Dear GFES Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of October; this school year is really flying by! All our students have been busy learning, settling into classroom routines, making new friends and many have already had the opportunity to participate in out-of-school fieldtrips. Thank you to all the family members who helped their child’s teacher by serving as a chaperone for these events, we could not do it without you!

On Friday, October 30th, we will have our Halloween / Fall Celebration. We invite all our students, who would like to participate in our Halloween festivities, to bring their costume to school so that they may change before the start of our parade, which is scheduled to begin at 2:30pm. The staff and I are looking forward to seeing the children’s costumes; we hope to see many of our student’s dressed up as their favorite character from a book or movie, as a superhero, as a prince or princess, or anything else they envision, but please remember no costumes or masks that are too scary or gory or violent in anyway. GFES families are welcome to come and watch the parade, after which each classroom will have their party. Parents, please contact your child’s teacher to see how you can help organize this event. If you do not want your child to take part in the Halloween festivities, please make sure you let their teacher know. We will have plenty of fun activities for those students who do not participate directly in the Halloween parade and party.

On a separate note, I want to thank all our families who have come out to our school to take part in functions such as Back to School Night and Open House; at Georgian Forest we truly appreciate and value your attendance and your feedback with regards to these events. However, we are also very interested in hearing from the families that have not been able to attend these functions. Are there any types of barriers such as language, transportation and/or childcare issues that make it difficult for you to take part in these events? If so, we would like to help eliminate, if possible, these difficulties in order to make it attainable for all students’ families to be involved in our school community. Please contact our Parent Community Coordinator, Claudia Goldman, if you would like to discuss this issue and/or if you have any suggestions on how we can make school events accessible to all our families. She can be reached at 301-460-2170 or via email at claudia_v_goldman1@mcpsmd.org.

Lastly, and in order to keep GFES families updated about what is happening at MCPS, attached please find information regarding programs and events that are taking place within the global school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns you may have related to this information.

I am signing off for now, wishing you all a Happy Fall Season!

Fondly, Kim Rogers, Principal

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**Dates to Remember**

- **Friday, October 30th**: Halloween/Fall Celebration
- **Monday, November 2nd**: No School for Students
- **Tuesday, November 3rd**: PTA Meeting
- **Wednesday, November 11th & Thursday, November 12th**: Early Release Day (1:20 pm) for All Students, Parent-Teacher Conferences & Book Fair
- **Wednesday, November 25th**: Early Release Day (1:20 pm) for All Students
- **Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th**: Schools and Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
Meet our Staff

My name is Josh Fine and I’m so excited to be the new Assistant Principal at Georgian Forest Elementary school! I’ve been honored to be an educator in Aspen Hill, MD for the last decade. I began my career at Parkland Middle School as both a social studies and ESOL teacher. At Parkland I got involved in many activities; coached soccer, sponsored student government, and created a boys leadership retreat. For the past two years, I served as the Assistant School Administrator for Loiederman Middle School. During this time I was so fortunate to meet many Aspen Hill families and work with a variety of talented students. When not in school, I’m enjoying family and friends in Washington DC which I call home. Although I’ve only been at GFES for a few short weeks, I already know greeting your students each day as they get off the bus will be a highlight of my position. Please feel free to contact me anytime! I look forward to meeting everyone.

PTA News

Calling All Parents!
Help us keep GFES great by joining the PTA!

The next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, November 3. We will be discussing ways to use the PTA funds. Come to the meeting and let your voice be heard.

The PTA will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair Wednesday, Nov. 11 and Thursday, Nov. 12. Students will be able to browse and shop during the mornings and we hope that parents and guardians will stop by after attending Parent-Teacher conferences on those days. Inspire the love of reading in your children. “There is no friend as loyal as a book” - Ernest Hemingway.

It is not too late to volunteer to work at the book fair. Contact infogfespta@gmail.com if you can help.

Linkages to Learning

We have a lot going on at Linkages to Learning:

Women’s Group – This group meets every Tuesday morning from 11:00am to 12:30pm. We are excited to have begun our sessions on the nutrition topic, which also include 30 minutes of physical activity. We will be alternate between Zumba one week and walking the next. If you would like to join us please wear workout clothes and sneakers, and arrive at the Linkages office at 10:30am.

Girls on the Run - We have been having a lot of fun during our practices, and we are working very hard to get ready for our 5k run coming up on Sunday November 15th at Westfield Montgomery Mall. The event is open to the community, however you must register to run if you are not a participant of the program. We encourage you to please register and participate in this event with us. This is the link where they can find the registration –

https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/7MK1T2PM4064D6V?sid=e4add572017c461fb8e8c8e84a14b7f6

Soccer club - This club started on Thursday, October 8th and will take place every Thursday from 3:50-5:10 pm. It is open only to third, fourth and fifth graders.
**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Childcare Program

In September 2015 the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) Office notified me that they would be rebidding our school’s before and after school childcare program under a new regulation governing how providers are selected which was adopted by the Board of Education and County Council. The school is charged with creating a committee to review and rate all childcare applications submitted for our school, as well as make the selection of a new childcare provider. As the principal, I or my designee will chair the committee and will be looking for volunteers.

The Regulations ensure that parents have the ability to evaluate their childcare provider on a regular basis. Montgomery County wants to ensure that all new childcare providers (especially minority and women-owned businesses) have the opportunity to participate. We are not in this position because of any dissatisfaction with our current childcare provider; we are just being given the opportunity to assess all options.

I am also interested in hearing from anyone (via email at claudia_v_goldman1@mcpsmd.org) about your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the current provider and any feedback about services you would like to include in the application.

**FROM MCPS**

**MCPS Launches New, User-Friendly Calendar Tool**

MCPS has launched a new, user-friendly online calendar tool for families. The tool is customizable and users can “build their own calendar” based on select categories and what interests them most. The calendar can be displayed by month or up to 12 months at a time. Users can choose to see the days that schools are open and closed, Board of Education meeting information, fine arts events, cultural and religious holidays, and more, such as Parent Academy workshops. The calendar can be viewed as a list or in a calendar template; it can also be printed or downloaded to a computer or mobile device in iCal format. Access it from the MCPS home page or at [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/).

**Religious Diversity (English and Spanish)**

**Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity**

MCPS has developed a new guide that answers many of the frequently asked questions about the accommodation of students’ religious beliefs and practices in school and during school-sponsored activities. The publication, *Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity*, was developed in collaboration with the Montgomery County Executive’s Faith Community Working Group and other stakeholders to provide clear information for students, families, staff, and the community. MCPS is committed to promoting respect and appreciation for the religions, beliefs, and customs of its diverse student population. The publication has been translated in eight languages—Spanish, Chinese, French, Vietnamese, Korean, Amharic, Farsi, and Arabic, and is available at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/religiousdiversity/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/religiousdiversity/).

**New Spanish Multimedia Tools (English and Spanish)**

**Strengthening Communications with Spanish-speaking Families**

MCPS has launched new multimedia tools that will enable Spanish-speaking families to more easily engage with schools and the district. The new resources include a redesigned website; a mobile app; and a Facebook page, all in Spanish. The redesigned website features new content as well as an expanded amount of information that had previously been available only in English. A new series of videos—Consejos para Padres—provides helpful tips for parents delivered by Spanish-speaking MCPS staff members. Other video highlights include Momentos Informativos, which provide news and information about MCPS, and Guía para Padres, videos that help parents understand and navigate the school system. The videos will be available on the website and on MCPS TV, as well as on social media sites, including YouTube, the MCPSEspanol Twitter feed, and the new Spanish Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mcpsespanol). The videos also will be available on the new Spanish mobile app, which can be downloaded from the Apple store and Google Play. For more information, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/).

**Sign-up for MCPS QuickNotes**

*MCPS QuickNotes* is a free e-mail service that provides subscribers with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. *MCPS QuickNotes* is offered in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Visit [www.mcpsquicknotes.org](http://www.mcpsquicknotes.org) to subscribe.
**New Season of Homework Hotline Live!**
*Homework Hotline Live! (HHL)* is back for its 30th season, offering students in grades K–12 free homework assistance from MCPS teachers. Students can contact HHL teachers from 4:30–6 p.m. on the phone or 4:30–9:30 p.m. online on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 6-9:30 p.m. online on Mondays.

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** ([question@AskHHL.org](mailto:question@AskHHL.org))
- Posting a message to Facebook ([facebook.com/AskHHL](http://facebook.com/AskHHL))
- Send a tweet to @AskHHL
- Posting to Instagram (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/)

**Fall 2015 Parent Academy is Under Way!**
The MCPS Parent Academy is back with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents. The 2015 fall session is under way and includes sessions on choosing the right college, teen substance abuse, religious diversity, special education, cybersafety, and more. All workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. The schedule of workshops is available at [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org)