



News from the Administration

October 2012

Beverly Farms at Northlake, 15101 Bauer Drive, Rockville MD 20853
301.469.1050

We're in the Groove . . .

What a wonderful first full month of school we have had. The start of school always seems like such a busy time with lots of events and opportunities to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Now that we are settled into our learning patterns, it is important to create and reinforce healthy and productive routines and habits that will strengthen your child's achievement through the school year. Think of it as filling a "backpack" of tools and strategies your child can use as they move through their academic career. These might include an earlier bedtime on school nights, healthy breakfast, packing up the backpack before going to bed and placing it by the door, finding a special place to do homework, reading with your child every night, children reading on their own for at least 20 minutes, less TV watching or no TV watching on school nights, etc. Strong routines and habits will reinforce the importance that what your child does matters and contributes to his/her school achievement. It is never too early to develop personal responsibility and learn that individual effort is a crucial ingredient in the recipe for success.

We are half way through our first quarter. With the implementation of our new report card in grades K – 3 and Curriculum 2.0 now in Grade 3, there is lots of information for parents to process. We hope you were able to attend one of our four information sessions during Back-to-School Nights. Please be sure to ask your child's teacher questions if something is not clear to you. These changes in our report card and curriculum will truly help you understand and better follow your child's learning and progress.

At the end of the month we will have our Halloween parade and class parties along with an alternative activity in the Media Center. The party set-up will begin at 1:40 pm with the parade starting at 2:00 pm. Class parties will follow the parade. Our alternative activity for those students who do not wish to partake in Halloween will begin in the Media Center at 2:00pm. Please follow parking rules and drive carefully on and near school grounds, so that we keep everyone safe.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 8 – Open House
9:30 – 10:45 am BFES

October 19 – No school for students and teachers
MSTA Conference

October 31 Halloween Festivities

- Party Set-up at 1:40
- Parade at 2:00
- Class Parties After Parade ending at 2:50

October 31 Alternative Activity to Halloween in Media Center 2:00 – 2:50

November 2 First Marking
Period ends

November 5 No School for Students – Teacher Professional Workday

November 6 Schools closed
Presidential Election Day

November 12 Early Release Day -1:00 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences

November 13 Early Release Day -1:00 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences

Please plan to attend our annual Open House on October 8th from 9:30 – 10:45 at Beverly Farms. This event gives you an opportunity to see your child in his/her learning environment. We look forward to seeing you! Please remember to follow all parking guidelines and do not enter the bus lane in front of school between 8:45 and 9:15. Your cooperation is always appreciated.

MCPS Homework Hotline Ready to Help

New Season of Homework Hotline Live!

The new season of the MCPS TV program *Homework Hotline Live!* (HHL) kicked off on Wednesday, September 12th and features our very own Ms. Gould, 2nd grade teacher. Tune in to see her answer and solve all sorts of homework questions. Her regular time slot is on 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.



Here is our own Ms. Gould with the Math Dude helping students with homework on Thursday afternoons. Give her a call!

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/



NEW MARYLAND LAW DESIGNED TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

EpiPen Use for Severe Allergic Reactions

A new Maryland law (*Epinephrine Availability and Use*) requires all school districts in Maryland to establish a policy that authorizes school personnel to administer auto-injectable (EpiPen) epinephrine to a student who is determined to be, or perceived to be, in anaphylaxis, a sudden, severe life-threatening allergic reaction. Under this policy, EpiPens must be administered regardless of whether the student has a known severe allergy that causes anaphylaxis, or has a prescription for epinephrine. As part of the mandated requirements, training will now be provided to all staff members on the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and training will be provided to selected staff members in every school on the procedures for administering EpiPen auto-injectors to students suffering from anaphylaxis. Please contact the Department of Student Services at 301-279-3192 for more information.

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.

**2012 School Based Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinics**

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will conduct free nasal spray flu vaccine clinics (FluMist) in November for children 18 and under. On Monday, November 5, flu clinics will be held at John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, and Seneca Valley high schools. No classes will be held on that day because it is a professional day for teachers. These clinics will be open to any school-aged child. All MCPS elementary schools will host a flu clinic on either Monday, November 12, or Tuesday, November 13, following early dismissal of students on those days. More information will be sent home with your child in October.

All clinics are free, but registration is required due to limited vaccine supplies. For more information, visit the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs> or call 311.

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. Please RSVP for this exciting event by November 1st.

**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/>