A message from GARRETT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Garrett Park families,

We hope you find this email version user-friendly and beneficial for staying informed and planning for upcoming school events. If there is information you would like us to share in upcoming editions, please let us know. You can either call the school at 240-740-0700 or email Dan at [Daniel\_K\_Tucci@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_K_Tucci@mcpsmd.org) or Melanie at [Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Melanie_S_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org)

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

We had another great turnout at the Family Sweetheart Dance!! Thank you to the entire community for supporting this event and thank you to the GPES Education Foundation team for organizing such a wonderful family function for the community. It was so nice to see everyone dressed up for family pictures and having fun on the dance floor! Remember, your admission supports all children at Garrett Park so thanks again for your attendance. One more quick thank you goes to the building service team and the volunteers for helping set up and clean up. [http://www.gpesef.org/index.htm](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.gpesef.org_index.htm&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=8iuPF_znhtgh_6-TnoQHk693YjILZVddoUOFyw3qVU4&e=)

Today we will be celebrating Valentine’s Day with classroom parties from 2:45-3:30pm. We appreciate all the volunteers and room parents who contribute to the parties and help make this a fun and safe event for students! A couple reminders which you probably already heard from your homeroom teachers… Please include everyone in the class when buying cards or treats. Also, if you are supplying treats for parties, please keep the items in the store-bought packages so we can determine with the ingredients if they may impact a student with allergies.

This coming week, we will celebrate National Random Acts of Kindness Week to encourage more kindness all around. See the attached chart for daily activities.

**Teaching and Learning:**

Please visit the link for a quick glimpse into the new curriculums being rolled out in the next two years at GPES. This was presented to the community at our February PTA meeting. Please contact Curt Cairns, Staff Development Teacher, if you have any questions. The presentation will be posted on our website soon.

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/garrettparkes/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_schools_garrettparkes_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=wmioX77BgFlkjLsN5ih4-tcry8xHH9BUKR1KofVPkfs&e=)

**Safety and Security:**

We have noticed many parents driving through our busy arrival and dismissal areas on their cell phones. As you know, cell phones are a major distraction and cause numerous car accidents and injuries. We would not want to see a Garrett Park student or parent hurt because someone was driving while using their cell phones. Please do not drive distracted and especially through the school zone. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Important Dates:**

* **Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day parties                                      2:45-3:30 pm**
* **Feb. 17 – Office and Schools closed**
* **Feb. 19 – 3rd Grade Recorder Concert                              7:30 pm - APR**
* **Feb. 26 & 27 Class, Club & Group Photos                        all day**
* **Feb. 28 – Early Release                                                      1:20 pm dismissal**
* **Feb. 28 – PTA sponsored Black History Month Event     7 pm - APR**

**MCPS Updates:**

**Help Improve How You Get Information from MCPS (English and Spanish)**

How do you like to receive news and information? What MCPS news is important to you? MCPS parents/guardians are encouraged to take this important survey about your communication preferences. The survey will be available until Friday, February 28. Your responses will be used to improve how you get news and information from MCPS. You can access the survey at [mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/r51nhvd1xs06y6/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__mcpsweb.wufoo.com_forms_r51nhvd1xs06y6_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=znvzD0T4N9jM4zZUWIxvAlA2GbDYkrVoYk3zU7CxaZY&e=).

**Ayude a mejorar la manera en que usted recibe informacion de MCPS**

Como prefiere recibir noticias e informacion? Que noticias de MCPS son importantes para usted? Se alienta a los padres/guardianes de MCPS a que completen esta importante encuesta sobre sus preferencias de comunicacion. La encuesta estara disponible hasta el viernes, 28 de febrero. Sus respuestas se usaran para mejorar la manera en que usted recibe noticias e informacion de MCPS. Usted puede acceder a la encuesta en [mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/r51nhvd1xs06y6/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__mcpsweb.wufoo.com_forms_r51nhvd1xs06y6_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=znvzD0T4N9jM4zZUWIxvAlA2GbDYkrVoYk3zU7CxaZY&e=).

**MCABSE Hosting Black History Showcase Fundraiser**

The Montgomery County Alliance of Black School Educators (MCABSE) is holding its annual Black History Showcase Scholarship Fundraiser, How Sweet the Sound. The event will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, at Shady Grove Middle School, 8100 Midcounty Highway in Gaithersburg. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. The snow date is Wednesday, February 26.

Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at [http://mcabsemcps.org/?page\_id=1879](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__mcabsemcps.org_-3Fpage-5Fid-3D1879&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=aTSqrnQ6zFWOzEhV0MKOD1XXp2lQfHgbnSftXiqNhew&e=).

The event coordinators are seeking staff or student performers (steppers, singers, choirs, poets, musicians). Auditions are not required. A sign-up link is available [here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__docs.google.com_forms_d_e_1FAIpQLSfIWMjMHusJF3kK5WObynDMU3A-2DYWd7JCp9l3qjEB8dNev-5FGA_viewform&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=_zTiiVm72CElVm-gnfSgCggxJKIwixAfYKPeT7pnbsg&e=). For more information on performing, contact Kimberly Prillman at [Kimberly\_D\_Prillman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kimberly_D_Prillman@mcpsmd.org).

**Three PSA Video Contests Open to Secondary Students (English and Spanish)**

Deadlines are approaching this February for three public service announcement (PSA) video contests open to Montgomery County students in Grades 6–12. Details are listed below.

Students are encouraged to create an original video PSA as part of the county’s anti-vaping campaign. Co-sponsored by MCPS and Healthy Montgomery, the county’s community health improvement program, the goal of the contest is to promote awareness of the dangers of vaping (the use of e-cigarettes or Juul). **The submission deadline has been extended to Friday, February 14.**

Students can enter the contest on their own or as a group; however, students may only participate in one entry. Cash prizes will be given to the first place, second place, and third place entries. Find out more about entry rules and submission instructions on the Healthy Montgomery [website](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__lnks.gd_l_eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAxOTExMjYuMTM0NDEwNDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5tb250Z29tZXJ5Y291bnR5bWQuZ292L2hlYWx0aHltb250Z29tZXJ5L3ZhcGluZy5odG1sIn0.6QRnuUanp-2DqOUaQRewl-2DYfqxBr4oR9F5SY3gc5a-2DhjI_br_71878350199-2Dl&d=DwMFAA&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=MwTAEBoIzNYR11OVDkprprgJqF6tgtQE2ciMQruZHn8&m=pXrkr20ozCpadifUALd0xPkguPIop9vll8QEZ6gsVLs&s=qY5xSDHfeVxk50Y4HOEcDBPBjD9g4EsK5YpKqOocF4E&e=).

The Keeping it SAFE Coalition: Under Twenty-One Alcohol Prevention Coalition is sponsoring a video contest to create a 30-second public service message addressing the risks and dangers of under 21 alcohol use.

The contest is open to teams of two or more students enrolled in Montgomery County middle and high schools. Cash prizes of $100 to $1,000 are up for grabs to the winning teams. **Entries are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28.** [Visit this webpage](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomerycountymd.gov_dlc_education_kis_coalition_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=QDgiSGbiU4PLuuqcAMMx-8t-Qdb6VK4pOG3fmz1IaAM&e=) for more information and official contest rules.

The 11th Annual Montgomery County RespectFest video PSA contest challenges middle and high school students to create an original 60-second public service announcement video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. Students may enter on their own or as a group. The top three videos win cash prizes (first prize gets $1,000). **The submission deadline is Friday, February 28.** More information can be found [here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_student-2Dleadership_choose-2Drespect.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=mLb7kXMFuJO450AMjel7-hwtxPkE5ju0cqoAFMcdso0&e=).

**Tres concursos de videos de anuncio de servicio publico abiertos a estudiantes de las escuelas secundarias**

Se aproximan en febrero los plazos limites para inscribirse en tres concursos de videos de anuncio de servicio publico (public service announcement–PSA) abiertos a los estudiantes de los Grados 6–12 del Condado de Montgomery. Los detalles se ofrecen a continuacion.

Se alienta a los estudiantes a que produzcan un video original de anuncio de servicio publico como parte de la campana del condado contra el vaporeo (vaping). Copatrocinado por MCPS y Healthy Montgomery (Montgomery Saludable), el programa de mejora de la salud de la comunidad del condado, el objetivo del concurso es promover la concientizacion sobre los riesgos del vaporeo (el uso de cigarrillos electronicos o Juul). **El plazo de inscripcion ha sido extendido hasta el viernes, 14 de febrero.**

Los estudiantes pueden inscribirse para concursar individualmente o en grupo; sin embargo, los estudiantes solo pueden participar en una sola inscripcion. Se adjudicaran premios en efectivo al primer, segundo y tercer lugar ganador. Informese sobre las reglas de inscripcion y las instrucciones para inscribirse en el concurso en el [sitio web](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__lnks.gd_l_eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAxOTExMjYuMTM0NDEwNDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5tb250Z29tZXJ5Y291bnR5bWQuZ292L2hlYWx0aHltb250Z29tZXJ5L3ZhcGluZy5odG1sIn0.6QRnuUanp-2DqOUaQRewl-2DYfqxBr4oR9F5SY3gc5a-2DhjI_br_71878350199-2Dl&d=DwMFAA&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=MwTAEBoIzNYR11OVDkprprgJqF6tgtQE2ciMQruZHn8&m=pXrkr20ozCpadifUALd0xPkguPIop9vll8QEZ6gsVLs&s=qY5xSDHfeVxk50Y4HOEcDBPBjD9g4EsK5YpKqOocF4E&e=) de Healthy Montgomery.

La coalicion “Keeping it SAFE” para la prevencion de consumo de alcohol por parte de menores de 21 anos esta patrocinando un concurso de videos para producir un mensaje de servicio publico de 30 segundos de duracion examinando los riesgos y peligros del consumo de alcohol por parte de menores de 21 anos.

El concurso esta abierto a equipos de dos o mas estudiantes matriculados en escuelas de ensenanza media y escuelas secundarias en el Condado de Montgomery. Hay premios de $100 a $1,000 en efectivo para repartir entre los equipos ganadores. **El plazo limite para las inscripciones es antes de las 4:00 p.m., del viernes, 28 de febrero.** [Visite esta pagina web](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomerycountymd.gov_dlc_education_kis_coalition_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=QDgiSGbiU4PLuuqcAMMx-8t-Qdb6VK4pOG3fmz1IaAM&e=) para mas informacion y para ver las reglas oficiales del concurso.

El Decimo primer concurso anual de video de anuncio de servicio publico RespectFest del Condado de Montgomery desafia a los estudiantes de las escuelas de ensenanza media y las escuelas secundarias a que produzcan un video original de anuncio de servicio publico de 60 segundos para promover la concientizacion sobre el abuso durante citas y la violencia domestica entre adolescentes. Los estudiantes pueden inscribirse individualmente o en grupo. Los tres mejores videos ganan premios en efectivo (el primer premio recibe $1,000). **El plazo limite para inscribirse para concursar es el viernes, 28 de febrero. Aqui** se puede encontrar mas informacion.

Thank you,

Dan Tucci

**File attachments:**  
[2020 Kindness Spirit Week.docx](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__connectdocs.blackboard.com_xythoswfs_webui_-5Fxy-2D1261878-5F1-2Dt-5FUjl1bZjD&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=Zq5lSfIXSzkPu1WQPjPFLRXjYugc0OoA7P-CqPumlpc&s=lUGQ-lc_025FYguOs9ydmmB7ZcxOECtUQ3mhGxrs5K4&e=)