

WASHINGTON GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Susan Barranger, Principal
Wanda Means-Harris, Principal Intern

June 8, 2012

International Night 2012 Oo-La-La!

Thank you to all of the students, staff and their families for participating in our International Night on May 31st. It was so wonderful to see so many countries represented, as we enjoyed tasting foods from all over the world. A special thanks to our ESOL teachers for planning and organizing such an exciting evening. We also thank Mr. Snyder for orchestrating a musical concert that showcased our children performing beautiful music from around the world. It was great to see the children dressed in the traditional clothing from their countries for the parade of International Dress. What a thrilling new way to close out this successful celebration of our school's diversity!

WGES is a Stop on the Garden Tour!

Our school is sparkling thanks to a group of WGES families and staff who rolled up their sleeves and cleaned-up the front of our school and the courtyard on Saturday, June 2nd. We were able to weed, edge and mulch many of the flower beds and the tree boxes. Flowers were planted and field areas were cleared of debris. Mr. Schwartz and a team of volunteers continued the difficult work of cleaning out and restoring the pond in the courtyard. We appreciate the Olive Tree Landscaping Company for donating the

flowers and shrubs and for volunteering their services to fix up the bed around the main entrance sign!

A special thanks to the following staff members who were able to support our efforts: Mr. Bishop, Mrs. McClure, Mrs. Pauley, Mr. Schwartz, and Mr. Springer (K.A.V.E.).

We also thank the following families who were able to join us: Grace and Jessica Ahn and their mom, Chad Alrawashdeh and his mom, Kevin Benitez and his sister and dad, Melissa and Marcelo Briceno and their mom, Solomon Chang and his mom and dad, Bella and Sophie Gilmore and their mom, Xavier Henry and his dad, Vanessa Luna and her dad, Gabriel McClure and his mom and dad, Anthony Sarmiento and his dad, Angie Zuniga (former student), and Valerie Rivers, Allie Harwood's mom.

Sliding into the Summer

It is so hard to believe that we are just days away from closing out the school year. The time has gone by so fast! We have certainly enjoyed another successful year and appreciate our partnership to do all that we can to make the most of the school year for our students. Thanks to the PTA and our parent volunteers for all of the support, events and activities they provided this school year.

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We want to remind you that our ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) program starts July 5th. If your child will be in kindergarten, first or second grade for the 2012-2013 school year, we hope that he/she is registered. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a sneak preview of the new skills and concepts they will be learning next year. Linkages to Learning is also offering a small summer program for rising 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students that will run during the same hours as ELO (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.). They have invited a small number of students to participate. This free program includes: two meals, reading and math skill building, sports, games, and arts and craft projects.

Please find simple ways for your child to use and practice his/her reading and math skills throughout the summer. Helping you cook and grocery shop are just a few examples of ways children can practice their math skills. Also, our local libraries offer computer access to educational websites and great summer programs that introduce exciting new books to encourage children to read. Our area offers many exciting free events that provide great experiences for families. The following website has information about free places to visit in the Washington, DC area: <http://washington.org/>

Staffing Updates

The end of the school year has brought some changes to our staff. We will be saying good-bye to the following staff members:

- Miss Kwak will be moving to California.

- Mrs. Marshall will be returning to Strawberry Knoll E.S.
- Ms. Edwards will be an Instructional Specialist for the Preschool Education Program (PEP).
- Mrs. Murphy will be a full-time ESOL teacher at Whetstone Elementary School.
- Mrs. Vayer will be a special education paraeducator at another school to be determined.

We thank them all for their dedication to our children and wish them well in their next experience.

Communications Update

The Office of Communications for Montgomery County Public Schools offers a variety of ways to share information and resources with school communities, including Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) TV and the MCPS website. The following service is a new way for our Spanish-speaking families to get information:

New Ways for Spanish-Speaking Families to Connect with MCPS

Noticias de MCPS is a new TV program for the MCPS Spanish-speaking community. The weekly update features news, information, and stories about MCPS' great students and staff. The show is broadcast on MCPS TV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89) and can be viewed online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news. Also be sure to follow MCPS on Twitter in Spanish (www.twitter.com/mcpsespanol) and visit the new version of the MCPS Spanish website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Date and Time	Event
<u>Sat., June 9</u> 12:00-4:00 p.m.	PTA Spring Fair
<u>Mon., June 11</u>	Last Day for PEP Students
<u>Mon., June 11</u> 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Instrumental Music Concert
<u>Tues., June 12</u> 9:30-10:30 a.m.	Grade 5 Memory Ceremony
<u>Tues., June 12</u> 1:00 p.m.	Last Day of School Dismissal
<u>July 5-31</u> 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	ELO Summer Program
<u>Mon., Aug. 27</u>	School Starts

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