2011-12 is Off to a Great Start!

Mother Nature sure did make the days leading up to our first day memorable with the earthquake during pre-service and Hurricane Irene the weekend before our first day. Your children didn’t seem to notice as they were here last Monday bright-eyed and ready to begin another year at Rockwell. Thank you for your part in preparing your children, both physically and mentally, for a new school year.

Every school year is unique with changes happening from year to year within Montgomery County Public Schools. We will begin this school year implementing MCPS Curriculum 2.0 (formerly Elementary Integrate Curriculum (EIC)) in kindergarten (year 3), grade 1 (year 2, and grade 2 (year 1). Attached is an informational sheet about MCPS Curriculum 2.0 for your reviews. You will learn more about this at our upcoming Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 14th.

Thank you again for a terrific start to our school year!

-Mrs. Clark

Listen and Learn
Community Meetings
with Dr. Joshua Starr,
Superintendent of Schools

Several community meetings will be held in the near future. These meetings will provide Dr. Starr an opportunity to meet with a variety of parents and students to hear their observations and perspectives on MCPS as one means of getting to know the community in his first six months.

All meetings will be from 7:00 to 8:30 PM with the exception of Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS which will be from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Following are the dates and locations:

9/6 Northwest High School
9/8 Thomas S. Wootton High School
9/12 Springbrook High School
9/19 Albert Einstein High School
10/3 Watkins Mill High School
10/10 Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
10/18 Long Branch Community Center
11/1 Damascus High School
11/7 Wheaton High School
11/21 Sherwood High School

Please consider offering your insight at one of these meetings.

Homework Hotline Live

Please be sure to read the attached flyer with detailed information about the Homework Hotline Live. This is a very successful program beginning its 26th season of helping students. Last year the number of requests for help increased by 130%!
**Instructional Time**

We at Rockwell want to find the right balance between delivering important information and minimizing disruption to your child’s classroom instruction. If a parent brings in their child’s lunch, homework, an instrument, clothing, etc. in the morning, we will not call into the classroom until just before lunch. If your child knows or suspects that you have brought one of these items to the office, they will be able to go to the office and check whenever it fits well into the class schedule. If the office gets a call regarding a change in your child’s plans for getting home, we will call into their classroom at approximately 2:45 PM. It is best to write a note in the morning alerting staff to a change in your child’s transportation if at all possible. We appreciate you working with us to minimize disruption to the instructional program.

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**Counselors’ Corner**

--Carol Brody

I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer! I would like to discuss the responsibilities that I have as the guidance counselor at Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School.

During the month of September I will go into the classrooms and present a lesson to all students on strategies for getting along with one another. Students are taught how to use “De-Bug” steps (below) if someone is bothering them. Students will also view a video defining bullying and ways to handle a situation if “bullying” arises.

De-Bug Steps:
- Step 1: Ignore
- Step 2: Walk away
- Step 3: Talk nicely
- Step 4: Talk firmly
- Step 5: Get adult help

Rockwell has a character education program called, “Project Wisdom.” Daily quotes and stories are delivered through the morning announcements. The quote finishes with the saying, “Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours.”

If a student has a problem or issue that he/she would like to discuss, the student can self-refer via a teacher, parent or by leaving a note outside the counselor’s office.

Students may also participate in a lunch bunch consisting of three or more students. Lunch bunch meets weekly during a student’s lunch time. Topics that may be discussed during lunch bunch are how to get along with others, how to make friends, study skills, homework completion or family transitions.

I also meet with parents when they are trying to problem solve a situation involving their child. Sometimes the student may join the parent in the problem-solving strategies.

I am here to support the students at Rockwell and also their families. Parents can reach me via the school phone at: 301-253-7088 or through E-mail at: carol_s_brody@mcpsmd.org.

Welcome back!

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**September Calendar**

September 9 – 9:30-1:00 PM – Grade 1 to Damascus Community Fair
September 14 – 7:00-9:00 PM – Back-to-School Night
September 23 – Fall Individual Student Pictures
**September 28** – Early Release Day – K-12 – Grades/Planning
September 29 – Rosh Hashanah – No School for Students and Teachers