

WELLER ROAD ELEMENTARY

PARENT NEWSLETTER

November 3, 2009



REPORT CARD CONFERENCES – Parent conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 and Thursday, November 12, 2009 in the afternoon. If you do not have a conference scheduled, please call your child's teacher ASAP. We want all parents to have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their child's academic progress. Please bring your child's agenda book with you to parent conferences. Also, there is a flyer attached entitled, "Conferencing with your Child's Teacher". Please look this over ahead of time and feel free to bring it to the conference with you. Please remember that 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. The teachers will not be able to stop instruction to hold impromptu conferences.

A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP – In December, our Community Superintendent for the Wheaton cluster, Dr. Frank Stetson, will become the Chief School Performance Director for Montgomery County Public Schools [MCPS]. Dr. Stetson will be overseeing all of the MCPS schools, supervising the community superintendents and managing the Office of School Performance. He asked that we pass the following message on to you:

"I've been very privileged to work with wonderful school communities and have greatly enjoyed the many relationships I have with members of school staffs and the communities. I am very proud of the work our schools are doing and look forward to the schools continuing their many successes. I am also very pleased that Mr. Bulson will be succeeding me. He is an exceptional educator and leader."

Our new Community Superintendent will be Mr. Sean Bulson, and he wished to share this message with you:

"I am excited to be returning to the Bethesda–Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, and Walt Whitman quadcluster. I had the privilege of working for Dr. Stetson as a school-based leader in the quadcluster prior to moving to the Office of School Performance. Thus, I am aware of the tremendous accomplishments that have been made under his leadership. In the coming months, my goal is to acquaint myself with each of the schools and their communities so I can begin to understand what makes each one unique. I am fortunate to be working with our talented Director of School Performance, Dr. Denise Greene, who I have known since we were principals together in the quadcluster. The vision of the Office of School Performance is to provide leadership for equity and excellence. As a team, Dr. Greene and I will provide the support necessary to allow our schools to continue serving all students through the lenses of equity and excellence. I look forward to working with all of you soon."

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY HANDBOOKS – We apologize for the delay in getting these handbooks out to you but there has been a delay in printing. As soon as we receive all of them we will send them home with your child. Thank you.

FROM THE PARENT RESOURCE CENTER – Parents, conduct this check list on yourself

- show affection toward my child every day.
- I talk to my child regularly about school.
- I regularly attend school activities with my child.
- I try to play educational games with my child.
- I see to it that noises levels are down are kept down during my child's homework time.
- I limit my child's television viewing time and allow him or her to watch only respectable programs.
- I will ensure that my child receives sufficient sleep and goes to bed on time.
- I will make sure that my child is properly dressed before going to school each day.
- I will always check my child's homework assignments to see that they are completed.

How did you do? Anna Saladino (Parent Coordinator)

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL – Please remember that in order for students to be successful in school and learn the information in their grade level, they must be in school each day. Please do not schedule vacations while school is in session. If your child is sick, please call the office at (301) 929-2010 early in the morning to report their absence. Please feel free to leave a message on the school's answering machine if you call before 8:00 a.m.

PTA – Our next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. Please plan to attend and get involved.

RED RIBBON WEEK QUESTIONNAIRE – Please use the attached questionnaire to open dialogue with your family. This is for your personal use and does not need to be returned to school.

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, 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:

Thursday, November 5, 2009 7:00 p.m. Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology
Open House

NEWSLETTER SURVEY – In an effort to save trees and the school system money, we would like to begin sending the newsletter electronically. This will also minimize the number of copies you receive as we will only send one per family. We will still have paper copies available for those who do not have email accounts. Please fill out the form below to give us your email address and other pertinent information. Thank you.

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(Please cut at the dotted line)

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FORM

Please list the name(s) of your children and their teachers on the lines below:

Students' Names

Teachers' Names

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please only fill out one form per family, listing all of the Weller Road students and their teachers. Please return the form to the teacher listed on the first line. Thank you.

Parent Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Address [optional]: _____

If you do not turn in a form, we will assume that you do not have an email account and have a paper copy available for you. We would really like to encourage everyone who can to sign up for the electronic copy. It will save money which means that there will be additional funds to use to support your child's education.

Thank you.