



News from the Administration

November 2012

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We Have Much to be Thankful For . . .

October certainly ended with a bang with Hurricane Sandy. We hope everyone stayed safe and dry at home with the kids. The unexpected two days of school closures was a bit of a surprise for all of us. Our first marking period is coming to a close and our First through Third Grade students will be receiving a new report card format this quarter. The new report card is aligned to our Curriculum 2.0 national core standards, giving you a clearer picture of your child's progress. If you want more information about how to read the new report card, please visit the website below

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/report-cards.aspx>

Our teachers are looking forward to the opportunity to meet with parents during our parent-teacher conferences on November 12th and 13th. Please remember to honor the time allotted for your conference so that all parents can have the same opportunity. Communication between teachers and parents is always a crucial component to a child's school success. Our staff highly values our annual fall conferences as a positive occasion to share with you your child's progress.

Throughout our classrooms and hallways, it is easy to see the hard work and effective effort put forth by our staff and students. As our move to our new building gets closer and closer, we are sharpening our organizational skills as we put together a plan of action. Please know, as we receive information from MCPS concerning our move, we will pass it along to you as quickly as possible. We will continue to operate on the premise that *when we know you will know!* November and December will certainly be a time of great anticipation and high activity, but it is important to remember to pack our patience along with our books and pencils. The light is certainly getting brighter at the end of our tunnel and with the efforts of our entire community, this move will provide us an overabundance of positive and lasting memories.

We wish all of our students and families a very Happy Thanksgiving. Please be safe in your travels and enjoy this special time of year with your loved ones.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2**
First Marking Period ends
- November 5 No School for Students** – Teacher Professional Workday
- November 6 Schools closed**
Election Day
- November 12 Early Release Day** -1:00 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 13 Early Release Day** -1:00 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 14**
Report Cards go home
- November 21 Early Release Day** -1:00 Dismissal
- November 22 Schools closed**
Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 23 Schools closed**
Thanksgiving Holiday



The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.

~Eric Hoffer

November 12th and 13th are the scheduled days for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please use the time to discuss your child's progress thus far this year with his/her teacher.

SAVE THE DATE!

MCPS FIRST STATE OF THE SCHOOLS SET FOR NOVEMBER 12



Superintendent Joshua P. Starr will deliver his first State of the Schools address on Monday, November 12, at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane in Bethesda. MCPS parents and community members are invited to join Dr. Starr as he shares his vision for MCPS' future and highlights the successes of the outstanding students and staff of Montgomery County Public Schools. This free event will take place from 7:30–9:30 a.m. and will feature artwork and performances by MCPS students. Visit the State of the Schools website at www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org for more information and to register for the event.

MCPS Homework Hotline



Homework Hotline is at the ready to help and our very own Ms. Gould, 2nd grade teacher is on hand to solve all sorts of homework questions. Her regular time slot is Thursday afternoons. HHL offers students in Grades K-12 free homework assistance from MCPS teachers. Students can call, send text messages, or email questions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4 to 9 p.m. Questions received by phone are answered between 4 and 6 p.m.; all other questions are answered up until 9 p.m.

Students can ask questions by:

- Making a phone call to 301-279-3234
- Visiting the HHL website <http://askhhl.org>
- Sending a text message to 724-427-5445
- Sending an email to question@AskHHL.org
- Posting a message to Facebook (Like *Homework Hotline Live*)
- Posting a “tweet” to Twitter (@askHHL)

Homework Hotline Live! can be viewed on MCPS-TV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89) and on the Web at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/

How to Receive Emergency Information from MCPS

MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and stay informed in times of emergencies.

Help Improve the MCPS Website

MCPS is gathering feedback to improve the content and structure of the school system's website. Please take a few moments and tell us about your experiences using the website. Your input is important as we work to improve the website. Complete the survey here: <https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/website-survey/>