Dear Garrett Park Families,

Please find our school updates contained in the message below. If there is information you would like us to share in upcoming editions, please let us know. You can either call the school at 240-740-0700 or email Dan at Daniel\_K\_Tucci@mcpsmd.org or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

Kindergarten Orientation was a great success! Thank you so much to the PTA and staff for helping to organize such a welcoming and nurturing environment for our new students and families. It was awesome to see our future kindergarteners feel right at home in the classrooms. We cannot wait for them to get started with us and join the Garrett Park ES Raccoon family!

It was nice seeing many of you and your children participating in the GPES Foundation/PTA sponsored Science Fair this past Thursday evening. Students were experts at sharing their tested hypothesis and results with the judges and community. I really liked learning about fishing, popcorn, germs, black holes, forces, batteries, soil and so many more topics/concepts. What a great experience for our children!

Thursday, April 26 is Take your Child to Work Day. If you are taking your child to work with you that day, please email Sally\_C\_Brogan@mcpsmd.org and your child’s teacher to let them know. This will be marked as an excused absence as long as you let us know by the end of the day Thursday. Also, one quick point if a child is dropped off after 1:50pm it is still marked as an absence. Thanks and have a great experience 

**Teaching and Learning:**

MCPS is looking to adopt external curriculum materials in the coming years. You may find the FAQs helpful in terms of understanding the impact on schools. I’ve also attached a link for you to provide feedback to the county on benefits and barriers to consider as we search for a product to meet the needs of our community.

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/faq.aspx](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_curriculum_faq.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AI8erdf7ZSdJQe4nxdZHJe8ErvhPxxafTfnpOC5Emsc&s=xm8XKvDoxJwL_RaoRelAEfObsIvhbKrdcUMNmnPO3Fk&e=)

[https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/curriculum-review/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mcpsweb.wufoo.com_forms_curriculum-2Dreview_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AI8erdf7ZSdJQe4nxdZHJe8ErvhPxxafTfnpOC5Emsc&s=6N6xSauXyNIPbe2Ekgnt_8bxUIE3uE0BRgmMbmOODyQ&e=)

PARCC Testing Schedule reminder…

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade Level | Subject | Test  Dates |
| 3rd Grade  | English Language ArtsMath | April 23, 25, 30 (p.m.)May 3, 10, 14, 17 (p.m.) |
| 4th Grade | English Language ArtsMath | April 25, May 2, 9 (a.m.)April 27, 30, May 11, 14 (a.m.) |
| 5th Grade | English Language ArtsMath | April 24, May 1, 8 (a.m.)May 3, 10, 16, 17 (a.m.) |

 **Safety and Security:**

**Operation Safe Ride to School Initiative (English and Spanish)**

Throughout the year, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) officers, in addition to their daily patrols educating the public on traffic laws and enforcing those laws, conduct focused traffic-safety initiatives. In April, which is recognized as Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Police Department is conducting enforcement that focuses on the illegal use of cell phones while driving.  In May, the Police Department will participate in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Click It or Ticket Campaign, which is intended to increase the awareness of using seat belts and child safety seats and using them properly.

The MCPD – Operation Safe Ride to School initiative is both an educational and enforcement campaign that focuses on distracted driving, and seat belt and child safety seat use around Montgomery County public school entrances and drop-off lanes during the morning arrival of students.  It began this month (April) and will continue in May.  The Department has received numerous complaints and concerns that drivers are talking on cell phones during school drop-off and are not properly securing children in car seats or not using safety seats.  The Department recognizes that the arrival of children at school is often a very active time of heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic and safety during this time is a priority.

This month, Traffic Division officers will begin the enforcement component of this initiative and will enforce the illegal use of cell phones by drivers and seat belt and safety seat violations around public schools during the morning arrival of students. The Department’s goal with this initiative is to work to maximize everyone’s safety during the arrival at school.

**Important Dates:**

April 26                 Take Your Children to Work Day

April 27                 Grade 5 Field Trip to Mt. Vernon

May 1                    PTA Meeting

May 2                    Grade 1 Field Trip to Recycling Center (Cheung, Lichtenstein)

May 3                    Grade 1 Field Trip to Recycling Center (Hickey, Down)

May 4                    Grade 1 Field Trip to Recycling Center (Saranjam, Buel)

                                Grade 4 Field Trip to St. Mary’s City

May 7-11              Staff Appreciation Week

May 9                    Kindergarten Field Trip to Butler’s Orchard

May 15                  Patrol Picnic

May 16                  Grade 5 Panoramic Picture

May 18                  Grade 4 Stained Glass Project

                                PTA Allies Dance

**MCPS Updates:**

**Public Comment Sought on Two Board Policies**

The Board took tentative action on two policies during its April 12, 2018, meeting. Policy FAA, Long-range Education Facilities Planning and Policy JED, Residency, Tuition, and Enrollment.

**Policy FAA**

On April 12, 2018, the Montgomery County Board of Education tentatively approved revisions Policy FAA, Long-range Education Facilities Planning, including a change in the policy name to Educational Facilities Planning.

The policy incorporates elements from Policy FKB, Sustaining and Modernizing Buildings, as well as language from the MGT of America Consulting report relative to the growth management plan for MCPS. Changes to the policy address key facility indicators for the assessment process; the overall process of facilities planning; and the integration of community input during every stage of the capital budget planning process.

The policy also includes guidance on boundaries, site selection, and school closures. The draft of tentatively approved Policy FAA is available for public comment through the summer. Visit

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_policy_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AI8erdf7ZSdJQe4nxdZHJe8ErvhPxxafTfnpOC5Emsc&s=TMVQZAZr_LxGFu7D-nKbNBCVmkbCYOqJLoMfa4ZCfHM&e=) for more information.

**Policy JED**

On April 12, 2018, the Montgomery County Board of Education tentatively approved revisions to Policy JED, Residency, Tuition, and Enrollment, and reclassifying the policy index name to Policy JEA.

The proposed revisions affirm the Board's commitment to an effective, efficient, and equitable enrollment process for all qualified Montgomery County students and to set forth criteria for the enrollment of resident and nonresident students in accordance with Maryland law. The draft of tentatively approved Policy JED is available for public comment until Friday, July 6, 2018. You can comment on revised Policy JED [here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mcpsweb.wufoo.com_forms_board-2Dof-2Deducation-2Dpolicy-2Djed_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AI8erdf7ZSdJQe4nxdZHJe8ErvhPxxafTfnpOC5Emsc&s=Avlbym2j25gpfOfwMMnzXOuO8nScdhAtp3_TjQb5qXM&e=).

Have a great night!
Dan