

The Parent Communicator

September 2018

News from the Parent Community Coordinator, Magda Sobalvarro-Ochoa
Serving the communities of Judith Resnik and Washington Grove Elementary Schools
A newsletter to keep you inspired, informed and connected to community resources.



AN INTRODUCTION



Welcome to a brand new school year! As the Parent Community Coordinator assigned to your child's school through the MCPS Division of Students, Family and School Services, my role is to connect students and families with schools and the community. Parent Community Coordinators work closely with school counselors, school administrators Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs), community based organizations and many others "to promote the shared responsibility and mutual process of engaging families in meaningful and culturally appropriate ways to foster student learning and development". To learn more about what we do please visit our website at

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org//community-engagement/index.aspx>.

Throughout the year, I will be sending out this monthly newsletter to provide you with useful parenting information, family events available in the community as well as excellent community agencies that we partner with to support our families whenever the need arises. There are plenty of community organizations in the county and it is my goal to share as many as possible so you may call on them when and if you need them or to support somebody you know who may need their services.

As the school year begins talk to your children about the importance of regular attendance, doing their best and praise them for their accomplishments. If you need to contact me in any way please email me at Magda_M_Sobalvarro@mcpsmd.org or call your school and leave me a message. Here's to a great new school year!



PARENT ACADEMY WORKSHOPS

If you have never attended a parent academy workshop, you should try one! The purpose of these workshops is to support your important job as a parent and to provide you with tips and tools your children succeed in school. Childcare is provided as are interpreters in many languages. Workshops are held throughout the school year at different school sites throughout the county. The Fall 2018 list of workshops will be coming soon. For more information please visit www.mcpsparentacademy.org. Don't miss them!

FRIENDLY REMINDER

- Please check your child's back every day but particularly during the first few weeks of school as there are some time sensitive documents for which you will need to take action.
- This year the Free and Reduced Meals program (FARMS) is going online! If you would like to apply please go to www.MySchool.Apps.com. **NOTE: If you choose to apply online please DO NOT submit a paper copy.** Only one form needs to be filled out per family.
- We encourage all parents who would like to volunteer in the school in any capacity to go online and view the mandatory video for volunteers regarding Child Abuse and Neglect. If you are able to do it from home or on your phone please go to: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>



IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our school is fortunate to have a small garden and we need the help of any parent who would like to support us with garden maintenance. Currently we need support with cleaning up, weeding and watering to get it in tip top shape and ready for the fall. If you are interested in supporting us in this valuable way, please contact **Pam Hosimer** at phosimer@umd.edu. Thank you for your consideration!