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 or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

What a great turnout to the Silent Auction and Family Game Night this past Saturday evening! We hope your family had fun and perhaps even won an item you were hoping for. We cannot thank you enough for participating in one of the largest PTA fundraisers of the year. A huge thank you to the organizers… Erin Rehman, Rebecca Miller, Chloe Pardo, and so many more parents and student volunteers for investing so much time to the event. I already cannot wait for next year’s event 

We hope you are able to join us for the upcoming International Night celebration. It takes place Saturday, March 9 at 6:00pm. Please come celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our school either as a guest or as a participant. If you would like to participate in the event, please register via the PTA website and the sign-up genius… [https://www.gpespta.org/copy-of-spring-fair](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.gpespta.org_copy-2Dof-2Dspring-2Dfair&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c6ct8DX-9R_LigxObembQ8ADpftKg5NBGXRErBlEHGg&s=yfhqaC_CPtAMePdIY5eojfMl2XN0s3TjpJygRTtVAB8&e=).

Recent inclement weather forced MCPS to close schools on four days. The 2018–2019 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instruction days, two above the minimum required in the state of Maryland. As a result of these closures, MCPS will need to use two designated make-up days to ensure that it meets the State-required number of days. The school year has been extended to June 14, 2019. In addition to June 14, students also will attend school on June 5 which was originally scheduled as a professional day. Any additional school closures for emergency weather will result in the need to use additional make-up days.

**Teaching and Learning:**

Our testing calendar is filling up fast! If you check the Garrett Park ES website, we included dates of upcoming PARCC testing. You will be receiving a letter soon detailing the specific testing dates of your child’s grade level. We will also mention on the letter that this is the last year of the administration of PARCC as our state standardized test. Beginning next year, we will be moving to a Maryland state specific test which will be named Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Literacy or Math. The test will still incorporate components from the rigorous PARCC assessment but it will be designed to be shorter in length. If you would like to read more about the upcoming changes to state testing, please read the program update memo below.

[http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/02272018/TabH-MDComprehensiveAssessmentProgramUpdate.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.marylandpublicschools.org_stateboard_Documents_02272018_TabH-2DMDComprehensiveAssessmentProgramUpdate.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c6ct8DX-9R_LigxObembQ8ADpftKg5NBGXRErBlEHGg&s=4atVzkkG7TyatzU8E0KuY2ZlYjJtqzN-CgA6dphz8fY&e=)

**Safety and Security:**

**Garrett Park ES will be receiving enhanced front and rear entrance cameras in the coming weeks. This will help improve clarity in picture and voice as we screen people who are entering the school. As always, if you are visiting the school beyond the main office make sure to bring your driver’s license or state issued ID along with you.**

**Important Dates:**

Feb. 26                                 3rd grade recorder concert                                                7:30-8 pm

Feb 27 & 28                         Class and club photos                                                        All day

Feb. 27                                 After School Activity Clubs                                                4:10-5:10 pm

Mar. 1                                   Early release day                                                               1:20 pm

Mar. 6                                   After School Activity Clubs                                                 4:10-5:10 pm

Mar. 9                                   PTA International Night                                                     6-9 pm

**MCPS Updates:**

**Board of Education Adopts Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget (English and Spanish)**

The Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt a $2.66 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. This includes an increase of $65.56 million from FY 2019. The budget will allow MCPS to manage growth, maintain high levels of achievement, and eliminate opportunity gaps. A majority of the $65.56 million spending increase will be used to maintain services for a growing student population; manage increasing operational costs; fund ongoing salaries and benefits; and invest in key areas of work to close opportunity gaps and improve academic excellence for all students. The budget also includes funding for key bodies of work that will strengthen the district’s efforts to improve programs; increase access to strong academic and career opportunities; extend learning; provide language opportunities; focus on physical, social and psychological well-being; hire and retain an effective and diverse workforce; and strengthen operational excellence. To learn more about the Board’s adopted budget, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_press_index.aspx-3Fpagetype-3Dshowrelease-26id-3D8287-26type-3D-26startYear-3D-26pageNumber-3D-26mode&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c6ct8DX-9R_LigxObembQ8ADpftKg5NBGXRErBlEHGg&s=9lq1_aR759rJ2CSju77hscddJi0zo7o3qxbzgWWhvag&e=)=.

**El Consejo de Educacion adopta el presupuesto operativo del ano fiscal 2020**

El Consejo de Educacion voto por unanimidad para la adopcion de un presupuesto operativo de $2.66 mil millones para el ano fiscal 2020. Esto incluye un aumento de $65.56 millones con respecto al ano fiscal 2019. El presupuesto permitira a MCPS administrar el crecimiento, mantener altos niveles de logros y eliminar brechas de oportunidades. La mayoria del aumento del presupuesto de $65.56 millones se utilizara para mantener los servicios para una creciente poblacion estudiantil; administrar los crecientes costos operativos; financiar sueldos y beneficios; e invertir en areas clave de trabajo para cerrar las brechas de oportunidades y mejorar la excelencia academica para todos los estudiantes. El presupuesto tambien incluye fondos para cuerpos de trabajo clave que fortaleceran los esfuerzos del distrito para mejorar programas; aumentar el acceso a oportunidades academicas y profesionales; extender el aprendizaje; proporcionar oportunidades de lenguaje; centrarse en el bienestar fisico, social y psicologico; contratar y retener una fuerza laboral efectiva y diversa; y fortalecer la excelencia operativa. Para obtener mas informacion sobre el presupuesto adoptado por el consejo, visite

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_press_index.aspx-3Fpagetype-3Dshowrelease-26id-3D8287-26type-3D-26startYear-3D-26pageNumber-3D-26mode&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c6ct8DX-9R_LigxObembQ8ADpftKg5NBGXRErBlEHGg&s=9lq1_aR759rJ2CSju77hscddJi0zo7o3qxbzgWWhvag&e=)=.

**New Date and Location for Summer Opportunities Fair (English and Spanish)**

Parents can explore a multitude of summer opportunities for school-age children at a fair on March 14. Local and regional providers will be available to talk about summer camps, programs and volunteer activities. Parents can meet program staff, pick up applications, and get information on financial assistance. The fair will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville. Register for the fair online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/> or call 240-314-4825.

**Nueva fecha y ubicacion para la Feria de Oportunidades de Verano**

Los padres pueden explorar una multitud de oportunidades de verano para ninos en edad escolar en una feria el 14 de marzo. Los proveedores locales y regionales estaran disponibles para hablar sobre campamentos de verano, programas y actividades de voluntariado. Los padres pueden reunirse con el personal del programa, recoger solicitudes y obtener informacion sobre asistencia financiera. La feria se llevara a cabo de 7 a 8:30 p.m. en Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive en Rockville. Regístrese para la feria en linea en

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_parentacademy_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=c6ct8DX-9R_LigxObembQ8ADpftKg5NBGXRErBlEHGg&s=JQJ-CYgP-Ce6YGNEP2cNSs3Sa6TkWUZr49NFzP-PCwM&e=) o llame al 240-314-4825.

Thanks and have a great week!

Dan Tucci