October

4 Early Dismissal Day, Students are Released at 12:55 p.m.
   Hanging with the Mustangs, 12:55-3:25 p.m.
8 Chinese Immersion Parent Coffee, 9:00 a.m., Media Center
9 No School for Students or Teachers
10 Interims Available in the Parent Portal
   K-2 Principal’s Coffee, 10705 Riverwood Drive, 9:30 am
11-17 Book Fair
11 PTA Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Staff Lounge
14 Open House, Classrooms, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
17 Dudes and Donuts, Media Center/APR
24 Gr. 3-5 Principal’s Coffee, 10705 Riverwood Drive 9:30 a.m.
25 Grade 5 Students to the Music Center at Strathmore
31 Halloween Parties and Parade, Classrooms, 2:00 p.m.

November

4 Individual Picture Re-Takes
7 5th Grade Middle School Magnet Testing
   International Night, 6:00 p.m., Hoover MS
8 End of Marking Period 1
   PTA Board Meeting, 9:15 a.m., Staff Lounge
   Early Release Day, Students are Dismissed at 12:55 p.m.
   Hanging with the Mustangs, 12:55-3:25 p.m.
11 Early Release Day, Students are Dismissed at 12:55 p.m.
   Parent/Teacher Conferences
12 Early Release Day, Students are Dismissed at 12:55 p.m.
   Parent/Teacher Conferences

OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for Open House
Monday, October 14
from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

School Spirit Days: School spirit days are every Friday. Wear your Potomac Spirit wear or the color green!

Dudes and Donuts: This annual event celebrates the special relationship that fathers and other male role models have on the lives of children. Please join us on Thursday, October 17 from 8:30-9:00 a.m. in the Media Center and APR for our Dudes and Donuts celebration.

Potomac Elementary Book Fair
October 11-17

Shopping Hours:

Friday, October 11  8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Monday, October 14  8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, October 15  8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, October 16  8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Thursday, October 17  8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sign up here to volunteer!
Middle School Magnet Programs, 2020-2021

Eastern MS and Takoma Park MS Magnet Programs:
NO APPLICATIONS are required. All Grade 5 students will be reviewed centrally for each magnet themed program in September. Parents will receive the results of the central review in early October. Parents may decline or request consideration for their child to be evaluated (includes testing) for the magnet programs. October 18, 2019 is the deadline for parents/guardians of Grade 5 students to request or decline testing.

Grade 5 students who are being considered for the magnet programs will be assessed at Potomac Elementary School on Thursday, November 7, 2019. The selection results will be mailed to parents in January 2020.

Parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on October 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy High School Auditorium. The meeting will be streamed live on the Montgomery County Public Schools homepage. Admission to these programs is very competitive. Multiple criteria will be used to evaluate candidates which include previous grades and assessment data. Student transportation will be provided to these programs.

For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/

Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC):
Deadline for submitting “choice” forms is NOVEMBER 1, 2019. These programs are based on student interest in the content area. Selection is based on a lottery system. Interested Grade 5 students may participate in the MSMC choice process by submitting their choices online. The students use their student Gmail account to complete and submit a Choice form at http://bit.ly/choiceMSMC (case sensitive). This link will be active in mid-October.

Parents may attend an evening open house for more information:
Argyle MS for Digital Design and Development - Oct. 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Loiederman MS for Creative and Performing Arts – Oct. 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Parkland MS for Aerospace Technology – Oct. 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Transportation is not provided for students that reside outside the MSMC attendance area.
For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/msmagnet/

Parent Recess Volunteer: Do you want to volunteer at Potomac? We are looking for parent to volunteer during recess. You can volunteer once a month or multiply days. Check your schedule and see when you are available. We will have a sign up each month for you to volunteer. Please make sure your How to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect training is up to date.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054FA9A92DA6F94-recess

Body Safety Lessons: Montgomery County Public Schools is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education. Ms. Borra, our school counselor, will be presenting lessons about Personal Body Safety in Grades K-5 in October and November. The lessons will be taught during their regularly scheduled guidance lesson time. The purpose of the lessons are as follows:

- Develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community;
- Learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect;
- Learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults.

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact Ms. Borra at 240-740-4360.

STEM Donations: Looking for a way to help out at PES? This year, our school is continuing the STEM/STEAM education focus. The teachers are busy creating Makerspaces in their classrooms and many of them have already had STEM/STEAM lessons going on since day one! Lessons require supplies beyond just school supplies. From a box of spaghetti to paper towel rolls and pipe cleaners...we need it all! If you want to help out, click on the link below to find a list of donation items. You can send them in or drop them off and place them inside the Makerspace donations basket by the front office. Thanks for your support!

STEM/STEAM/Makerspace Donations List
Supporting Potomac Elementary One Brick at a Time, Deadline Extended: The Potomac Elementary School Educational Foundation are raising funds to make our new school EXTRA special. The current project is to purchase playground shade structures. These shades will block 97% of UV rays and keep the playground 30% cooler. Your purchase of a brick engraves you family’s name forever at our new school and provides comfort for students at recess. Order forms can be found here, and they are due by November 1. If you are purchasing one for your family, consider buying an additional brick with a teacher’s name. It’s a great way to recognize our staff. Thank you for your support.

Forum for Equity and Excellence Set for October 15: The Black and Brown Forum for Educational Equity and Excellence will be held on Tuesday, October 15. The event, which is being hosted by the NAACP Parents’ Council and Identity, is set for 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard in Gaithersburg.

The forum will bring together Montgomery County education stakeholders, advocacy partners supporting the Black and Brown Educational Equity Coalition, and other community leaders for a discussion of evidence-based solutions to create better educational outcomes for students of color in MCPS.

Parent Academy: The MCPS Parent Academy just kicked off its fall season. Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to participate in these free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support your child’s success in school. Don’t miss this season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, mental health, cyber safety and social media, active parenting, and positive communication.

Student Rights and Responsibilities and Code of Conduct: In order to ensure a safe, productive, and positive learning environment, MCPS publishes two documents that help students, parents/guardians, and staff understand school rules and regulations; the expectations for student conduct; and the possible consequences for violating he rules. A Student’s Guide to Rights and Responsibilities is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. The MCPS Code of Conduct provides and overview of discipline procedures and protocols and the range of consequences students could face for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The guide also discusses the MCPS philosophy to discipline. All families received a copy of these documents and are encouraged to review them with your child(ren). The documents are available online here.

Individual Student Picture Re-Takes: Classic Photography will be back at PES again on November 4. If your child was not here on picture day or if they need their picture re-taken, please let the office know.

International Night: International Night is on Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Herbert Hoover Middle School. Sign up here to represent your country.

PTA Directory Verification: The PTA is getting ready to print the directory and plan to deliver them by International Night on November 7th. We need all families to verify that their information is correct before the directory can be printed. Thank you to the 186 families who have already verified. We are waiting on 95 families! Sign in to AtoZ here in order to verify your information.

If you do not verify - you will not be included in the directory. Other parents will not know how to contact you for parties and playdates!!! Please take the 5 minutes it takes to go through the wizard.

Also - if you would like access to the online or printed directory - please join the PTA. The temporary access deadline is Oct 15th.

Email Adina Affens at membership@potomacpta.org if you do not have a user id or have trouble logging in.

October MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting: Fall 2019 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting

Hosts: MCCPTA Special Education Committee
Date: Monday, October 7, 2019
Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Location: Carver (MCPS HQ), 850 Hungerford Drive - Room 133

Agenda: We will discuss the role of the local PTA special needs chair, as well as general tips on advocating for services, accommodations, and inclusion. We will offer opportunities to be involved with the MCCPTA Special Education Committee, in particular the annual awards ceremony. We will share timely topics related to special education in MCPS. We will hold an open discussion / Q&A on any topics participants would like.