any manner.

Key chains worn around the neck should be placed inside the shirt so that other children cannot grab them and injure your child's neck.

TOYS, TRADING CARDS, ELECTRONIC GAMES, GAME BOYS

Please do not allow your child to bring any toys, trading cards, electronic games, or any Game Boy items to school. Items such as these interfere with the educational program and are

not a benefit to your child's learning. The classroom teacher or principal will take these items that your child brings to school, and a parent then will need to come to school to get them back.

LOST AND FOUND

There is a lost-and-found bin located in the all-purpose room. If an item is lost, please ask your child to look for it there. At the end of the year, any items remaining will be donated to charity.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE GREATER GAITHERSBURG-GERMANTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce supports the Gaithersburg cluster schools through the production of the Classroom Connection Assignment Book. Every child in grades 2 - 5 will receive a complimentary assignment book that will help to keep them organized and you aware of assignments. You should be reviewing this assignment book each night with your child. We are so happy to have the Chamber interested in supporting the education of our students.

PUBLICATION OF M.C.P.S. DOCUMENTS

M.C.P.S. public documents are available in an alternative format, upon request, by contacting the Department of Information at 301-279-3191 or TDD at 301-279-3323.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please contact our school office seven business days prior to the event in which accommodations are needed.

VIDEOTAPING OR PHOTOGRAPHING OF YOUR CHILD

There may be times during the school year where your child may be videotaped or photographed for instructional purposes. If you do not want your child to participate in this kind of activity, please contact your child's teacher.

WASHINGTON GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF 2009-2010

CELEBRATE THE BEST STAFF IN MCPS.....

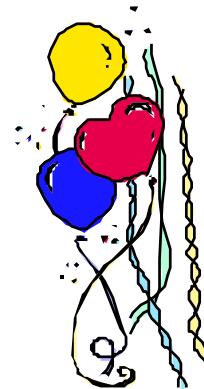
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mr. Scott Curry

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Mrs. Lisa Heister
Mrs. Cindy Fitzgerald
Mrs. Nancy Madej
Mrs. Nancy Nichols
Ms. Heather Zimmerman
Mrs. Barbara Apple
Ms. Darby Elgin
Ms. Jennifer Kwak
Ms. Amy Liang
Mrs. Robin Friedman
Ms. Diana Hagan
Mrs. Meghan Parker
Ms. Jennifer Gangemella
Mrs. Asha Jackson
Mrs. Kimberly Tunche
Ms. Janita Love
Mr. Gary Sosias

Head Start
Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Kindergarten
First Grade
First Grade
First Grade
First Grade
Second Grade
Second Grade
Second Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fourth Grade



Mrs. Cathy Haddad
Ms. Soojin Lee

Fifth Grade
Fifth Grade

SPECIALISTS

Mr. Russ Bradshaw
Ms. LaJuana Brown
Mr. Geoffrey Burns
Mrs. Diana Eureka
Ms. Jackie Hathaway
Mrs. Holly Heslen
Mrs. Carol Hylton
Ms. Katie Kolb
Mrs. Jan Leighty
Mrs. Debbie Lerner
Mrs. Fran McCaskill
Mrs. Maria McClure
Mrs. Amy Mendez
Ms. Jessica Mollard
Mrs. Anne Moran
Mrs. Karen Nejati
Mrs. Debbie Peyser
Mrs. Susan Ramsay
Mrs. Natalie Reineke
Mrs. Lisa Rozman
Mrs. Lynne Siegel
Mr. Jason Snyder
Mrs. Kathy Van de Poll
Mrs. Pearl Webster
Mrs. Katherine Wells

Physical Education
Staff Development
Instrumental Music
Media Specialist
ESOL/Reading Support
Math Support
Title I Instructional Specialist
Math Academic Support
Reading Specialist
Speech/Language Pathologist
Art
Technology
Reading Recovery/Reading Support
Special Education
School Counselor
ESOL
Enrichment Teacher
ESOL
ESOL
Reading Support
Speech/Language Pathologist
Music
Special Education
ESOL
Special Education

SUPPORTING STAFF

Ms. Yoshiko Applebaum
Mrs. Patti Capozzi
Mrs. Carolyn Camacho
Mrs. Kyung Choi
Mrs. Gayle Crouch
Ms. Anne Denicoff
Ms. Sonia Diaz
Mrs. Lee Doane
Mr. Tony Ellison
Mr. Jaime Figueroa
Mrs. Bernadette Helms
Mrs. Gail Heymsfield
Mrs. Barbara Pauley
Mrs. Michelle Robey
Mrs. Mary Smith
Mrs. Suzanne Sondberg
Mrs. Sandy Steele
Mrs. Banita Tadesse
Mrs. Silvia Triantos
Mr. Thomas Washington
Mrs. Betty Williams
Ms. Vickie Williams

Special Education Paraeducator
Paraeducator
Parent Community Coordinator
Building Service Worker
School Secretary
School Nurse
Pre-K Paraeducator
Building Service Worker
Building Service Night Leader
Building Service Manager
Paraeducator
Paraeducator
Instructional Data Assistant
Special Education Paraeducator
Cafeteria Worker
Health Technician
Media Assistant & Paraeducator
Cafeteria Manager
Head Start Paraeducator
Building Service Worker
Administrative Secretary
Building Service Worker

LINKAGES - Ms. Raquel Chaux
Ms. Sara Parrish

Mrs. Mariella Correal

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