

# WELLER ROAD ELEMENTARY

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

November 16, 2009



**FALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATION** – On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, Weller Road ES will have a Fall Festival Celebration from 1:45 to 2:45 PM. Students, come dressed in your country best [jeans, plaid shirt, hat, bandana, overalls, boots, pigtails] and learn a Line Dance, enjoy a snack and play a game. Parents are welcome to join the fun too! Please bring a snack to share with your class. Only students who return the yellow permission slip, sent home last week, will be able to participate.

**COATS** – It is imperative that all children come dressed appropriately to school. Even though it is getting colder, students will be going outside for recess as long as it is above freezing. Please send your child with a coat, hat and glove/mittens every day. If you do not have a coat for your child, please contact Ms. Catucci, our school counselor, at 301-929-2010.

**PARENT DROP-OFF DURING ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL** – No one may park and leave their car in the Parent Drop-off area during arrival or dismissal. The traffic moves very quickly and smoothly when drivers stay in their cars and move with the flow of traffic. Please pull up as far in the circle as possible.

**DISMISSAL PARKING** – Please do not park and leave your cars on Weller Road in front of the Parent Drop-off area. This area is reserved for drivers entering the parent drop-off/pick-up area. When individuals park in this area and leave their cars, it causes major congestion. Then there is NOT enough space for the two-way traffic, and for the cars trying to come into the parent drop-off driveway.

**HEARING AND VISION SCREENING IN DECEMBER** – In accordance with the Maryland State Law, students in Montgomery County Public Schools are screened for possible vision and hearing problems. Trained hearing and vision screeners will be screening students in Kindergarten and First grade. Screening for Weller Road will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. If your child already wears glasses or contacts, please make sure they have them on the day of the screening.

If your child is already under care for a hearing or vision problem, or you do not wish your child to be screened at school, please notify the school nurse in writing.

If your child fails the screening, you will receive a letter, with a referral form, to take to your child's doctor for follow-up. This form should then be returned to school after being completed by the doctor.

**SUCCESS ASSEMBLIES** – Our first Success Assembly will be held on Monday, November 23, 2009. Students who will be receiving an award will be notified in writing, and parents are welcome to attend to see the presentation. Kindergarten and First Grade will receive their awards at 9:00 AM, Second and Third Grades will receive theirs at 10:00 AM and Fourth and Fifth Grades will receive theirs at 2:00 PM.

**PICTURE RETAKE DAY** – If you missed the last picture day, or would like to have your child's pictures retaken, Lifetouch photographers will be here on Friday, December 5, 2009. If your child is having their pictures made for the first time this year, please fill out the flyer which is coming home on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This flyer will have information regarding package choices and costs. If your child is having retakes done, please be sure to send in the previous pictures with your child on picture day. They will not be able to have pictures taken on the fifth without money or pictures in hand.

**SALLY FOSTER FUNDRAISER** – The PTA would like to thank all the parents who helped with the Sally Foster fundraiser. We did an awesome job and thanks to everyone who went the extra mile to help out our school. You may pick up your Sally Foster on Friday, November 20, 2009 from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. If you come between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., please do not park in front of the building or in the car rider's circle. You may park on the street or in a parking space.

**FROM THE PARENT RESOURCE CENTER – You Can Control the TV Set:** Educators are unanimous in their concern about the negative effects TV can have on children’s learning. It’s not the TV itself is damaging. The problem lies in the number of hours kids spend watching TV rather than reading, playing outside or even just daydreaming. Anna Saladino (Parent Coordinator)

What to Do When the TV is Off:

1. Read
2. Work a puzzle.
3. Play a game.
4. Call or visit a friend.
5. Learn to sew.
6. Go for a walk.
7. Write a letter to a friend.
8. Go for a bike ride.
9. Play a musical instrument.
10. And, of course, do homework!

**PARENTS AS ESSENTIAL PARTNERS: MARYLAND’S PARENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER** – The Maryland Parental Information Resource Center (PIRC) launched a new website aimed at giving parents and educators the tools they need to boost family engagement and achievement for all of Maryland’s students. The user-friendly website is aimed at getting parents, parent advocates, community members, teachers, principals, and other administrators working together for the benefit of the state’s children. Ultimately, the website will be translated entirely into Spanish.

The Maryland PIRC offers a bilingual (English and Spanish) toll-free Parent Hotline. Parents, educators, and parent advocates can access the toll free hotline at 1-877-MD-PARENTS.

The website has a Frequently Asked Questions section for parents and a question from which parents and community members can use to submit questions. Other website features include: lists of resources for parents, parent advocates, and educators; a searchable database of studies, reports, news articles, and training materials; and lists of social service agencies, advocacy groups, and relevant government agencies.

For more information about the parent center and its programs, please see the attached brochure, visit the website, or call the office at 301-657-7742.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** – Box Tops for Education is a program that allows schools to receive money for the box tops of various food products. Our goal this year is to collect 5,000 box tops. By simply cutting off the “Box Tops for Education” labels of various General Mills products and sending them to school, you can help us earn money to support many of our school programs. As always, if we work together as a community we can make this program successful. Don’t forget to ask family, friends or even co-workers to help support Weller Road by collecting Box Tops!

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Milk and Cookie Night
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Strathmore Hall
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – Fall Festival
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Success Assemblies
- Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Early Release Day [12:35 PM]
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – No School: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Picture Re-take Day
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Literary Parade [1:30 – 3:00 PM]

**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.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANOTHER FORM IF YOU'VE ALREADY SENT YOURS IN. 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.