



Burnt Mills Elementary School
~Principal's Monthly Newsletter~
March 2020

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal ~~~ Mr. Troy Clarke, assistant principal

Important Events to Remember

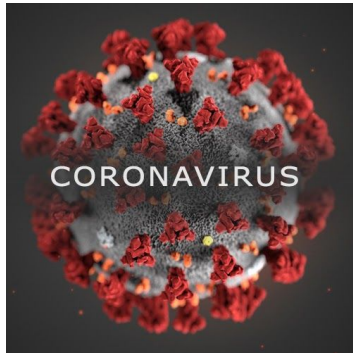
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| 3/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTA Meeting @ 7 PM |
| 3/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Readathon Kick-off Assembly featuring Flow Circus |
| 3/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Readathon Begins Today! ● AIM Action Meeting @ 7 PM @ people's Community Baptist Church ● Quarter 3 Progress Reports Distributed |
| 3/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Readathon Silly Day - wear silly hair, or hat/clothes ● Hoops for Heart (Grades 3-5) |
| 3/12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spanish Immersion Parent Interest Meeting @ 6:30 PM |
| 3/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Readathon Book Character Day - students can dress up as their favorite book character ● Kids Heart Challenge |
| 3/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring Pictures |
| 3/20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hearing and Vision Rescreens ● Quarter 3 Ends ● Early Release Day @ 12:55 PM |
| 3/30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarter 4 Begins |

School News

Coronavirus Update: Below is a letter that will be sent to all families from MCPS regarding the coronavirus. I added it to my newsletter for your review.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to provide you with additional information about the coronavirus and MCPS' efforts to ensure the health and safety of all students.



Yesterday (March 3), the Montgomery County Council received a briefing from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on the County's coronavirus preparedness efforts. The Council received up-to-date information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and discussed the County's efforts to ensure the health and safety of all residents. MCPS leadership and other community partners and stakeholders participated in this important discussion.

We encourage all members of our community to [watch the briefing](#) and [read](#) the key documents that were shared at the briefing.

DHHS has shared that the risk to the general American public remains low and that to date, no cases have been confirmed in Maryland or in the National Capital Region. Under Maryland law, the County Health Officer makes the decision on school closures when it pertains to public health crises. Those decisions will be made in collaboration with other county agencies. At this time, per guidance from DHHS, schools will remain open and operations at the county level will continue as normal.

MCPS has a plan in place to address continuity of operations and student learning should there be an outbreak in the state and in the county. The district also is meeting with all principals this week to review emergency preparedness procedures. We continue to hear from members of the community seeking additional information about the steps we are taking to prevent the spread of the virus in schools and to provide instruction to students in the event of school closures. The following information highlights aspects of the district's plan for school, facilities and instruction.

MCPS Schools and Facilities

- *MCPS building service personnel have increased their focus on thoroughly disinfecting communal surfaces.*
- *We continue to make hand sanitizers widely available in all facilities and continue to emphasize the importance of regular and thorough handwashing by ensuring that all buildings are appropriately stocked with soap.*
- *The district continues to share best practices for overall health in cold and influenza season with students, parents and staff. These preventive measures include:*

- *Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.*
 - *Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands.*
 - *Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.*
 - *Stay home when you are sick.*
 - *The CDC recommends that individuals remain home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication (i.e., chills, feeling warm, flushed appearance).*
 - *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately discard the tissue in the trash.*
 - *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*
 - *Take any anti-viral medication prescribed to you as instructed.*
- *Informational posters from the CDC will be distributed to all schools. Parents can find these posters in multiple languages [here](#).*

Instructional Activities for Students

- *MCPS is preparing to provide instructional activities for all students prekindergarten through Grade 12 in the event that schools are closed.*
- *In order to meet the needs of all students and families, these instructional activities will be provided through online access and in hard copy.*
- *Multiple tools will be used to provide instructional activities. This includes:*
 - *Using the MCPS website to provide educational videos and other instructional materials appropriate for various grade levels and subjects.*
 - *Using MCPS Instructional Television to broadcast educational programs that cater to different grade levels and subjects.*
 - *Providing ideas for instructional activities that parents can complete with their children.*
 - *Students accessing their Google for Education Accounts, which provides the ability for students to participate in online activities in a structured manner. We are also exploring ways to have our technology available to students.*

In the Event of School Closures

- *MCPS will follow DHHS direction in getting our facilities and buses back to normal operations.*
- *The MCPS website will be updated frequently and information will be shared with the community about our operational status through [multiple methods](#) including AlertMCPS, ConnectEd, social media, the MCPS Information Line, and QuickNotes.*
- *MCPS essential workers will return prior to all other staff and students to ensure the cleanliness and sanitation of our facilities.*

- *Depending on the length of time schools are closed, we are prepared to provide meals at several schools as regional meal sites. Information on the sites will be shared with the community once it is finalized.*

Frequently Asked Questions

- *MCPS updates its [coronavirus webpage](#) daily and members of the community are encouraged to visit the page frequently. The page features up-to-date information from county, state and federal health officials, links to important resources in multiple languages, tips for how to speak with your children about the coronavirus, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The FAQs provide additional information on important topics such as school field trips, plans for instruction and how parents can help.*

If you have questions about the county's efforts, you can contact the Montgomery County Office of Disease Control and Epidemiology at 240-777-1755. Please contact the MCPS Office of Communications at 240-740-2837 if you have questions about district operations and student instruction.

Staff News

No Staff News at this time

Counselor's Corner from Ms. Bell and Mrs. Dommu

Classroom Guidance:

This month we will deliver Classroom Guidance around our Core Value of the month, Citizenship to Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 and Bullying to Grade 3, Grade 4 and Grade 5. Last month, our book series "Weird" featured the perspective of the bully of taught students how to use kindness to achieve happiness. This month, our book will feature the perspective of the bystander and teach students to use citizenship to make courageous choices.

Updates:

- New Small Counseling Groups will begin for all grades.
- Cohort 2 of the fifth-grade girls mentoring group 'Girls Leading And Motivating' (GLAM) will continue and be monthly-the third Thursday of each month.

Like last year, Career Day will be recognized for an entire week! Career Week will take place March 30th through April 3rd. We are looking for STEM Career presenters on Tuesday, March 31st and ARTS (performing arts, fine arts, communications, fashion) Career presenters on Thursday, April 2nd. *This year, we will not be having individual parent presentations for classes.* We are seeking interactive presentations that can be delivered to full grade levels at a time. **If you are interested in participating or know someone who would be, please contact Ms. Bell at Ashley_M_Bell@mepsmd.org or Mrs. Dommu at Sarah_B_Dommu@mepsmd.org**

Reminders:

You may still sign up for the Weekend Meal Program. Please email me or send your student with a note for a sign-up form. A Career Week flier with detailed information will be going home in Wednesday folders.

Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner:

Our annual immersion field trip will be held on Tuesday, March 24. We will see the play "Rigoberta, ¿dónde estás? A Journey through Guatemala " at the Gala Theatre. It is a play about a journey of self-discovery filled with stories, song, and dance. Permission slips were distributed last week. Parents are welcome to attend. It's always a great time. There is space on the bus on a first come, first serve basis. Once the buses are full, parents can opt to meet us at the theater. If you need another permission slip, please email me at Gloria_B_Plawner@mcpsmd.org.

If you have a child/sibling of a current immersion student who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall and you are interested in the immersion program for him/her, please make sure to fill out an application for them! They **must be entered** into the lottery in order to be considered for the fall! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at Gloria_B_Plawner@mcpsmd.org.

If you know anyone who is interested in putting their child in Spanish Immersion, have them attend an information session on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30pm at BMES.

Please mark your calendars for our Spanish Immersion Night 2020! This year we are excited to announce that our immersion event will be held at Springbrook High School on May 29, 2020 from 5 – 8pm. Details will come out closer to the event date.

PTA News from Mr. Miehl

Thank you for your past support of our movie night and Chipotle fundraiser. The fundraiser netted \$258.64. We really appreciate your support as it all goes towards Burnt Mills! We plan for one more movie night this spring.

Thanks to your support, PTA sponsored the 'Flow Circus' cultural arts program which helped kick off our Read-a-thon fundraiser. Please check out all the exciting things happening around the fundraiser in a flier that should be coming home in your scholar's Wednesday folder. Funds raised go towards faculty appreciation, teacher mini-grants, field trips support and many other areas.

Please plan to attend the upcoming AIM action at the People's Community Baptist Church 31 Norwood Rd, Silver Spring, Thursday March 5 at 7 PM. Burnt Mills' chorus will sing. Our county leads will be in attendance to hear how we want to expand after school programs, help protect immigrants facing deportation, and affordable housing.

If you like the direction PTA has been going, or would like to increase your involvement, please consider offering to volunteer as a PTA officer. Positions of president, vice-president, and treasurer will be open and selected during our May meeting. You simply need to have a desire to

help and a little time to learn the ropes. Current officers can help you out and mentor you on the way. If interested, please see a current officer or send an email to miehlmj@hotmail.com.

Reminders

Lost & Found: We have many unclaimed items in the Lost and Found. **Parents, please write your child's name on ALL of his/her belongings (coat, lunchbox, hat, gloves, etc.)** If we know who the items belong to, we can return them. Thank you!