

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

We had a wonderful week at school! A special thank-you to our PTA for sponsoring the Hispanic Heritage Assembly. It was truly a vibrant celebration of culture, music, and community. Our students truly enjoyed the performances and learning more about Hispanic heritage and traditions.

This week, we're excited to kick off our monthly meet-ups on Monday! Caregivers will have the opportunity to learn more about fostering critical thinking skills and participate in classroom read-alouds. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing this special time with our students.

As a reminder, **school will be closed on Friday, October 17, and Monday, October 20.**

Additionally, **we ask that families remain with their children outside until 8:45 AM**, when our school doors open. Your support helps us keep all students safe and ensures a smooth start to the school day.

New: Connections with Caregivers

We would like to invite all caregivers to come to Snowden Farm Elementary School on Monday, 10/13 at 2:00 pm for a "Connections with Caregivers" session. The session will focus on ways to support and enrich your child's love for learning at home, as well as methods for encouraging deeper levels of critical thinking. The slides and materials will be provided upon request for those who cannot attend.

The session will conclude at 2:45 when we will transition to a full school Drop Everything And Read session. All classrooms will pause typical instruction to provide an opportunity for students to grow an appreciation and love for reading. This can include buddy reading, silent reading, or participating in a Read Aloud within the classroom. We would like to offer an opportunity for parents who would like to read to their child's class during this Read Aloud time.

- We cannot guarantee all interested parents will be able to read due to interest levels across the building, so we ask you to please fill out our RSVP Google form ASAP indicating your interest.
- Please note that parents will only visit classrooms if the Google form indicates they are willing to read aloud, and that all books will be provided by the school to monitor that all books are approved through MCPS.
- In addition, all parents visiting classrooms to read to the class will need to sign in through the office technology system using their license/ID.
- Google form to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/XSTKg6S9MMmWLn5SA>

New: Chinese Language Class for 4th and 5th Grade

The Chinese After School Program offers twenty-five students in 4th and 5th grade a fun and creative way to explore the Chinese language and culture through art, storytelling, and hands-on activities. Students will have the opportunity to color and design their own Chinese-themed artwork, helping them develop creativity while gaining a deeper appreciation of Chinese traditions and aesthetics. In addition to art and crafts, students will engage in interactive language learning - practicing speaking and listening through songs, games, and conversations, while also learning to read and write simple Chinese characters. Through storytelling, they will discover fascinating Chinese folktales and bring them to life through drawings, crafts, and performances. This program aims to build cultural awareness, inspire imagination, and foster confidence in language learning in a joyful and supportive environment. Students from Clarksburg High School and Hallie Wells Middle School will be leading the program. The Chinese teacher from these schools, Ms. Karen He will sponsor the program.

- Please complete the parent permission slip here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ec3payTvRr4FrO64HYrVKUUeMLEEB-Ppp1MU8KLmxqs/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.7tpnns64p19r>

Trunk or Treat on 10/24

Snowden Farm's Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Friday, October 24th from 5:30-7:00 pm (rain date is Monday, 10/27). The parking lot (closest to the front entrance) will be available starting at 4:45pm for setup. Costumes are welcome!

If you would like to host a trunk, please sign up for a parking space for your vehicle in the [Sign-Up Genius](#). Spaces are first come first serve and PTA volunteers will be on-site to direct participants. It is recommended to bring 5-6 large bags of candy per entry. Attendees will be voting on the "Best Trunk" and the winner will receive a prize.

- If you are not able to host a trunk but are interested in donating candy, please drop bags off at the front office by 3pm on October 24th.
- Candy Donations are also available in the Sign-Up Genius, please indicate how many bags you plan on donating.
- Sign-Up Genius Link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48A8A629A2F49-58976098-sfes#/>

Join the PTA

Join the PTA to become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience.

- Fill out the membership form online,
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc98gaet2hNbdVBLPQMYyjdDemfgWNSvYCWmhazRDuDsSE-8w/viewform?usp=preview>
- Pay Dues
 - Pay online via Zelle: treasurer@sfespta.org
 - Individual Membership \$20
 - Family Membership \$40
 - Staff Membership \$15

New: Important Information from MCPS

New: Hard Truths About Our School Buildings—and How We'll Fix Them

Montgomery County expects its schools to be excellent—places that are welcoming, safe and inclusive. But our community is frustrated by the condition of too many school buildings, and Superintendent Dr. Thomas W. Taylor says it's time to face the facts and chart a new course.

On Monday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. the superintendent will provide a candid look at the challenges ahead and the disciplined plan needed to repair and modernize our schools. He will preview the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Capital Budget and FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) live. You can watch online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or on MCPS-TV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 88).

Public feedback opportunities will follow during Board of Education hearings on Oct. 23, Oct. 28 and Nov. 6 (if needed). The superintendent will also host CIP Community Information and Listening Sessions on Oct. 21 (in-person) and Oct. 22 (virtual)—details coming soon.

Don't miss it—this is where the hard truths meet the plan to fix them.

Join Us for Program Analysis, Boundary Study Meetings

MCPS is taking important, coordinated steps to provide every student access to high-quality programs and learning opportunities — no matter where they live. The Academic Program Analysis and Boundary Studies are not separate efforts, but part of MCPS' larger commitment to align planning and resources so students are challenged and ready for their future. Damascus High School (previously in Region 5) and Quince Orchard High School (previously in Region 6) will switch regions. [Read more.](#)

New: Boundary Study Options Meetings Underway

Participate in virtual or in-person boundary study options meetings in October. These public information meetings will examine the refined boundary options for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School, the opening of Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School for the 2027-2028 school year. [Read more.](#)

New: Strengthening Our Schools: Background Checks and Badging Update

Background checks, fingerprinting and badging are moving forward as MCPS continues to prioritize the safety of all students and staff. Last week, our team visited the Walter Johnson cluster of schools and MCPS remains on track to complete the process by mid-December. Below is an update on our progress to date, reflecting the number of employees who have already been rescreened.

<u>Metric</u>	<u>Value</u>
<u>TOTAL STAFF RE-SCREENED TO DATE</u>	<u>3,399</u>
<u>% of School-Based Staff Completed</u>	<u>32%</u>
<u># of Schools Completed</u>	<u>77/211</u>

New: EdTalk: Making Space for Art Premieres Oct. 10

On the [newest episode of EdTalk](#), Board of Education President Julie Yang is joined by Francisca Moraga Lopez, community engagement manager at the Glenstone Museum, and Joanne Lamparter, chief artistic programming officer at Imagination Stage, who discuss the importance of making “space” for arts in schools and providing access for students to explore the arts outside traditional classrooms. The episode will also air as a podcast, premiering at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 10 ([at this link](#)).

New: Families: Know Your Constitutional Rights

MCPS schools are and will always remain safe places where every child — regardless of immigration status — is welcomed, valued, affirmed, validated, respected and loved. In the

district's ongoing commitment to ensure all families feel safe and supported, MCPS has a variety of [immigration supports and resources](#) available to families.

[Know Your Constitutional Rights](#)

New: KID Museum Has You Covered When School Is Out

KID Museum has camps available on days when school is closed. Day camps are open to kindergarten through 5th graders from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17 and Monday, Oct. 20.

KID Museum is located at 3 Bethesda Metro Center in Bethesda. There is a cost to attend. [Learn more and register.](#)

Additional Information

- [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [At-Home Student Device Request](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)
- [Menus - Department of Food & Nutrition Services - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD](#)
- School Cash Online- <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>
- Maryland Anonymous Tip Line - 1-833-632-7233- Report threats or situations that put your safety, or others' safety, at risk.
- In Case You Missed It:
 - [Refrigerator Curriculum](#): See what your children will be learning each marking period.
 - [**Register for Saturday School. The tutoring sessions are available to students in K-12 in math and English/Language Arts and have in-person and virtual options.**](#)
 - [**MCPS welcomes volunteers! Here's how to do it.**](#)
- More MCPS Resources
 - [School calendar](#)
 - [Parent resource page](#)
 - [Remind, ParentSquare, ParentVUE](#): What's the difference?
 - [Student Code of Conduct](#): [Read the revised document](#) and [watch the video](#).

Upcoming Important Dates

- 10/15-Bus Evacuation Drills

- 10/17- School closed for students for professional development for staff
- 10/20- Non-Instructional Day
- 10/22- Unity Day/ Wear Orange and 5th Grade Field Trip to Strathmore
- 10/24- Trunk or Treat

Thank you again for being such an important part of our school family.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal