

WELLER ROAD ELEMENTARY

PARENT NEWSLETTER

October 19, 2009



STUDENT ARRIVAL TIME – Please remember not to send or bring your child to school before 8:30 a.m. There are no staff members available to watch them before that time, so students will be standing outside unattended until 8:30 a.m.

MSA/TN2 PARENT MEETING – Tomorrow, Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., information about the MSA (Maryland School Assessment) and TN-2 (Terra Nova) will be presented to parents of children in grades 2-5. Presenters will share Weller Road Elementary School's test scores from the 2008-2009 school year, distribute sample test questions, and offer ways to support your child's academic progress during Session I. During Session II, parents will have the opportunity to navigate websites such as www.mdk12.org and www.mdreportcard.org to learn more about the Voluntary State Curriculum, how the MSA measures students' progress, and how schools are held accountable for students' learning through No Child Left Behind.

IT'S FALL! – This means that the weather is changing back and forth between warm and cool. Please watch the weather and dress your child appropriately for being inside a heated building as well as going out at recess to play in the chilly air. Also, be sure to label all outdoor clothing with your child's full name.

PARKING/DROPPING OFF ON WELLER ROAD – When parking or dropping your child off along Weller Road, please keep the following safety measures in mind:

- There is no parking or stopping on the school side of Weller Road directly in front of the school.
- Please do not park in front of our neighbor's driveways and sidewalks.
- If you're dropping off your child on the opposite side of Weller, please walk your child down to the crosswalk to be safely escorted across Weller Road by the Crossing Guard.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – Please read the attached letter regarding the Montgomery County Public Schools' policy on inclement weather, including information on public announcements.

PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES – The dates for parent conferences are Wednesday, November 11, 2009 and Thursday, November 12, 2009. There will be no classes for Pre-K or Head Start students on those two days in order to be able to meet with all parents. All other students will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m. Conferences for grades K through 5 will be held after dismissal. For parents who have not already scheduled a conference, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference, and be sure to let them know if you will need a translator. Our goal at Weller is to meet with every parent, to inform you of your child's first quarter performance.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR -The "Scholastic" Book Fair began today, Monday, October 19, 2009 and runs through the week ending on Friday, October 23, 2009. Students will preview the books on Monday and Tuesday, and then they will be able to make purchases on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There will also be evening hours on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 and Thursday, October 22, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please come out and support your school and PTA by buying books. There are books available for adults too.

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Your child will attend an assembly about their rights and responsibilities as a student in Montgomery County Public Schools. They will go over things like: don't bring toys to school, don't bring weapons of any kind, including fake look-a-likes, the importance of attendance and information on the discipline policy. They will also bring home the handbook in English for you to read and keep as a reference. If you would like a Spanish copy, please stop by the magazine racks near the front doors or in the office to pick up a copy.

CAR RIDER DISMISSAL – Please remember that school dismisses at 3:05 PM. We need you to be prompt in picking up your child as the staff go off duty at 3:20 PM. There is a growing number of students who are not being picked up until after that time. For your child's safety, please be prompt in picking up your child. Thank you.

RED RIBBON WEEK – Red Ribbon week began today. Every day, students should wear something to help reinforce the theme for that day. Tomorrow's theme is "Team-Up Against Drugs" so everyone should wear clothing from their favorite sports team. Please check out the attached flyer for the rest of the themes and clothing suggestions for the week and help support the focus on drug and alcohol prevention.

FROM THE PARENT RESOURCE CENTER – Here’s how you can help with your child’s education:

- Encourage your child to do his best. Show you believe that education is important. Let him know you want him to do the best he possibly can.
- Set a good example. Actions really do speak louder than words. When you spend time reading, you show your child that reading is enjoyable and useful.
- Emphasize academics. School is your child’s job. Other interests – from athletics to TV, friends and games must take a back seat.
- Provide resources at home. You should have a place for your child to study.

Anna Saladino (Parent Coordinator)

GEORGE B. THOMAS – SATURDAY SCHOOL – It’s not too late to join the Saturday School tutoring program at Wheaton High School. If you would like for your child to take advantage of this great opportunity, please take the registration form **with you** to Wheaton HS along with the \$30 registration fee and your child’s most recent report card. If you need a form, please stop by the office to pick one up.

COMPLAINT POLICY – Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has a complaint policy that provides parents and community members with a process to register their concerns. The policy is posted on the Division of Title I Programs (DTP) and the MCPS website at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us>. MCPS has a procedure and form for parents and community members to follow when registering a complaint. These procedures can also be found on the DTP and the MCPS website.

TITLE I WEBSITE – The Division of Title I Programs website has important information for parents in Title I schools. The website contains information about the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, the Title I program in Montgomery County Public Schools, and links to county, state, and federal websites. If you have comments or suggestions about the Title I website, please call Dr. Felicia Lanham Tarason at 301-230-0660.

HALLOWEEN REMINDER – We will not celebrate Halloween at school because many of our parents have expressed the concern that their families do not celebrate Halloween for a variety of reasons.

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES OF FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS – The application materials for the middle school magnet programs at Takoma Park Middle School and Eastern Middle School will be available online in mid-October at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms. All fifth graders are eligible to apply. These are exciting opportunities for interesting and challenging experiences in middle school. The program at Takoma Park Middle School focuses on math, science and computer science. The program at Eastern Middle School focuses on humanities and communication arts. Some important dates to remember:

Monday, October 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.	Eastern Magnet meeting at Eastern MS
Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.	Takoma Park Magnet meeting at Takoma Park MS
Thursday, October 29, 2009, 7:00 p.m.	Application Workshop at Gaithersburg HS
Monday, November 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.	Application Workshop at Wheaton HS
Monday, November 9, 2009	Application deadline, postmarked or delivered

Please also visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms for information about Middle School Magnet Consortium programs at Argyle Middle School, Loiederman Middle School and Parkland Middle School. The *Choice Form* is due November 9, 2009. Information meetings and Open Houses are as follows:

Wednesday, October 28, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Argyle Magnet Middle School for Digital Design and Development Open House
Thursday, November 5, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology Open House