



From Principal, Dr. Brunson.....

I thank all of the parents for attending *Reading Night*. It was a joy to see so many Cloverly families in attendance, demonstrating their love of reading. Kudos to Mrs. Delikat and the Reading Committee for all of their hard work and commitment to making this event was a success.

Parent/Teacher Communication

As a general rule, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher(s) if there are any issues or concerns. Please be mindful that the teacher's time is mainly spent on planning and providing instruction. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, teachers respond to inquiries, either by phone or through written communication, within 24-48 hours. If it is an ongoing concern and to avoid a tremendous amount of informal communication, it is advised that you set up a mutually convenient time to meet with the teacher. As a reminder, parent conferences are **November 10 & 11**. If you haven't done so already, please contact your child's teacher to set-up a time to meet to discuss your child's performance for the first marking period. Report cards will be sent home on **November 17**.

Cloverly Website

All parent families are encouraged to visit the Cloverly website for the latest information about what is happening at Cloverly. Please check the grade level links for current newsletters detailing information about curriculum content, web resources, date reminders, and more. Also, dates and times for specific events are also included in the hardcopy of the *Cloverly Dates to Remember*, which is sent home with every student's Friday folders each month and is now being posted to the Cloverly website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/cloverlyes/>.

Fall Festival

We are excited to bring the *Fall Festival* to Cloverly Elementary School this year. On Monday, **November 14**, students at each grade level will engage in fall enhanced educational activities in the morning, followed by a Harvest Party taking place at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon. Parents, please work with your children's homeroom teachers to make this an exciting event for all children.

Professional Development

We are very committed to providing a first-class instructional program at Cloverly. As a part of our professional learning community, the Cloverly staff takes advantage of the following training and planning opportunities:

- *Ongoing Professional Development*
Continuous improvement through ongoing professional development is paramount at Cloverly. Led mainly by our reading specialist and staff development teacher, our monthly professional learning meetings focus on targeted educational strategies that support the teaching and learning process. This year, we are focusing our staff development trainings on deepening our understanding of strategies to support students during small group reading and math instruction, with a particular focus on our English Language Learners. We are also engaging in targeted professional develop to boost our understanding of race and closing the opportunity gap.
- *Documentation of Interventions*
Teachers work individually or with their teams to identify and monitor specific interventions for students who are in danger of meeting academic benchmarks. These meetings may also involve school administration, reading specialist, school psychologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, ESOL teachers, school counselor, and the special education resource teacher as needed. As a result of these meetings, students are recommended for research-based intervention programs like Read Naturally, for reading comprehension, or Fast Math for math computation. Parents are notified if their child is involved in this collaborative problem-solving process.



- *Collaborative Planning*

Teachers in grades K-5 meet weekly with the reading specialist and staff development teacher to plan using Curriculum 2.0. During these extended collaborative planning meetings, teachers take the time to review and plan integrated lessons to use during their instruction. Teachers also explore available resource materials like new books and technology links to support their use of this new curriculum. Teachers in PEP, Autism, and in grades 4-5 also engage in weekly collaborative planning around the Curriculum 2.0 and additional resources they use to instruct students. Ongoing, close monitoring of student achievement data based on specific data points take place during these weekly meetings. Each grade level meets with the involvement of the reading specialist, staff development specialist, and other support specialists to analyze and determine strategies needed to adapt instruction and develop appropriate interventions, for students.

- *Focus on Equity*

Inherited in our school's vision, "Cloverly, Leading the Way to Excellence", is the understanding that we strive to meet the academic and social emotional needs of **all** students, in an inclusive, caring environment. As a school team, we continue to focus our equity work on closing the opportunity gap. Our focus this year is to engage our English Language Learners and their families within the school environment, continuing our conversation about race, and apply responsive teaching practices matched to student need. Please see our school improvement plan, which is located on the Cloverly website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/cloverlyes/>.

- *System-Wide Professional Development*

Ongoing professional development is provided to all staff (i.e. teachers, support staff, and school administrators) throughout Montgomery County Public Schools. Some trainings/meetings are required, such as testing meetings to support the administration of standardized testing and instructional data monitoring. Ongoing training, such as Curriculum 2.0 math professional development continues to take place at the local school level.

- *Training to Support New Teachers*

Teachers who are new to teaching and experienced teachers new to MCPS are required to go to new teacher training over the summer or at the beginning of the school year. New teachers are assigned a mentor or consulting teacher in addition to the support provided by their teammates, colleagues, reading specialist, and staff development teacher, and school administration. There are additional courses like *The Skillful Teacher* that is offered to new and experienced MCPS teachers. Many of our teachers have taken this course.

Several of our teachers have taken advantage of college/university course offerings and attend statewide conferences to promote their professional growth. For example, Mrs. Steffi Jost is in the process of completing coursework to obtain her Administration and Supervision Certification.

Mentoring Support Program

Our staff goes "above and beyond" the call of duty to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education. In addition to the Mindfulness initiatives that started a few years ago, we continue to implement the *Mentoring Support* program. Selected students receive mentoring support from assigned staff persons. Parents must give permission for their children to participate. Mrs. Heather Sobieralski, our school counselor, oversees this program.

Equity Leadership Team (ELT)

Our instructional leadership team comprises of teacher and parent representatives, specialists, and school administration, who meet once a month to examine our progress on the school improvement plan and other macro-level aspects of our instructional program. Many key program decisions are made by this team. As a team, we will be updating the school improvement plan on a quarterly basis to determine how our actions throughout the year affect student achievement.

Super Cub Awards

This year, we've made some changes to the criteria for the Super Cub Award. Super Cub Awards are distributed to deserving students during quarterly town hall meetings. Each student is able to receive the Super Cub Award if they have **consistently demonstrated** successes in one or more of the following areas:

- Shows academic growth and excellence
- Uses kind words
- Perseveres toward(s) goals
- Encourages peers
- Respects others feelings and differences
- Cooperates
- Upholds rules for being safe
- Be prepared and ready to learn

Homework Help

Every Tuesday and Thursday on days that school is in session, the Paint Branch Honor Society Hosts a Homework Help program, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., at the Marilyn J Praisner Library on 141910 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866. For more information, contact the library at 240-773-9460.

*Our teachers truly benefit when they receive professional development, engage in collaborative planning and ongoing discussions about teaching and learning, and participate in support programs to not only improve their professional practice, but to also ensure that **all** of our students receive a well-rounded education.*

We believe that we are able to accomplish this enormous, yet important task with the care, love, and support that we continue to receive from our Cloverly community.

Kudos to all of our parents for partnering with us!

Dr. Melissa Brunson

