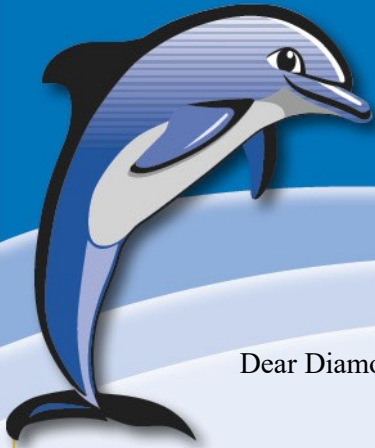


# DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School  
NOVEMBER 2023



Dear Diamond Parents,

It is hard to believe we are beginning our second marking period. As we kickoff the second quarter, we will be having first quarter parent/teacher conferences which are scheduled for November 20th & 21st. Many parents have already scheduled their conference date and time with their child's teacher. If you have not received a parent conference date and time, please contact your child's teacher. During your scheduled parent/teacher conference, you will hear specific information on your child's academic and social progress during the first marking period.

We would like to thank all parents who were able to attend the Halloween/Harvest festivities. We would also like to thank all parents who helped organize the Halloween/Harvest classroom parties. We have many things going on at Diamond Elementary this month. We will have Teacher Professional Day on Wednesday, November 1 for end of the marking period, followed by our Open House for Parents on Friday, November 10th from 9:05-11:20AM for grades K-2 and from 1:00-2:30 pm for grades 3-5. Also, we have Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21, which are Early Release Days. Early Dismissal begins at 1:20 p.m.

Please join me in welcoming new staff members to Diamond Elementary:

- ◆ Mrs. Cindy Reichel, our new administrative secretary.
- ◆ Ms. Amanda Kocsis, our new part-time Special Education Teacher.
- ◆ Mr. Justin Cruz, our new part-time paraeducator.
- ◆ Ms. Liza Carlos, our new part-time paraeducator and lunch-hour aide.

As we get closer to the Thanksgiving holiday, we would like to wish you and your children a safe and healthy month and a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family! During this holiday, as families and individuals share their thanks, We would like to...

- ◆ Thank all the parents who will attend the parent-teacher conferences! We are hoping to achieve our goal of 100% participation, so if you have not yet scheduled a meeting, please contact your child's teacher.
- ◆ Thank you to the Diamond families who have already joined our Parent-Teacher Association, please consider doing so. Our PTA supports our students, staff and school-wide programs in endless ways, big and small.
- ◆ Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who share their time with students and staff to benefit our instructional program.
- ◆ Thank you to all families who donated winter coats during the Mrs. Andrea Virga Annual Coat Drive. We collected many winter coats that were donated to local charity. Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped organized, collect, and wash the donated coats.
- ◆ Thank you to each and every one of you for entrusting your child to us every day. It is our privilege to teach your children and we are thankful for the support from this wonderful community.

## **NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, November 1**

No School for Students-  
Professional Day for Teachers

### **November 2-10**

Student Government Candy Service  
Project- Donate Leftover Candy

### **Thursday, November 9**

Report Cards Available on ParentVue

### **Friday, November 10**

Open House for Grades K-5  
K-2 Parents- 9:05-11:20 am  
3-5 Parents- 1:00-3:15 pm

### **Monday-Friday, Nov. 13-17**

PTA Book Fair

### **Wednesday, November 15**

2nd Grade Field Trip to Strathmore  
Music Center- 9:40 AM-12:35 PM

### **Monday, November 20**

Early Release Day- students  
dismissed at 1:20 p.m. Parent/  
Teacher Conferences.

### **Tuesday, November 21**

Early Release Day- students  
dismissed at 1:20 p.m. Parent/  
Teacher Conferences.

### **Wednesday—Friday, Nov. 22-24**

Thanksgiving Holiday—Schools  
Closed

In addition, we have quickly noticed the change in temperature. We encourage all families to watch the weather to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school. The school building air unit has changed over from A/C to heating. We suggest that you send your child to school dressed in layers so they can adjust to the temperature accordingly for outside or inside.

We wish you and your children a safe and healthy month! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 240-740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder  
Principal

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:**

**Open House Pre-Registration for Grades on November 10th:** Open House is a time to visit your child(ren)'s classes and observe instruction. This opportunity is only open to parents and guardians of record. The Open House Event will have two sessions. Session 1 for Grades K-2 from 9:05-11:20 AM and Session 2 for Grades 3-5 from 1:00-3:15 PM on Friday, November 10th which will include time for classroom visits and a school presentation for parents. For the Open House on Friday, November 10th all parent visitors will be required to sign-in with the school using their driver's license or identification card with the Visitor Management System. We have set-up a Visitor Pre-Registration Sign-In Process to help speed up the process. All you need to do is fill out the **Pre-Registration Sign-In Process for the Open House Event Form:** <https://forms.gle/mNH3uCYWWGJUah1D8>. Please complete the Pre-Registration Form by no later than Thursday, November 9th. Then on the day of the event, bring your driver's license and skip the line to the Pre-Registration Table and show you ID and pick up your visitor sticker already pre-printed and ready for your visit. We appreciate your understanding to this safety matter.

**Personal Mobile/Electronic Devices:** based on Diamond Elementary School and MCPS policies, elementary students are not permitted to possess or use a personal mobile devices (including cell phones, e-readers, i-watches, ipads, etc.) on school grounds during the instructional day or at MCPS sponsored elementary school activities, including school building, field-trips, etc. If a child has an electronic device/cell phone, the device may be confiscated by the school staff and parents will be notified to come to school to pick up the phone. Students may get permission to use the main office telephones during the school day, before, and after school whenever they need to communicate with a parent or guardian with emergency issues. Calls about dismissal changes are made through the main office. Calls about medical concerns are made through the Health Room. Social calls or playdate arrangement calls are not allowed during the school day. Students are provided with student chromebook laptop computers to use at Diamond ES during the instructional day. While on MCPS property at Diamond ES, students must use the MCPS network (not private cellular networks) for Internet access, where MCPS uses filtering and other technological measures to limit students' ability to access harmful Internet sites. Diamond ES and MCPS will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, or damage to any child's personal mobile device or for the unauthorized use and possession of any such device. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the school administration. Personal mobile devices include Mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, or other devices equipped with microphones, speakers, and/or cameras, and other similar non-MCPS issued devices are all considered personal mobile devices (PMDs) and are sub-ject to MCPS Regulation COG-RA, *Personal Mobile Devices*, and MCPS Regulation -IGT-RA, *Responsibilities for Computer Systems, Electronic Information, and Network Security*.

**Diamond Student Government Association Candy Service Drive:** Diamond's SGA will be doing a service project November 2-10. We are collecting left over Halloween Candy to donate to the Inn at NIH. The Inn at NIH is where families can stay for free while children are undergoing treatment at NIH. There will be boxes in the hallways for students to donate their candy.

**Health Office Update:** We want to keep the students and the school operating on a normal schedule and minimize any disruption to teaching and learning. You can help us in our efforts to prevent the spread of flu by:

- Knowing the symptoms of the flu. These include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired.
- Keeping children home from school if they are sick. Individuals who have been sick with the flu should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours. Any children or staff who are sick at school will be sent home.
- Reminding your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.
- Encouraging your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or utensils.
- Telling your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If they don't have a tissue, they should cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands.

For more information, visit the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), the Montgomery County government website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html>. In addition, you can visit the DES Health page at <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/elementary-schools/d-g/diamondes/uploadedfiles/health-room-welcome-letter.pdf>

or contact the DES health room staff at 240-740-2122.

**How to Contact Diamond Elementary Staff Members:** You can contact your child's teacher or any Diamond Elementary staff member by email or phone call. Parents/Guardians can leave phone messages for staff at 240-740-2120. Staff email addresses can be found on the Diamond Elementary School website, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/> under the Staff Directory section, which is available at the following web link: [https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org//directory/directory\\_Boxschool.aspx?processlevel=02570](https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org//directory/directory_Boxschool.aspx?processlevel=02570)

In order to maximize instructional time, teachers will only be available to speak by telephone before or after the student day. Calls for teachers should be made between 8:45 a.m.- 9:10 a.m. and 3:50 p.m.- 4:25 p.m. Otherwise, the main office staff will leave a message with the teacher/staff member. In addition, teacher email addresses may be found on the Diamond website. We will do our best to return all phone or email messages within 24 hours.

**Planning for Parent/Teacher Conferences:** The parent-teacher conference is your opportunity to discuss how your child is doing in school. The conference also is an opportunity to strengthen the partnership with your child's teacher. Be sure to keep these tips in mind as you prepare for the conference:

For interpretation services to be provided, please contact the school at least one week before the conference.

How much time should I expect my child to spend on homework each night (each week)?

What does my child need to continue to work on?

What are my child's strengths?

How does my child get along with classmates?

What can I do at home to support what my child is learning at school?

Remind your child about the upcoming meeting and ask if he or she has any concerns or questions for you to discuss at school.

Remember that what goes on at home affects your child's performance at school. If there is a major event happening in your family life, consider informing the teacher, as it may affect your child's academic performance.

Arrive on time for the meeting.

Feel free to take notes and ask the teacher to repeat anything that is unclear.

If you have more to talk about than your assigned time will allow, ask to schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher.

When you get home, share the discussion with your child.

Follow up with any strategies you agreed to try at home.

If you will need a translator or interpreter for the conference, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

The following link includes a planning form that can be used for the conference.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/parents/Parent-Teacher-Conference-Planner.pdf>

**Visitors:** All visitors must enter the building through the main entrance, stop at the main office to sign in, and wear a visitor's badge while in the school. For the safety and security of all individuals, we need to be aware of the presence and location of all visitors in the building. Any individuals without a visitor's badge will be asked to report to the main office. Please help us keep all students in our school safe by following this important procedure! We ask for your support in maximizing the instructional time for students.

**Student Birthday Celebrations:** Birthday treats are not permitted at school for students in grades K-5. Birthdays in grades K-5 are recognized on the morning announcements on the day of the child's birthday, and they receive a birthday pencil. An alternative arrangement is made for students whose birthdays fall on weekends, holidays, and during the summer so they can be recognized during the school year. If a child is distributing birthday party invitation cards at school, each child in the class must receive an invitation. Otherwise, parents must find another way to distribute birthday cards such as using the PTA directory to look up student contact information.

**Safety Update:** One of our commitments to the school community is to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff members, and families. As we have many students who walk to and from school each day, we encourage students to walk in groups. In addition, our bus drivers want to make sure our kindergarten students have someone who will meet them at the bus stop or that they have an older student to walk them home. In addition, develop and discuss an emergency plan with your children for what they should do on early dismissal days (whether it is scheduled or due to inclement weather, no heat, no power) or if they arrive home and no adult is there.

**End of Day Plan Policy:** With changes to Dismissal Plans: Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated with the school and your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If there will be a variation in your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change in after-school care/activity or play-date with another child), your child must have a note addressed to the teacher explaining this particular change. A student who is going with another student on a different bus, cannot ride the bus unless he/she has a written note from his/her parent. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, you can call the office prior to 3:00 p.m. **Play Dates:** If your child has a "play date" after school and will be accompanying another student home by bus transportation, car-rider, or walker, your child **MUST** have written authorization from their parent/guardian for this to occur. If a child does not have written permission from their parent for a play date, school staff will have the child report home by following their normal routine.

**Late Arrivals:** Students should be in their classrooms by 9:25 a.m. each morning. We know that you make every effort to ensure that your child arrives on time. In the event that you do run late, a parent or guardian must accompany the child to the main office to sign in and receive a late slip. Children may not sign themselves in. To ensure the safety of our students, please do not drop them at the curb when arriving late.

**Request for Language Assistance Translation:** If parents need oral interpretation services or sign language interpretation for school meetings, parent-teacher conferences, school events, etc., please notify your child's teacher or contact the main office. Oral interpretation requests need to be made at least two weeks in advance of the school meeting or event to ensure interpreter availability.



# Diamond Elementary Arts Program

## Grade Level Monthly Newsletter

### What is going on in Art class during the month of November?

**Kindergarten-** Students will be creating a fall leaf collage after exploring a variety of painting materials on paper.

**1st grade** – Students will be creating an abstract collage.

**2nd grade** – Students will be completing a glue resist pumpkin still life.

**3rd grade** – Students will be creating foil relief artwork.

**4th grade** – Students will be creating a clay coil bowl.

**5th grade**—Students will be using sewing techniques to create their version of an “Ugly Doll”.

### What is going on in Physical Education class during the month of November?

**Kindergarten** will be working on self-throwing and catching.

**1st grade** will be working on underhand throwing and catching.

**2nd grade** will be working on overhand throwing to stationary objects and catching a pass from a partner.

**3rd grade** will be working on overhand throwing and catching at different levels.

**4th grade** will be working on overhand throwing to a moving partner and catching on the move.

**5th grade** will be working on overhand throwing to lead a partner and catching over the shoulder.



# Diamond Elementary Arts Program

## Grade Level Monthly Newsletter

### What is going on in Music class during the month of November.

In **Kindergarten**, students will be working on the steady beat, long/short sounds, high/low iconic notation, same/different, singing games, vocal and instrumental tone color, vocal range/exploration and movement to music.

In **1st grade**, students will be working on identifying high/low, and long/short sounds in music. Students will imitate rhythmic and tonal patterns and maintain the steady beat through movement and on instruments. Students will also identify the number of sounds on a beat. Students will identify classroom instruments and instrument families.

In **2nd grade**, students will be working on playing a bordun with proper technique on barred instruments, maintaining the steady beat through movement and singing games. Students will identify strong vs. weak beats and simple vs. compound meter. Students will sing and read the pentatonic scale. Students will identify appropriate criteria for classroom performances and audience behaviors.

In **3rd grade**, students will be singing within an octave range, in two-part rounds and with correct posture and breath support. Students will sing songs of varied repertoire and read music using simple rhythms and the pentatonic scale with pitches of low so and low la. Students will read & identify music symbols for pitches B, A, G and E, the staff, & bar lines on the treble clef while playing the recorder.

In **4th grade**, students will work on singing in three- and four-part rounds, with expressive qualities of tempo and dynamics. Students will sight read rhythms and pitches using solfege and rhythm syllables. Students will identify repeating and contrasting phrases, music in major and minor modes, and perform singing games, songs, and dances from various cultures.

In **5th grade**, students will work on reading syncopated rhythms and pitches in the diatonic scale. Students will identify major and minor modes and music in triple meter. Students will perform music including songs and dances from various periods and world cultures. Students will sing partner songs and descants with clear diction and expression

## The MCPS Report Card and Grading System

Standards based grading and reporting will continue to be used in all schools this year for all grades K-5. The goal of this grading format is to give families a clear understanding of your child's progress toward end of the year grade level expectations. The following charts below explain the meaning of the grading system for grades K-5.

Last year, MCPS updated the elementary report cards based on feedback from parents, teachers, and administrators to provide you with a more accurate assessment of your child's progress.

- A, B, C, D in Grades 2–5.
- Kindergarten students will get a report card four times (instead of twice) per year.
- Includes overall subject grade (in addition to the end-of-year average and measurement topics per marking period).
- Includes reporting of key learning skills.

### Kindergarten and 1st Grade Grading Scale

Grade	Descriptor
P	Evidence shows complete understanding and use of grade-level concepts.
I	Evidence shows incomplete understanding and use of grade-level concepts. Errors impact understanding
N	Evidence shows minimal understanding and use of grade level concepts. Critical errors impact understanding.

### Grades 2-5 Grading Scale

Grade	Descriptor
A	Evidence demonstrates a full understanding of content, concepts, or skill. Errors or omissions are absent or do not impact understanding.
B	Evidence demonstrates general understanding of content, concept, or skill with minimal support. Errors or omissions may impact understanding.
C	Evidence demonstrates some understanding of content, concept or skill with some support. Errors or omissions impact understanding
D	Evidence demonstrates limited or minimal understanding of content, concept and skill with significant support Errors or omissions are critical and impact understanding.

**Learning skills** will also be updated to include personal and social development skills and thinking and academic success skills. Personal and Social Development Skills are the effort and behaviors that affect learning. The chart below explains the meaning of the codes for Personal and Social Development Skills and Thinking and Academic Success Skills.

Code	Description
DEM	Demonstrating
PRG	Progressing
N	Not yet evident

Measurement topics are a group of related content, skills or processes in a subject. For example, foundational skills are a measurement topic in the category of reading and geometry is a measurement topic in math.

For more on report cards and the grading and reporting process and to view the MCPS video on the report card, visit <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/report-cards>

## **Personal Body Safety Lessons:**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education. MCPS implements Personal Body Safety Lessons (PBSLs) with grade-level, age appropriate content for students in every grade from Pre-K to 12. These lessons were developed with input from national stakeholders and County partners, and are designed to empower students to recognize and report suspected cases of abuse without fear of reprisal. The Chief of the State's Attorney's Office—Special Victims Division has commended MCPS on the PBSLs and shared publicly that these lessons are making a difference in children reporting incidents of abuse and neglect. In addition, embedded in the MCPS elementary and secondary health curriculum are age-appropriate lessons on safety and injury prevention, family life and human sexuality, cyberbullying and social media, healthy relationships, harassment and intimidation.

During the months of November and December, our school counselors and classroom teachers will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect with all grade levels Kindergarten through Grade 5. The lessons are known as Personal Body Safety Lessons and their purpose is to help students to:

- 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.

## **Parent Resources:**

*Ensuring Student Safety- Personal Body Safety Lessons Website:* <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/personal-body-safety-lessons>

This webpage provides an overview of the lesson objectives for each grade level.

*Elementary Personal Body Safety Lessons Overview and Resources for Parents:* <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/childabuseandneglect/Parent-Elementary-Personal-Body-Safety-Lessons-Overview-and-Resources.pdf>

In this resource you can see a list of resources about how to have conversations with your child about this topic and what books will be used in Personal Body Safety Lesson on slide 6.

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact your child's classroom teacher, or our school counselors, Mrs. Meuer and Mrs. Kuzmickas.