



A message from Principal Brunson...

Happy New Year! I am thrilled that students and staff took a "break" and returned to school with lots of enthusiasm and smiles on their faces. Like 2015, I am confident that 2016 will be yet another productive year and an opportunity to meet and conquer new challenges and celebrate successes.

(Please Note: This newsletter is lengthier than normal because some of the updates have been translated in Spanish.)

STEAM Night

Back by popular demand! We are hosting STEAM night on **January 13, starting at 6:00 p.m.** We are hosting an evening event which combines science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, which is what STEAM stands for. We are focusing on the famous artist Michelangelo. Parents and their children will be able to participate in interactive sessions facilitated by our teachers and specialists. There will be two performances taking place: a science demonstration in the gym by the science guru John Hadfield and a planetarium in the AP room. We are in the planning phases right now – so, additional information will be shared soon

Dressing for the Winter

Don't be tricked by the warm weather that we were infiltrated with during the month of December! According to future weather reports, the tide will be Weather reports are showing that the tides will be turning in January and February. So, please make sure students are dressing warmly during the expected blistery cold weather season. Parents will be notified if students do not come to school wearing clothing items that do not cover their arms, legs, and feet.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is filled and overflowing with coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. Please check the lost and found for your child's lost items during the month of January. Clothes that are not picked up by January 31, will be donated to charity.

Student Absences

When students are absent, we make every effort to provide missed work. However, please allow teachers **at least 24 hours** to prepare work to be sent home. If students will only be absent for one or two days, they may obtain missed work when they return. If a student is absent for more than 2 days, notify the office so that the classroom teacher may be informed of the extended absence and may collect the work as appropriate. Please be aware that in the case of an extended absence, a teacher may choose to modify and adjust the work to be completed.

Extended Student Absences

Many times, parents plan vacations or may need to leave the area with their children for a temporary length of time for personal reasons during the school year. Children who leave for an extended time are subjected to breaks in their instruction. Much of the work cannot be made up because the classroom teacher has moved on to other areas of instruction. Furthermore, teachers are not expected



to develop weeks' worth of classroom reinforcement work or homework during the time students are out; unless, there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. the student is in the hospital).

Budget 101: The Budgeting Process Explained

MCPS has launched a new online resource to help the community better understand how the district builds its operating budget and funds its schools. The new Budget 101 site was created to answer many of the questions that parents, students, staff and community members have asked about the MCPS operating budget. The site will show you where the district's funding comes from, how it's spent, and how our schools are staffed to ensure we are meeting the needs of every student. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/budget-101/index.html to check out this new resource.

Presupuesto 101: El Proceso Presupuestario Explicado

MCPS ha lanzado un nuevo recurso en línea para ayudar a la comunidad a entender mejor cómo el distrito escolar arma su presupuesto operativo y financia sus escuelas. El nuevo sitio de Presupuesto 101 fue creado para responder a muchas de las preguntas que los padres, los estudiantes, el personal, y los miembros de la comunidad han planteado sobre el Presupuesto Operativo de MCPS. Este sitio le mostrará de dónde provienen los fondos del distrito escolar, como se gastan, y cómo se provee el personal a las escuelas para asegurarnos de estar

Nominate a Parent for Contributions to Education

Do you know a parent who is making a positive impact in MCPS? Now is the time to nominate him or her for the Maryland Parent Involvement Matters Award, which recognizes parents who have made significant contributions to a local public school system. The award is sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education. Visit marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/pima/index.html for more information. The deadline is January 29, 2016.

Nomine a un Padre/Madre por Sus Contribuciones a la Educación

¿Conoce usted a un padre/madre que está teniendo un impacto positivo en MCPS? Este es el momento de nominarlo/a para el Premio de Maryland La Participación de los Padres Es Importante (Maryland Parent Involvement Matters Award-PIMA), que da reconocimiento a padres de familia que han brindado contribuciones significativas al sistema escolar público local. El premio está patrocinado por el Departamento de Educación del Estado de Maryland. Visite <http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/pima/index.html> para más información. El plazo límite es el 29 de enero, 2016.

New/ Required Body Safety Lessons

Montgomery County Public Schools is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education.

Starting in February 2016, our school counselor, Mrs. Sobieralski, and the classroom teachers will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect in grades K-5. Each grade level will have one to three lessons between the months of February and May 2016. 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 help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive appropriate interactions with peers and adults.

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, we are providing 2 opportunities on **Tuesday, January 5, 2016** for you to ask questions and preview the books and materials with our school counselor, Mrs. Sobieralski. **The times are 8:30 – 10:30 AM and 3:30 – 5:00 PM.**

Early Dismissal, Late or Delayed School Opening

Use the following resources for information regarding early dismissal, late, or delayed opening:

- MCPS Cable TV: Channel 34 (Comcast); Channel 36 (Verizon); Channel 89 (RCN)
- MCPS Emergency Hotline 301-279-3643
- MCPS Webpage at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
- MCPS Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/mcps>
- Principal Brunson Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/CloverlyES Prin>
- Local Radio



“A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.” --Colin Powell

May all of our Cloverly families have a healthy, prosperous, and enjoyable new year!

Melissa Brunson
Dr. Melissa Brunson
Principal