Message from the Principal:

We now have all of our 683 students, including our pre-K, eagerly coming to school, working with our teachers, learning in the classrooms and getting accustomed to being in school. We hope that each of you who attended our Back-To-School Nights gained a better understanding of what your child (ren) are going to be doing in their new grade level(s).

We want to invite all of our families to our Open House on Monday, October 8th from 8:45 to 10:45 am. This is a great opportunity for you to visit your child’s (ren) class including specials to see all the wonderful things that your students are doing in the classrooms.

I want to thank parents and students for their cooperation and effort in completing the summer homework packets. Over 170 students completed the packets and were treated to ice cream. We would like to congratulate all the students for their efforts.

We want to give parents some information concerning our cafeteria. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the cafeteria will be offering snacks for sale. These include a variety of chips and ice cream. If you do not want your child to purchase snacks during lunch, please let the cafeteria manager, James Banfield know.

October 31 is an instructional school day and we expect all children to be at school. Halloween activities will only be held from 1:55 PM – 3:00 PM. Some of our Forest Knolls families do not celebrate Halloween. An alternative activity will be available in the media center for those students. Please send a note to your child’s teacher if you would like him or her to be included in the alternative activity.

As we continue to embrace what it means to be a GREEN school, December 7, 2012 will be the last time we distribute printed copies of the Forest Knolls Knotes school-wide. Families will have until November 16th to “opt-in” to continue receiving a printed copy of the Knotes. We will continue to post the Knotes online each month for your viewing. Please call or stop by the main office before the end of the school day, November 16th, to request the continuance of the printed version. Be sure to indicate if you need it in English or Spanish. Thank you for helping us Go GREEN!

In-School Birthday Celebrations

In-school birthday celebrations for students in grades 1-5 will be held in the cafeteria during lunch. All cakes, cupcakes, and other snacks must be store/bakery bought. Home baked goods are NOT allowed. Kindergarten birthday celebrations will be held in their classrooms during snack time.

Open House

On Monday, October 8, Columbus Day, we will have an open house from 8:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. We invite all parents, guardians and other family members to come and visit your child's classroom during this time. Please begin your visit in the atrium were you should sign in and receive a visitors pass. You may also choose to write a letter to your child that will be delivered on Tuesday. Open House is a day...
when parents are welcomed to visit classrooms for observations without making prior arrangements. The policy for visiting during regular school hours can be found below.

Classroom Visits and Conferences by Parents/Guardians of Current Students

Parents are welcomed at Forest Knolls with the understanding that the conditions below are met. 
(1) Visits are at the discretion of the principal.
(2) Classroom visits and/or conferences by parents/guardians must be arranged in advance.
(3) Classroom visits and conferences must be conducted in such a manner that the visits and/or conferences do not interfere with the classroom instruction of any student in the class.

Attention 3rd grade parents

You should have already received information about the Center Program for the Highly Gifted in the mail. If you did not, please read on. The families of third-grade students in Montgomery county can apply to the Center Program for the Highly Gifted. This is a two-year program (fourth and fifth grade) for highly gifted and motivated students who need advanced instruction that may not be easily met at his or her zoned school. Applications are due November 2, 2012. There will be a parent information session held at Quince Orchard HS on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Attention 5th Grade Parents!!!

Please be aware that the Middle School Magnet process has begun! All information, including Application Booklets, Test Preparation Booklets, and Choice forms can be found at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/. Translated application materials may be found on this site, as well.

Mark your calendar with the following dates:

Application deadline for ALL programs: November 2, 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
<th>Magnet Programs</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Forms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 11</td>
<td>Takoma Park MS</td>
<td>Mathematics, Science, Computer Science</td>
<td>Friday, November 2, 2012</td>
<td>Applications forms and instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 11</td>
<td>Roberto Clemente MS</td>
<td>Humanities and Communication</td>
<td>Friday, November 2, 2012</td>
<td>Applications forms and instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mathematics, Science, Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 23</td>
<td>Eastern MS</td>
<td>Humanities and Communication</td>
<td>Friday, November 2, 2012</td>
<td>Applications forms and instructions</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
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Spanish presentation available at all meetings
MS Magnet Consortium (MSMC) for Current Grade 5 Students

MCPS offers innovative and challenging curricula at three magnet middle schools. Students are selected through a Choice process. Parents can learn more about the programs in information meetings and open houses.

Each session will provide an overview of the programs and Choice process for the three middle schools in the consortium—Argyle Magnet School for Digital Design and Development, A. Mario Loiederman Magnet School for Creative and Performing Arts and Parkland Magnet School for Aerospace Technology.

Deadline for all applications: Friday, November 2, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent and Student Information Meetings</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Who Should Attend</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registration Required?</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Dates and Locations**                 | • Wednesday, September 19 at 7 p.m. — Richard Montgomery HS  
                                         • Thursday, September 27 at 7 p.m. — Albert Einstein HS  
                                         • Spanish presentation available at all meetings. |

Halloween Celebrations – Wednesday, October 31, 2012

Families are invited to view our traditional neighborhood Halloween parade at 1:55 pm. Participating students will parade counter clockwise around the parent drop-off loop to Caddington Avenue and turn right. Students will continue parading and turn right on Chiswell, right on Cavalier, right on Hannes, and the first side walk adjacent to the side of the building. Students will then circle around the blacktop, so that students can see each other’s costumes. When all students have finished the parade route, classes will proceed inside. Please keep the parade route and all doors clear to allow students to pass safely. In the case of rain, there will NOT be a parade.

Help us have a happy and positive Halloween at Forest Knolls. We encourage parents to help students select costumes that promote positive images and creativity. **No weapons, blood or gore.** Here are some suggestions for themes:

- **Drop Everything And Read (DEAR):** Show the school your favorite book character.
- **It’s a Small World After All:** Celebrate your heritage and the diversity of our school by wearing clothing from another country.
- **Forest Knolls Spirit:** Show us your school spirit and dress up in our school colors of red and blue. GO MUSTANGS!
- **Careers:** Think about the future! What would you like to be when you grow up? Will you be a fireman? a doctor? Mr. Masline? Show us!
- **Fall Harvest:** Come dressed a pumpkin, a fruit or vegetable, a turkey or other farm animal – or as the farmer or scarecrow!
- **Hero:** Heroes come from many places. Some come from history, some come from the news, sports and entertainment, and some come right from our own families. Who is a hero to you? Show us by dressing up like him or her.

There will be costumes available for students to borrow for the parade and party if they arrive at school without one. **Students should NOT wear their costumes to school.**

Immediately following the parade, the students will return to their classrooms for parties. Class parties
will end by 3:00 PM so that the children have ample time to prepare for dismissal.

**The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc.**

If you are interested in having your child attend the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. you must register in person on any Saturday that Saturday School is in session. The purpose of this program is to mentor/tutor students through individualized assistance with school work, study skills, and test-taking skills. The program runs from September 29, 2012 through May 4, 2013, from 8:30am to 11:00am.

**The Parent Academy**

Parent Academy workshops give parents tips and tools to help their children be successful in school. All workshops are FREE and held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. For more information and a full listing of the workshops, please visit the website or pick up a brochure from the main office. [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/)

**MCPS Communication Update**

**MCPS News Update**

*MCPS News Update* and *Noticias de MCPS* (in Spanish) are weekly, five-minute news programs that are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed online.

- **News Update:** [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/news/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/news/)
- **Noticias de MCPS:** [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news/)

**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](http://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.

**Homework Hotline**

**New Season of Homework Hotline Live!**

The new season of the MCPS TV program *Homework Hotline Live!* (HHL) kicks off on Wednesday, September 12. 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](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/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/)
FKES Knotes -- PTA Corner

Traffic Circle Needs Volunteers
The Traffic Circle still has room for more volunteers. If you can give 20 minutes in the morning (from 8:30-8:50 a.m.) once a week or once every other week, we could use your help! You’d be a Traffic Circle parent, greeting children and helping them out of cars. It’s a lot of fun. If you’re interested (even to have your name on the list as a temp for when volunteers can’t make it) please contact me via email at traffic.circle@fkespta.org. Thanks, everyone!

The 2012-2013 Student Directory is coming out! Don't miss out on this great advertising opportunity!
If you would like to support the Forest Knolls Directory by advertising or becoming a booster please email us at school.directory@fkespta.org
Thank you,
The Student Directory Committee

Get involved with the Forest Knolls community - Become a Room Parent!!
We are looking for parents to volunteer in Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade and 5th Grade classes. Each class needs two room parents as well as a Spanish-speaking parent to volunteer for the classroom. Classroom teachers depend on room parents for a variety of reasons. From planning class parties (Halloween and Valentine’s Day), to contacting families and finding volunteers, room parents serve a vital role in our school. Room parents also traditionally organize holiday, birthday, and/or end-of-the-year gifts for the classroom teacher. Make a difference for your child/children and for the community at Forest Knolls Elementary School by becoming a room parent this year. Join us for the Room Parent Orientation on October 2, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. RSVP: mlgirardot@aol.com
Contact Marie Girardot, Room Parent Volunteer Coordinator, to learn more about how you can make an imprint on our community. mlgirardot@aol.com

After School Activities
Please remember that clubs start October 16. Send a snack for your child and pick up at 4:15 p.m.
Confirmations will not be sent.
Tuesday clubs: Oct. 16, 23, 30; Nov. 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18
Wednesday clubs: Oct. 17, 24, 31; Nov. 7, 14, 28; Dec. 5, 12
Thursday clubs: Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29; Dec. 6, 13

Fifth Grade Promotion Committee Activities
The 5th Grade promotion committee is up and running! All 5th grade parents are encouraged to be involved in the events and activities throughout the school year.
Our first meeting was on October 1st and covered planning and budget issues, as well as recruitment for volunteer positions.
The 5th grade promotion committee does much more than fund the promotion ceremony, the after ceremony reception for families and teachers and the class party. This committee also encourages our 5th graders to give back through community service and staff recognitions; helps fund the 5th grade field trip to Mt. Vernon; raises money to pay for the class gift, teacher and staff gifts; and so much more.
It is never too late to volunteer, bring new ideas to the committee and share your talent!
Please email Cecily Thorne (cecilythorne@hotmail.com) or Valerie Crawford (valeriecrawford1@gmail.com), co-chairs of the 5th Grade Promotion Committee, to get involved!
Trail Tracks: Hang Out in Nature (Help Out Too!) on Oct. 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
All are invited to our next gathering on the Forest Knolls Nature Trail, the place for students, teachers and families to enjoy and restore nature in our back schoolyard. The monthly “Second Saturday” activity will be held from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Oct. 13. Bring your kids, gardening tools and gloves if you have them, and meet on the trail for whatever time you can spare! Not just a way to contribute to our community’s "green school" efforts, these workdays are just plain fun. Kids tend to work a little, add to our ongoing nature trail mural and then head for the playground, while parents chat and weed, water, prune and whatever else needs doing. It’s a nice way to meet new people while helping the planet. Thanks to those who came out for our September workday: Ellen Garjo, Jill and Marco Fuster, David Glenn, and Keith Tobias and their families. It was a pleasure! Contact Clare Nielsen Neal, Nature Trail Friends group leader, ahead of time at clarenielsen@gmail.com to coordinate activities and supplies. Oh, and don’t forget we’ll have juice and donuts. Hope to see you on Oct 13.

No Child Left Inside at Forest Knolls
Have you ever wondered what it means that Forest Knolls is a Green School? Back in 2008, Forest Knolls began the two-year process of applying to become a Maryland Green School. Sponsored by the Maryland Association for Environmental Outdoor Education, this prestigious award recognizes schools that use their school site and curriculum to prepare students to act on environmental challenges, reduce their school’s environmental impacts, and build partnerships with the local community that enhance environmental education. As part of our journey to become a Maryland Green School, every student and teacher participated in special environmental activities over the two-year application period, ranging from raising trout in the classroom and creating documentaries on composting to ramping up our recycling rates and undertaking a massive reforestation project called Kids Reforesting Forest Knolls. It was truly amazing how much we accomplished and how our entire school community embraced this green culture change. A group of Forest Knolls students received the award from Gov. O’Malley in June 2010, and it is on display in our front hallway. What’s more, we now have an amazing nature trail behind our school and an outdoor classroom complete with a butterfly garden and eight container gardens. Most schools do not have these resources. Our Maryland Green School application binder is on display in the Media Center – check it out next time you are at school!

To help us in our green school effort, Forest Knolls participated in a grant-funded program offered by the Audubon Naturalist Society called GreenKids. Education specialists from the Audubon Naturalist Society worked with our school over a two-year period to help us plan and integrate hands-on environmental education activities, and we continue to benefit from this partnership as a member of the GreenKids Alumni Network. For example, this fall, GreenKids staff will assist the entire Kindergarten in growing salad greens in our outdoor classroom.

Each year, the Forest Knolls PTA Green School Committee works on projects to help us maintain our Green School certification so that we can successfully recertify as required in April 2014. Last year we partnered with Whole Foods to create our outdoor classroom gardens. This year we will support Walk to School Day by offering rewards to students who walk or bike to school on Oct. 3, and we will explore ways to bring the Safe Routes to School program to our school. We will also provide a recess kit of gloves and trash bags for our “green team” to get busy removing micro-trash (all those tiny bits of plastic wrappers) from our schoolyard before it enters our waterways and harms wildlife. We are also looking for parents who can supervise groups of children in exploring our nature trail during recess. This award-winning nature trail, which has been lovingly created and maintained by our FKES “Nature Trail Friends,” is a
wonderful resource that we want our children to enjoy. We have so much planned, and we welcome your support.

Do you have a passion for recycling? Do you enjoy spending time outdoors with kids? Do you have a burning desire to help us keep our salad gardens watered? If you want to get involved with helping Forest Knolls to be green, please contact Diane Lill at green.school@fkespa.org. Thank you!

Want to Get More Involved in PTA?

If you have ideas for volunteer activities and would like to volunteer at the school, please contact Bruno at volunteers@fkespta.org.

Dine-Out Night Recap
Let's celebrate the success of the Panera Bread Dine-Out Night! This event made $342 versus $254 made last year at the same venue. Dine-Out Nights are a key fundraiser for the PTA, and the funds raised go directly to programs that help our students succeed and build our community. Thank you to Maria Stumphauzer and the Dine-Out Committee, Panera Bread on Tech Road, and everyone that came out to enjoy an evening of breaking bread together!

Please Report Volunteer Hours
Parents and all volunteers,

At the end of each month we will be collecting the volunteer hours. If you have helped out the school in any way, classroom help, office help, PTA support on any committee - then please report those hours. Even if it's just one or two hours. Every bit helps. If you did any work over the summer or in August, please lump those hours on September's report. There will be a flyer coming home in your children’s backpacks. You can fill that in and send it back to us through your children's teacher or you can just email the number of hours and your name to me at vol.hours@fkes.org. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

Learn More about Forest Knolls Online
To join the informal Yahoo listserv where parents share information with each other, please subscribe at: fkes-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To get FKES PTA Text Alerts: send “follow fkespta” to 40404
PTA website: www.fkespta.org
School website: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/forestknollses

UPCOMING EVENTS
- **Monday, October 8** is Open House, 8:45 – 10:45
- **Friday, October 12** is Hispanic Heritage Night
- **Friday, October 19** No School for students and teachers MSTA Conference
- **Wednesday, October 31** is the Halloween Parade and parties, 1:55 - 3:00
- **Monday, November 5** No School for students (report card preparation)
- **Tuesday, November 6** All Schools & Offices Closed (Presidential election)