

Wyngate Wednesday Weekly

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wyngatees> November 4, 2009

November Calendar

November 5:	Individual student portraits taken at school.
November 7:	PTA Fall Clean-Up Day
November 9:	Deadline for applications for Middle School magnet programs and the fourth grade Center for the Highly Gifted.
November 11:	Report Cards Distributed EARLY RELEASE - Parent Conferences - Dismissal at 12:35 (after lunch)
November 12:	EARLY RELEASE - Parent Conferences - Dismissal at 12:35 (after lunch)
November 14:	PTA Sock Hop
November 16:	School Improvement Plan Review Meeting for First Quarter - 3:15 p.m.
Nov. 16-Nov. 20:	Student Council Canned Food Drive
November 18:	PTA Barnes & Noble Book Fair
November 19:	Math Olympiad #1 in AP Room - 9:05 for Grade 4; 10:05 for Grade 5 PTA Cluster Meeting - Media Center - 7:00-9:00 p.m.
November 20:	Cultural Arts performance - Green Magic
November 25:	EARLY RELEASE - Thanksgiving Holiday - Dismissal at 12:35 (after lunch)
November 26-27:	NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Nov. 30-Dec. 4:	PTA Scholastic Book Fair
December 3:	Family Night at the Book Fair
December 4:	Individual Photo Make-Up Day

Art, Music and Physical Education : Objectives for Second Quarter

Attached to this issue of the newsletter are descriptions of the objectives for art, music and physical education that your students will be taught. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Neubold, our art teacher, Ms. Wasserstrom, our general music teacher and Ms. Derwent, our physical education teacher. We hope this information will help you better understand your child's experiences in those special subject classes.

Music News

The Melody Makers, Wyngate's 4th and 5th grade chorus, has elected officers for 2009-2010. **Megan Bull** will be chorus President, and **Jordan Neave** will be Vice-President this school year.

In other music news, four 5th grade students have been selected to represent Wyngate in the Montgomery County Honors Chorus. these students are **Judith Besnainou**, **Patrick Collishaw**, **Jolie Miller**, and **Dara Schweitzer**. Rehearsals for the Honors Chorus begin in February and culminate with an evening concert in May.

Congratulations to all of these students!

Math Olympics

Once again this year Wyngate joined the Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary Schools. Math Olympiads, an international competition for 4th and 5th grade students fosters and promotes student interest and enthusiasm for problem solving. Five Olympiads will be held at monthly intervals through the year beginning in November. An Olympiad is a contest that contains five problems, each with a time limit. A student who gets a correct answer receives one point. Each student who participates in the five Olympiads will receive a special certificate, and we hope an increased interest in mathematics. The Math Olympiads normally are scheduled during the fourth grade and fifth grade math class period. In the next few weeks students who have indicated an interest in participating will take home a packet of sample problems and problem solving strategies for them to work on with their parents, providing the necessary practice. The first Math Olympiad will be held on Thursday, November 19. Both Olympiads will take place in the all-purpose room with grade four students participating at 9:05 a.m. and grade five students participating at 10:05 a.m. Students who sign up to participate will bring home a packet.

New Community Superintendent

Dr. Frank Stetson, our Community Superintendent, has accepted the position of Chief School Performance Officer with Montgomery County Public Schools. He will be responsible for supervising the MCPS community superintendents and managing the Office of School Performance. We will miss Dr. Stetson, and we wish him well in his new position.

Replacing Dr. Stetson as Wyngate's Community Superintendent will be Mr. Sean Bulson, formerly principal of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and currently Director of School Performance for the Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley High School clusters. We welcome Mr. Bulson to the Walter Johnson cluster!

Wyngate Addition

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) includes the superintendent's recommendation for a Wyngate addition project for completion by August 2013. The CIP includes a recommendation for an FY 2011 appropriation for planning funds to begin the architectural design for the addition in the 2010-2011 school year.

Please Call the School . . .

Please call the school at 301-571-6979 by 9:15 a.m. if your child will be late or absent. You may leave a message on this line if you are calling before or after office hours, or you may e-mail Mrs. Huckabay with absences at rebecca_huckabay@mcpsmd.org. Thank you!

Student Elections

On Thursday, October 22, the officers for the Wyngate Student Council were elected. The fifth grade students who were nominated by their classmates prepared speeches and hung up posters during the previous week. These nominees delivered a speech in front of over 500 students, staff, and parents in hopes of being elected. All the nominees delivered excellent speeches, speaking loudly and clearly. The student body then voted, and the results were very close. We want to congratulate **all** the students who put their hard work and dedication into the election process. The officers were announced on the afternoon of October 22. The nominees for each office are listed below, and the winner is marked with an asterisk.

President:	Michael Blakeslee* Isabel Jabara	Sheridan O'Kelly Natalie Porter
Vice President:	Judith Besnainou Owen Greene Jonah Renbaum	Ian Rubin Jordan Zavareei*
Secretary:	Alexandra Brown* Daisy Grant* Ellie McKennirey	Emily Nestel Kyle Wasik

Highly Gifted Center for 2010-2011

The school system has mailed information on the application process for the highly gifted center to the parents of all grade three students. Montgomery County Public Schools offers seven centers for the highly gifted for students entering grade four. These centers are designed for students whose academic needs for advanced instruction may not be easily met in their local school. The highly gifted center program for the Walter Johnson cluster is Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School, 14516 Nadine Drive, Rockville, 20853. Parents of third grade students interested in having their child considered for this program must submit an application by **November 9, 2009**.

Application information can be found at

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/elementary/highly_gifted_centers.shtm

School Improvement Plan

Parents and faculty will meet to review the progress of our School Improvement Plan 2007-08 on the afternoon of **Monday, November 16** from **3:15 to 4:15 p.m.** Any interested parents are welcome. Please contact Mrs. Lamb in the school office if you would like to attend.

National Philharmonic Concerts at Strathmore

Montgomery County Public Schools is once again pleased to offer the opportunity for all grade two students to attend the Student Concerts presented by the National Philharmonic Orchestra. This program gives our students exposure to the wonderful

world of classical music. MCPS is able to provide these concerts at no cost to families. Prior to attending the concert on **November 19**, grade two students will prepare for the concert in their music classes. They will be learning about the instrument families of the orchestra and how the instruments work together in a concert setting.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found table is overflowing! Students and parents, please check for lost possessions currently displayed on a table in the front hallway. PLEASE put children's names on jackets, hats, mittens, lunch boxes, etc. Labeled items can be returned, but everything else will be donated to charity after next week.

Box Tops for Education are Being Collected Again!!

Would you like to help Wyngate earn money simply? You can clip 10¢ Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favourite products such as Cheerios®, Betty Crocker®, Juicy Juice®, Ziploc®, Kleenex®, Hefty®, and more! As the name suggests, these small squares marked "Box Tops for Education" are on the tops of many products, and need to be cut out and submitted. Through this nearly effortless act, Box Tops for Education helps schools like ours earn cash for things we need, from books and computers to playground equipment.

Each month Wyngate will be collecting Box Tops in a clearly marked box in the school lobby. The more Box Tops we collect, the more money Wyngate receives. The collection box will always be in the lobby, but we encourage students to bring in their unexpired Box Tops during the last week of each month. We would like to avoid daily classroom disruption, especially for the younger students.

So start collecting those Box Tops! Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10¢ to our school when we submit them to Box Tops for Education, up to \$20,000 per year. For more information on this national program, please visit www.boxtops4education.com. If you have any questions, please email Jennifer Sheives at jennifersheives@rcn.com.

MAP-R

The MAP-R, published by Northwest Evaluation Association, has been given to all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 to assess reading achievement. Students will take this test on a computer at school two more times this school year, once again in January/February and again in May.

There are many benefits to taking the test using computers, including the ability to customize the test for each student and to quickly provide information to teachers. The results from the MAP-R will be available for parents and guardians to review through the classroom teacher at the November parent conferences. The MAP-R is a nationally normed test, which also matches with state and local reading standards. Because this is a national test, a child's performance can be compared with the performance of other students across the country. Students respond to a multiple choice format after reading

a passage. To learn more about the MAP-R, you can visit the following web site:
<http://www.nwea.org>.

Parents of Students with IEPs

As a result of the authorization of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act), schools are responsible for reporting students' progress toward annual IEP goals on a quarterly basis. Therefore, at report card time, your child will bring home a copy of his or her IEP instructional goals and objectives. They will be folded and stapled in the envelope with the report card.

Heads Up! (No pun intended...)

It's that season again! In order to prevent widespread infestation of pediculosis (head lice) among our students, it is important that parents inspect their children regularly, and if head lice are found, treat appropriately and follow clean-up procedures thoroughly in order to avoid reinfestation and spread to other students and family members.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has recently changed its policy regarding pediculosis (head lice) in schools. In the past, schools have observed a "no nit" policy when children return to school after being treated for head lice. This is no longer the case. Current policy permits students to return to school as long as no nits are present *within 1/2 inch of the scalp*.

Our Health Technician may inspect a child for head lice at the parent's request, or at a teacher's request if excessive itching is noted. In those cases, if evidence of head lice is found, a student's siblings may also be checked. However, Health Department personnel (including both our Health Technician and our School Community Health Nurse) are **no longer expected to conduct classroom screenings**. For this reason, we must rely on parents to be especially vigilant. It is especially important that parents **alert the school** if they have found head lice or suspect an infestation so that appropriate preventive measures can be taken. This information will be treated confidentially. Students who have been treated for head lice should report to the Health Technician for clearance before returning to school.

If you suspect that your child may have head lice and need confirmation, or if you have any other concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Eileen Hubbard, our Health Technician, at 301-571-6979. She is in the office from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. daily. Thank you for your cooperation!

Health Room Reminder

Please remember to fill out a Medication Authorization form if your child needs to have medication at school for any reason or length of time. This applies to **all medications** – prescription **and** over-the-counter. In addition, students are not permitted to carry medications to school. All medications **must** be brought in by one of the parents. Thanks for your cooperation!

Important Parking Lot Reminder - PLEASE OBSERVE THE RULES!!!

In spite of the frequent reminders published in the Wednesday Weekly, we continue to have problems in our parking lots. We ask all families to *please review and observe the parking lot rules*:

- **Under no circumstances** should a parent park and leave their vehicle in the “Kiss and Drop” area in the morning, or in the student pick-up line in the afternoon. Parents who wish to walk their children to the line-up area or meet their children after school **must** park their cars either in parking spaces in the lot or on the street. License numbers of cars parked illegally in this area will be reported to our school police officer

- The staff parking lot in the rear of the building (off Wilmett Road) *should not* be used for dropping off or picking up students for any reason, **either before school in the morning, or after school until 4:00 p.m.** In addition to staff parking, this lot is also used for deliveries and by MCPS maintenance vehicles, and it is dangerous for cars to turn around and for students to be on foot in this area.

- **BY ORDER OF THE FIRE MARSHALL, PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME IN THE CIRCULAR DRIVE DESIGNATED FOR BUSES IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.**

- Students arriving by car each day should **plan to arrive at school no later than 8:45 a.m.** In inclement weather, getting in and out of our parking lot can be slow, so please allow extra time on these mornings. Please note that regardless of how long you have been waiting to enter the parking lot, **your child is still tardy if he or she arrives in the building after the second bell.** If the line of cars into the parking lot is long, parents may let their children out on Wadsworth Drive or park their vehicles and walk their children to school on the sidewalk.

While all of us have busy lives and have many demands on our time, it is important that we model appropriate behavior for all children by displaying courtesy and adhering to the standards of safety in the parking lot.

Outdoor Recess Reminder

All students should be prepared each day for outdoor recess by wearing hats, scarves, mittens or gloves, and boots, if needed. This time outdoors is important for energy release and concentration for afternoon instruction. Students normally go outside if the temperature is 32 degrees or above, and the blacktop areas are clear of ice and snow.

Please discuss with your child the importance of dressing warmly when playing outside. Students are expected to wear their coats, jackets, gloves and hats outside to play. Essentially, what ever clothing students wear to school, they are expected to wear outside for recess. Students are also expected to keep wearing this clothing while outside! (If they get too warm, they are expected to tie their sweatshirt or jacket around

their waist. They are not to put coats or jackets on the ground or hang them on fences, as they normally forget them!) Anything left outside that is turned in will be placed in the blue Lost and Found barrel in the hallway.

Students take their coats with them when they go to lunch in the all purpose room. Any child forgetting his or her coat is permitted to go back to the classroom to collect the necessary items.

If a child returns to school from an illness, and a **doctor** has recommended that he or she remain inside for recess, the only provision available is for the child to sit and work quietly in the school office. Teachers are not available to supervise students during recess. Parents should send the doctor's note to their child's teacher explaining the situation, so that the teacher can make arrangements with the office for this exception to be made.

Attendance: A key to Your Child's Success

(This information is shared for parents from *The Parent Institute*.)

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on state tests. Studies also show that kids who are absent more often score lower on state tests. Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Children can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background – one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

Here's how you can improve your child's school attendance:

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child must "miss" or be late for school.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class and being tardy.

- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.
- Lead by example, If children see parents taking off work for no real reason, they may expect to do the same thing.

Research shows that attendance is the single more important factor in school success.

Can I take a Picture at School?

Just as parents can prohibit their names and their children's names from appearing in the directory, parents can also prohibit their children from being photographed at school. Additionally, parents can prohibit photographs of their children and/or their school work from being placed on the school's website.

Parents may take pictures of students at public events, such as the Halloween Parade or a school performance; however, prior to taking pictures of students in a classroom or other areas of the school, they must seek the permission of the principal or assistant principal. The principal in turn must ensure that students in the photograph are not those students whose parents have requested to be excluded. We appreciate your cooperation in this important security matter.

Baldrige at Wyngate: Why are there Data Notebooks?

As you are aware, the school system made the commitment to implement the Malcolm Baldrige program in education beginning with 2001-2002 school year, when the WJ Cluster began studying the program. Members of the Wyngate faculty visited schools in Carroll County, Maryland, and the process was initiated at Wyngate. At the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year, the Pinellas Quality Academy (Florida) Consultants provided WJ elementary schools with a one-day seminar on the *Classroom Learning Systems*. This seminar proved to be a catalyst for change and provided all Wyngate faculty with a common frame of reference. As a result of these learning experiences, mission statements have been developed with students annually, and students are expected to set quarterly goals for improvement .

Several years ago Wyngate faculty members visited the Waters Landing Baldrige Academy in our school system. As a result of their experience, they developed and proposed a plan to the faculty for the use of data notebooks in addition to an increase in the use of various Baldrige tools in the classroom. In June of last the year, the faculty reviewed and refined their plan for the use of data notebooks for this school year. The faculty believes the use of data notebooks enables students to better "take charge of their own learning." The use of data notebooks, although time consuming for teachers, has proven to assist students in being more aware of "how and what to do to achieve a goal."

Data notebooks are a way for the student and the teacher to keep track of individual results that are not posted for everyone to see. Information such as tracking of individual assessment results, personal "plus/delta," individual goals/measures, and

individual action plans can be filed in a data notebook for easy access by the student, teacher, and parent.

Additionally, this notebook can be used by parents with their child to examine assigned work and review the data, and to help their child see how to set a goal for higher performance.

To assist teachers in helping their students to integrate the Core Values of Baldrige into the daily actions of the classroom, the county has published and provided each teacher with a handbook entitled *My Job, Your Job, Our Job: Building a Classroom Learning System*. Unit Three of this handbook outlines the importance of providing student data notebooks. As outlined in this chapter, the notebooks helps students:

- To take responsibility for the management of personal learning by maintaining data notebooks or folders;
- In making decisions based on measurement, information, data and analysis; and
- In focusing on student accountability, with students taking responsibility for their own learning.

Dogs at School

While all of us think pets are great, we agree that pets are best when they are left at home in their yard. Frequently, dogs leave their “calling card” on the sidewalks around the school and on the playground. Annually, we ask that dog owners obey both the leash law and **always, always** pick up after their dogs. Please take a moment to remind your neighbors who may use Wyngate’s grounds to walk their dogs, and thank you for helping us keep our school grounds a safe and healthy place for our students!

Complaint from Public Process

There may be times when issues arise in your child’s education that place you in disagreement with his or her school. Common examples of such issues are grade disputes, challenges around student promotions, perceived unfair treatment of students by staff. In most instances the disagreement can be resolved informally by meeting with your child’s teacher and the school administrator and discussing your concerns. However, if the issue cannot be settled collaboratively between the parent and the school, the Montgomery County Public Schools has a process for filing a formal Complaint from the Public to seek a review of any administrative decisions made by the school system staff. It is important to note that this process is not used for personnel matters, such as a teacher a parent believes should be reprimanded for his or her actions. Specific complaints about staff should be directed to your child’s principal who will guide you in the process of voicing your concerns. To file a complaint , you must first obtain MCPS Form 270-8 from either a school or online at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf270-8.pdf>

Lunchroom Behavior Standards

Students are brought to the lunch room by their teachers each day and sit at assigned class tables. Lunch and milk buyers go through the kitchen. Those who bring their lunch go directly to their table and sit down. There are four lunch periods:

11:00 Kindergarten
11:30 Grade one
12:05 Grade three and four
12:35 Grades two and five

Students are expected to use good table manners: (1) Chew food with mouth closed; (2) Use spoon or fork properly; (3) Speak softly with those nearest you; (4) Keep your hands to yourself. Students may leave their seats only to throw away trash, or with permission of the lunch aide to use the lavatory. Students are responsible for cleaning up the table, bench, and floor near where they eat. When the lunchroom supervisor gives a signal, the table monitors dismiss students from each table.

In addition to the lunchroom supervisor one playground aide assist in the monitoring and helping of students.

If a particular class consistently fails to adhere to the standards for cafeteria behaviour, the lunch room supervisor may assign specific seating for those tables. Individual students who do not abide the rules are given a "red slip" and sent to the office to meet with the principal or assistant principal.

Community Partnership

Once again our school has formed a partnership with OASIS, a national organization sponsored by Macy's Foundation and locally by Suburban Hospital. The organization has been functioning for more than twenty five years nationally and has had the tutor program in MCPS and DC schools for several years. This organization is recognized by the Office of Community and Family Partnerships in MCPS.

Tutors are assigned to students who are in need of extra help to meet the benchmarks in reading. The tutors come prepared with a lesson and use a balanced approach. They read to children, do a literacy experience activity in a journal. They are trained to follow up the reading and writing with activities to expand on the book or writing. They read with the same child once a week for an hour. Three tutors have been placed at Wyngate for this year.

Parents of students selected to participate in this program will be contacted by our reading specialist, Ms. Ann Pottker.

Saturday Discoveries

Montgomery college Workforce Development and Continuing Education and the Division of Enriched and Innovative Instruction, MCPS announce **Saturday**

Discoveries for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5. This special one-day enrichment program will be held at Montgomery College, Takoma Park Campus, on Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Brochures and registration information are available at www.montgomerycollege.edu.youth. The deadline for registration is November 9, 2009.

Thanksgiving Holiday

The Wyngate staff wishes all our students and families a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful long weekend. This school office will close at 4:00 p.m on Wednesday, November 25, and will reopen on Monday, November 30 at 8:00 a.m.