



Wayside Elementary School
1011 Glen Road
Potomac, Maryland 20754

Telephone: (301) 279-8484

Office of the Principal

VISION: The Wayside Elementary School community builds successful, life-long learners through its commitment to the highest standards of teaching and learning.

MISSION: Wayside Elementary School will meet the needs of all students as it promotes academic excellence through effective communication, rigorous instruction, and collaborative teaming in a safe, nurturing environment.

August 2011

Dear Wayside Parents,

Summer is still in full swing, but at Wayside we have been diligently working on our preparations for the opening of school! When I reflect on the accomplishments and academic gains our students have made since last September, I am excited about all that we can accomplish in the upcoming year. Thank you for your continuing support and your enthusiasm. During the past six years, we have been working on providing a rigorous math program and have been working on writing across all subject matters for all our students as our school wide focus and goal.

The results are in! Through hard work and dedication, the staff and students have been able to accomplish our annual goal. Please look at our MSA data. A link to the MSA data can be found on our school website under the Principal and PTA/Parent buttons. As a team, we will continue to review and analyze student data to continue our improvement process. We are looking forward to working with the PTA board to gather feedback from the parent community in order to improve our school improvement process.

Please review the results of the student and parent surveys on our website. The links to the parent surveys can also be found on the Principal and PTA/Parent buttons. In working collaboratively with one another, we have created a school environment in which we can all be proud of. The feedback from staff, parents and students are very positive. Once again, thank you and congratulations!

With the departure of Donna Michela, who is now the assistant principal at Ronald McNair, we welcome Mrs. Lakeisha Lashley as our new principal intern. She comes to us with a broad experience in elementary and secondary education from Rock View Elementary School. I am looking forward to working with her in her new role. Mrs. Lashley will be serving as principal after we return from winter break for 45 days. I know that you will support her during the internship period.

As many of you know, we have a new community superintendent, Dr. Donna Hollingshead. Please join me in welcoming her to Wayside and the Churchill Cluster!

SUMMER WORK

As always, the summer has been busy as we prepare for your return. The building has been abuzz with activity.

- We just finished a four week Korean summer camp that was funded by the Korean Embassy. Thanks to Ms. Yoo, Mrs. Kim, Mrs. Cha and Mrs. Guevara, the children enjoyed learning the basics of the Korean language and other Korean traditions. We also had six other camps housed in our building.
- As part of the Tech Mod continuing initiative we received 150 new computers and software. Additionally our website has been redesigned. Teachers and students will notice that we have several new features available to us for instructional purposes.
- One of our rooms was remodeled for a second PEP program.
- A changing room and bathroom are being constructed between rooms 33 and 34 to be used by our preschoolers.
- Staff and I attended the three day Maryland Educator Effective Academy addressing the new state Common Core Standards in reading, math, and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics). You will be hearing more about this during the upcoming school year. The most important thing is...we are already incorporating many of the instructional features and are excited about our new addition to our fifth special-Science.
- Team leaders, special educators, the staff development teacher and I also attended a two day Collaborative Planning Cycle for Special Education at Shady Grove. The focus of this training was on Universal Design for Learning. As we have in the past, we will continue to address students' needs in an individualized manner. Many of the strategies and skills are already being implemented with our students. We are excited about implementing some of our new learning and the additional resources that we will be receiving as result of our attendance.
- Finally, our music room has been relocated to room 43 in the yellow hall.

I would like to thank Mr. Bell, Mr. Torres, Mr. Lara, Mrs. Tan, and Mrs. Cha for their hard work over the summer. They did a fantastic job of scrubbing and polishing the building to get ready for the new school year. Also, due to Mrs. Tan wishing to be closer to home, we are very happy to have Mr. Hoon Kim return as our .5 building service worker.

Many thanks also to Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Grosso and Mrs. Guevara for their work over the summer in preparation for the coming year.

STAFFING CHANGES

We are so fortunate at Wayside to have staff members who are dedicated to our children and skilled in delivering a high quality education. It is my pleasure to announce the grade level teams for this year. As you know, the new school year will bring changes in grade level assignments for many staff members. Most of these changes were announced prior to the summer vacation.

This year, as we say goodbye to a few staff members, we have the opportunity to welcome new staff:

The Fondest Farewell to the following staff members who have retired after many years of dedicated service to our children and our school. They will be missed and we wish them a happy and healthy retirement.

- Ellie Shutak, kindergarten
- Marsha Freeberg, second grade
- Ronnie Pincus, fifth grade
- Sylvia Grier, music
- Kathy Burke, media assistant

We would also like to say goodbye to.....

- Elizabeth Guevara is teaching 4th grade in Texas.
- Carlette Jameson is now teaching at Glenallen and is happy to be closer to home.
- Courtney Jones is the new SDT at Clarksburg and Woodfield. She is expecting her first child, and we wish her the very best with her new family member.
- John Gillenwater, our part time instrumental music teacher has been reassigned to another school due to staffing cuts.

We will miss them and we wish them all well.

In order to ensure that there is a great teacher in every classroom, this summer, the Wayside staff and I have taken considerable time to interview applicants for these and other teaching vacancies.

The Happiest Hello to ...

- Melanie Clubbs and Ashlie Wagner, who will be teaching kindergarten.
- Carrie Ader, who will be teaching second grade.
- Sherri Chester and Stefanie Herndon, who will be joining our fifth grade team.
- Sharon Yu, who will be our new PEP teacher.
- Krista Flickinger, who will be taking over our music program.
- Jill Costa, who is our new staff development teacher.
- Kerry Chon, who will be the new .5 SPED resource teacher.
- Ligia Williams-.2 ESOL teacher

I am sure you all will join us in welcoming them to the Wayside community.

GRADE LEVEL TEAMS FOR 2011-2012:

PEP-Comprehensive	SCBP Primary	SCBP Intermediate
Russo	Englund	Solender
PEP-INC		
Yu		
Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
Lenzi	Price	Rudolph
Lee	Parks	Kim
Clubbs	Yanow	Monica
Wagner		Ader
Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
King-reading	Boland-reading	Jenkins-math
Lewington-reading	Griffiths-reading	Stuart-reading
H. Yoo-math	Hoffman-math	Dryman-math
Hardison-math	Zelin-math	Herndon-math/reading
		Chester-reading
Core Team	Support Team	Specialist Team
Lashley	SPED: Gantzer, Chon	Art: Weinbaum, Abid
Eisenberg	SPCH: Light, Michael	PE: Keys, Beabout
Costa	ESOL: Arora, Stefan, Peters and Williams	Music: Flickinger, Lively
Averill	RI: Pollack	Media: Grosso
		Instrumental Music: Vaughn

MCPS CURRICULUM 2.0

As school opens this fall, MCPS is implementing the Elementary Integrated Curriculum, in kindergarten and first grades. As the second grade team explores the new curriculum, they will receive support from the staff development and reading teacher. This new program, formerly called the EIC will now be referred to as MCPS Curriculum 2.0. “MCPS Curriculum 2.0 is built around developing students’ critical and creative thinking skills, as well as essential academic success skills, so that students are well prepared for a lifetime of learning. We are upgrading the existing MCPS curriculum for the elementary grades in a way that will better engage students and teachers, and dedicate more learning time to subjects such as the arts, information literacy, science, social studies and physical education. By blending these subjects with the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, students will receive robust, engaging instruction across all subjects in the early grades – in short, we are building a stronger foundation at the elementary level”. To learn more about this curriculum, please read Dr. Joshua P. Starr’s letter

as well as an explanation about the MCPS Curriculum 2.0 on our website under the title with the same name.

MODERNIZATION

We are excited about the preliminary plans that have been designed with all stakeholder input. I want to thank the community members that have participated in our facility planning meetings over the past year. As our neighbors, your feedback is very important to us and we want to make sure that the plan reflects your input throughout the process. Over the past year we had many meetings that addressed questions regarding the construction that is scheduled to begin in July 2014. We have been very pleased with the care and respect in which the Departments of Facilities Management, Division of Construction, Division of Long-Range Planning, and the Office of School Performance addressed the issues that were brought to their attention. The meeting notes from these discussions and my report to the PTA are available on our school website as well as the PTA website. As we go forward, I look forward to working collaboratively with the school staff, parents and the greater community. With everyone's support, I feel confident that we will help our students see change as an opportunity to learn and grow. I hope the added measures to improve communication will help everyone feel more included in the process.

VOLUNTEERING

At Wayside Elementary School, we welcome parent involvement. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, committed and involved parent community. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has in the past coordinated our active parent volunteer program. This year, the PTA and the administration will be working in partnership to continue our strong parent volunteer program. The parent volunteer program allows parents to participate in valuable hands-on assistance opportunities throughout the year in many areas of the school. This year, in order to ensure a successful program, each parent volunteer **MUST** attend a training session prior to volunteering. The training is designed to help volunteers do the following:

- Understand the roles, responsibilities and expectations inherent in working with the children at Wayside.
- Become familiar with our school policy on supervising children in the lunchroom and on the playground.
- Learn our school safety and security procedures.

The volunteer program benefits the children by giving them a sense of community. It is a great example of how home, school and the community work together. We encourage you to find opportunities to foster this parent home connection. If you would like to get involved please contact your teacher, Mrs. Lakeisha Lashley and/or the PTA Volunteer Coordinator to sign up and attend the required training scheduled for September. We look forward to working with you.

REMINDERS

The first day of school is **Monday, August 29, 2011**. This will be a regular full-day session with buses running their regular routes. A complete calendar with all the scheduled school holidays and early release days is also posted on our website. Please keep these pages for reference throughout the school year.

I am looking forward to seeing you during our annual **Sneak Peek**, on **Friday August 26, 2011**, from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. If you are new to Wayside and are in grades 1 - 5, you are invited to the New Student Orientation earlier on **August 26**, at 10:30 am, in the all-purpose room.

Because the summer is so busy with the registration of new students and planning for the new school year, class lists will not be finalized until the week before school starts. Students will be notified of their teacher assignments through the following:

- Students will receive a Connect-Ed call and/or an email message from their new teacher during the week of August 22nd.
- Class lists will be posted at Wayside on Thursday, August 25, 2011.
- Visitors to Sneak Peek will be able to check the finalized class lists.

Our instructional program will be explained at our Back-to-School Nights, which are scheduled as follows

- **Kindergarten – Wednesday, August 24, 2011 – 6:00PM.**
- **Grades 1 & 2, SCB – Wednesday, September 14, 2011 - 7:00PM**
- **Grades 3, 4, 5, - Thursday, September 15, 2011 - 7:00PM**

During the school year, I also encourage all of you to check Wayside Waves, Dolphin Delivery and the Wayside Website for important notices, reminders and information.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:

Please refer to the bus route list on our website for the locations and times of pick-up. Parents should be aware that road construction, poor weather conditions, and accidents are real traffic stoppers in the Wayside area, so buses may be legitimately delayed when picking up students in the mornings. School buses experience the same traffic delays as the rest of us do – sometimes even more so, as bus drivers tend to be more cautious than the average commuter.

We also need your help getting your children to and from school safely. We ask that you

- Make sure that your child knows his/her bus numbers and also his/her address
- Show your child where he/she is to be dropped off in the afternoon
- Make sure that your child knows what to do if the bus does not arrive

If you choose to drive your child to school, please use caution and patience as you enter and exit the parking lot. Traffic flows in only one direction and is designed so students will be curbside as they exit or board your car. Please wait patiently and drive your vehicle as far as possible towards the back of the school when dropping off children. Staff members and patrols will be out to guide your way. Please follow their direction. All students crossing Glen Road should do so only at the crosswalk that is attended by a county crossing guard.

Wayside staff will also be available on the first day of school to assist students and their families.

Please look for other handouts with information related to the opening of school in the links under Back-to-School Information, 2011-2012. Please read the handouts thoroughly, as they

will answer many of your questions regarding our school procedures and policies. A hard copy of this letter and the handouts will be available in your child's classroom at Sneak Peek.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. Enjoy the rest of the summer! I look forward to seeing all of you back at the Sneak Peek.

Sincerely,

Yong-Mi Kim
Principal

A message from our Community Superintendent:

"As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. In some cases, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, we will do our best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. We will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school."