

Burnt Mills Elementary School

~Principal's Monthly Newsletter~

November 2019

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal

Mr. Troy Clarke, assistant principal

Important Events to Remember

11/2	PTA Hot Cocoa Fun Run 9AM-12PM
11/5	Board of Education Facilities and Boundaries Meeting @ 6:00p.m.
11/8	Marking Period 1 Ends Early Release Day @ 12:55 PM
11/11	Marking Period 2 Begins Early Release Day @ 12:55 PM - Parent-Teacher Conferences
11/12	Early Release Day @ 12:55 PM - Parent Teacher Conferences
11/20	Report Card Distribution
11/21	STEAM NIGHT 6:10-8:00 PM
11/27	Early Release Day @ 12:55 PM
11/28-29	HOLIDAY - Schools and offices closed

School News

Parent-Teacher Conferences: By mid November, teachers should have met with you to discuss your child's progress in school. The conference gives you a chance to talk with your child's teacher about your child. When parents and teachers talk with each other, each person can share important information about the child's academic progress, talents and needs. Here are a few tip to help you.

Before the Conference

- *Ask your child how he/she feels about school and if he/she has any questions*
- *Prepare a list of 3 to 5 things you want to share with the teacher and 3 to 5 questions to ask during the conference.*
- *Think about ways you would like to be involved in your child's learning so that you can share them with the teacher*

During the Conference

- *Be on time or early*
- *Take notes*
- *Listen to what the teacher has to say and ask the most important questions first*

After the Conference

- *Talk about the conference with your child*
- *Talk about the positive points and be direct about problems*
- *Keep in touch with the teacher during the school year*

Eureka Math Curriculum Key Shifts: Eureka Math is a complete, PreK through Grade 12 curriculum aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teaching to the rigor of the CCSS involves significant instructional shifts, or what Eureka calls, *Key Shifts in Mathematics*. As teachers implement the new curriculum, they will experience these key shifts (or growing pains) and discover that the greater focus is on teaching fewer topics. Rather than racing to cover many topics, in a mile-wide, inch deep curriculum, the standards ask teachers to significantly narrow and deepen the way time and energy are spent in the classroom. This means, the instructional approach to teaching and learning will look and sound differently. As students and teachers are acclimating to Eureka Math, it is not uncommon that grades on assessments might be lower as students gain strong foundations and deepen their understanding of procedural skill, concepts and fluency. As teachers and students continue to move forward, it's anticipated that all involved will make the necessary adjustments to meet the expectations that the implementation of the standards require. During parent-teacher conferences, teacher will spend time talking to you about the new curriculum, sharing student work and providing tips on how to help your child at home. If you have questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or reach out to Kerry Bulcavage, our math content coach. We are here to support you and your child!

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) ~~Hey there Dads and Father-figures, we need you at BMES!~~ Watch D.O. G.S. program is underway and we are ready to welcome YOU! If you would like to be a Watch D.O.G. we would LOVE to have you because #DOGSmatter. Please contact Mrs. Gordon at Deneen_L_Gordon@mcpsmd.org for more information.

George B. Thomas Learning Academy: Do you know about the Saturday classes our students (Grades 1 - 5) can attend in Reading and Math? It's called George B. Thomas Learning Academy and classes take place at Blair HS (transportation provided!), Springbrook HS and ten other locations. It only costs \$40/year for students who receive free lunch (\$70 for all others). You can register online, or in person any Saturday. For more information go to www.saturdayschool.org

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

Classroom Guidance: This month Ms. Bell and Mrs. Dommu will be delivering *Personal Body Safety Lessons* to assist in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education.

Coming Up: Small Counseling Groups around social skills and self-regulation are underway. Groups will be continuing throughout the month of November.

- The fifth-grade girls mentoring group ‘*Girls Leading And Motivating*’ (*GLAM*) has started and meets every other Monday from 12:40-1:50.
- This month we are recognizing *Mental Health Awareness & Wellness*. Throughout the month students will be reading self-care tips on morning announcements and we will also be leading students in a Mindfulness activity during this month’s Town Hall.

Sign Up:

- *Weekend Meal Program* has begun. This program is free of charge to you and discreetly provides your child a bag filled with kid-friendly, nonperishable, vitamin-fortified and easily consumed food items. Please email me for a sign-up form and I will send one home with your child.
- *The Holiday Giving Project* provides Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to low income households. You should have already received an informational flyer and referral form in Wednesday Folders. Please complete the referral form as soon as possible to participate. Referral Forms are due November 11, 2019 for the December holiday season.

[Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner](#)

We had a great turn out at our Immersion Parent Meeting last month. Thank you for the good discussions. The presentation was sent via email to all families so you can read the information that was presented. If you have any questions, please email me at Gloria_B_Plawner@mcpsmd.org. Thank you for all your support in purchasing Scholastic books. Your purchase not only gives your child fresh books to read in English and Spanish, but with the points we accrue, we are able to buy more Spanish books for our classroom libraries. You can make a purchase directly on www.scholastic.com. Don’t forget to use the code NDR2V. We will put in an order on **Friday, Nov. 22** for any holiday purchases!!

[PTA News from Mr. Mieh](#)

The PTA wants to give a huge shout-out to all the families and staff who helped make our 3rd annual Cocoa Run such a success! We met our fundraising goal of \$3000 and had over 100 students participating. The beautiful weather also helped. This all goes back into our school community with staff appreciation, cultural arts assemblies, teacher mini-grants, the pumpkin patch, and other events. Our advocacy efforts seem to be paying off. Burnt Mills is one of 2 elementary schools specifically recommended by Dr. Smith for modernization. The BOE meeting on November 5 brought out at least 70 Burnt Mills supporters! We are still not over the finish line, however. The Board will need to approve us and then it goes over to the county council for funding. We need to keep the pressure on for this dream to become a reality. **Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday December 3rd at 7 PM. Child care for school-age children is provided by Horizon. We hope to see you there!**

[MCPS News](#)

MCPS Seeking Feedback on 2020–2021 School Year Calendar Scenarios: During the regular business meeting on Tuesday, October 8, the Board of Education reviewed calendar scenarios for the 2020–2021 school year. As a result of legislative action in last spring’s Maryland General Assembly, school districts in Maryland have the authority again to start school before Labor Day and end the school year after June 15th. As a result, MCPS has developed three calendar scenarios that reflect different start and end dates for School Year 2020–2021. To view the draft calendar scenarios, please visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/proposed-calendar-2020-21.aspx

All draft scenarios for the calendar include: 182 student instructional days; Full spring break; Full professional day for grading and planning at the end of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters; and possible make-up days both during the school year and extending

the school year. The Board is seeking feedback on the calendar options in the comment box on the website. The Board is scheduled to adopt a final school calendar later this year.

MCPS Solicita Opiniones sobre los Escenarios Propuestos para el Calendario del Ciclo Escolar 2020–2021: Durante su reunión regular de trabajo el pasado 8 de octubre, el Consejo de Educación revisó los escenarios de calendario propuestos para el ciclo escolar 2020–2021. Como resultado de una acción legislativa en la Asamblea General de Maryland durante la primavera pasada, los distritos escolares de Maryland tienen nuevamente la autoridad para iniciar las clases antes del Día del Trabajo (Labor Day) y concluir el ciclo escolar después del 15 de junio. Como resultado, MCPS ha desarrollado tres escenarios de calendario que reflejan diferentes fechas de inicio y finalización del ciclo escolar 2020–2021. Para ver el borrador de los escenarios de calendario, por favor visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/proposed-calendar-2020-21.aspx.

El borrador de todos los escenarios para el calendario incluye: 182 días lectivos para los estudiantes; Vacaciones de primavera completas; Un día profesional completo para calificaciones y planificación al final del primer, segundo y tercer trimestre; y Posibles días de recuperación de días de instrucción tanto durante el ciclo escolar como extendiendo el ciclo escolar. El Consejo solicita opiniones sobre las opciones de calendario en la casilla de comentarios de la página web. El Consejo de Educación tiene programado adoptar un calendario final más adelante en este año.

MCPS to Host Mental Health Fair November 9, 2019: MCPS is hosting a Mental Health Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, at Gaithersburg High School. Students, staff members, and the community will be able to learn about community and school resources that support students’ physical, social, and psychological well-being. Celeste Malone, associate professor and coordinator of the school psychology program at Howard University, will deliver the keynote address. She will speak on the topic, *Breaking Barriers to Access Youth Mental Health Care*. The event is being sponsored by the Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement and the Montgomery County Psychologists’ Association.

El 9 de Noviembre MCPS Presentará Feria de Salud Mental: MCPS estará presentando una Feria de Salud Mental, el sábado, 9 de noviembre, de 10:00 a.m. a 2:00 p.m., en Gaithersburg High School. Los estudiantes, miembros del personal y la comunidad podrán informarse acerca de los recursos que existen en la comunidad y en las escuelas para apoyar el bienestar físico, social y psicológico de los estudiantes. Celeste Malone, profesora asociada y coordinadora del programa de psicología escolar en Howard University, estará a cargo de pronunciar el discurso principal. Ella hablará sobre el tema de *Cómo Romper las Barreras Que Se Interponen al Acceso de los Jóvenes a Servicios de Atención de Salud Mental*. El evento está patrocinado por la Oficina de Apoyo y Participación Estudiantil y Familiar (Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement) y la Asociación de Psicólogos del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Psychologists’ Association).

NAACP Parents’ Council Kickoff Event to Take Place November 19

The NAACP Parents’ Council kickoff meeting will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19 at Northwest High School. This event will bring together parents/guardians, MCPS teachers, principals, and administrators to share ideas on how to champion equity and excellence in education. Participants will have an opportunity to attend a resource fair and various breakout sessions. John B. King Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Education, will be the keynote speaker. The event is free. Register today at: www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-2020-naacp-parents-councilmcps-kick-off-tickets-75534215873?aff=erelexpmlt.

El evento de lanzamiento del Concejo de Padres NAACP tendrá lugar el 19 de noviembre

La primera reunión del Concejo de Padres NAACP se llevará a cabo el martes, 19 de noviembre, de 5:00 a 9:00 p.m., en Northwest High School. Este evento reunirá a padres, maestros, directores de escuelas y administradores de MCPS para compartir ideas sobre cómo apoyar la equidad y la excelencia en la educación. Los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de asistir a una feria de recursos en varias sesiones en grupos separados. John B. King, Jr., antiguo Secretario de Educación de los Estados Unidos, estará a cargo de pronunciar el discurso principal. La participación a este evento es gratuita. Insíbase hoy en: www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-2020-naacp-parents-councilmcps-kick-off-tickets-75534215873?aff=erelexpmlt