



DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
February 2020

Dear Diamond Elementary Families,

We have completed the second marking period and we are now beginning the third marking period. Diamond Elementary staff are focused and committed to providing all students with a rigorous instructional program. Students are continuing to receive challenging learning opportunities on a daily basis, whether it is through enrichment instruction, additional support and extra practice. On Tuesday February 4th second quarter report cards will be sent home to parents and/or guardians. Once they arrive, please review the report card grades with your child and sign and return the report card envelope to your child's teacher. Please call your child's teacher if you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to have a parent-teacher conference to discuss your child's progress.

We have many exciting events taking place during the month of February, such as the **Valentine's Day Dance on Friday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m., our annual classroom Valentine's Day parties on February 14th from 2:30-3:30 p.m., and various grade level field-trips.** Please note the important dates on the calendar and add to your family calendars. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 240-740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

FEBRUARY **CALENDAR**

Tuesday, February 4

2nd Grade Assembly- Next Step; Science!

-Report Cards Distributed

-6:30 p.m.—PTA

Meeting—Media Center

Wednesday, February 4

Report Cards Distributed

Friday, February 7

Valentine Dance—7:00-9:00
PM

Friday, February 14

2:30p.m.— Valentine Parties in
Classrooms

Monday, February 17

Holiday - Schools and Offices
Closed

Wednesday, February 19

9:45—11:00 Incoming
Kindergarten Parent Coffee

Thursday, February 20

Grade 3 Potomac Pizza Activity

Friday, February 28

Early Release Day- Dismissal
begins at 1:20 PM

Valentine's Day Parties: The Valentine's Day parties will be on **Friday, February 14th**. The Valentine's Day parties will be held from 2:30-3:30 p.m. We ask that all parents and visitors sign in and receive a visitor pass before going to their child's classroom. Classroom party planners need to make sure that the treats and snacks during the party include some healthy options. We request that parents who plan to attend the classroom parties to please refrain from parking in the bus circle driveway or the staff parking lot as dismissal will begin immediately after the parties are completed and buses will need to enter the bus loop. Parents and visitors can park along Marquis Drive, Diamond Drive, or Cullinan Drive. If a student is planning to distribute Valentine's Day cards to their classmates, they must have a valentine's day card for each student in their homeroom class. If you do not want your child to participate in the Valentine's Day party, please let your child's teacher know by no later than Thursday, February 13th and your child can participate in an alternative activity party.

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Coffee Scheduled for February 19th, March 6th, & March 26th:

Diamond Elementary will be holding an Incoming Kindergarten Parent Coffee for parents who will be sending their child(ren) to Diamond Elementary next fall for Kindergarten. The Incoming Kindergarten Parent Coffees are scheduled for February 19th, March 6th, & March 26th from 9:45-11:00 a.m. This event is for parents only. Please call the main office at 240-740-2120 to RSVP. Per Maryland State Department of Education regulations, to be eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year, **children must be five years of age by September 1, 2020. Children who will turn five years old between September 2 and October 15, 2020 are eligible for consideration for the early entrance to kindergarten process.** Contact Mrs. Lentz or Mrs. Knight in the main office for more information on the early entrance to kindergarten process. The Incoming Kindergarten Coffee will provide parents who are unfamiliar with our kindergarten program with a sneak peek into the Kindergarten program at Diamond ES, a description of the Kindergarten Orientation process, a tour of the school and kindergarten classes, and a question and answer session at the end. We ask current Diamond families to pass this information onto any neighbors who may have a child that will be turning 5 years old and will be enrolling in Kindergarten next school year. Attached to the newsletter on page 11 is an information form that should be filled out and returned to the main office as soon as possible.

Cold Weather Reminder: Please be sure to send your child to school dressed for the weather. An idea to consider is having your children layer clothing, so that the child can take off a sweater or sweatshirt depending on the varying temperatures. In addition, students should have a warm jacket, gloves and a winter hat for arrival/dismissal and outdoor recess. We have noticed many children wearing shorts and no jackets when it is in the 30's and 40's. We strive for the students to have outdoor recess everyday, weather permitting. In order for the students to go outside for recess, the temperature needs to be at least 29 degrees (including wind-chill) and reasonably dry/damp conditions on the recess blacktop and wood-chip area. We believe that the time outdoors each day is important for the children as a way to release energy and build concentration for afternoon instruction. With the current chilly temperatures students will need a winter jacket, winter hat, and gloves for outdoor recess.

Financial Aid: Financial aid is available for school field trips. Please contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Christie Meuer or Mrs. Kate Musser, school counselors, or the Diamond Elementary School office if such help is needed.

MCPS UPDATES:

Winter Weather: Stay in Touch with MCPS: Winter weather is here. MCPS offers numerous ways for parents to learn about school closures, delayed openings and early dismissals during inclement weather.

- **AlertMCPS:** Receive text messages or emails from Montgomery County Public Schools during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Parents can also sign up to receive alerts specific to their child's school: [Subscribe to AlertMCPS](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx) Visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx> to subscribe.
- **MCPS homepage:** <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/>
- **MCPS QuickNotes email news service:** Subscribe at <http://bulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/quicknotes-home/>
- **MCPS cable channels:** Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RCN 89
- **Recorded information:** 301-279-3673
- **Ask MCPS:** 301-309-6277. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish.
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/mcps>
- **Local radio and TV stations**

Please make sure emergency contact information on file at the school is up to date. Visit <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/>

Winter 2020 Parent Academy Schedule: The MCPS Parent Academy offers parents/guardians and community members the opportunity to attend workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support their children's success in school. The 2020 winter season of workshops has begun. Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all sessions. A full list of courses is available on the Parent Academy website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/

Keeping it SAFE Sponsoring Video Contest Addressing Teen Alcohol Use: The Keeping it SAFE Coalition: Under Twenty-One Alcohol Prevention Coalition is sponsoring its annual video contest to create a 30-second public service message addressing the risks and dangers of under 21 alcohol use.

The contest is open to teams of two or more students enrolled in Montgomery County middle and high schools. Cash prizes of \$100 to \$1,000 are up for grabs to the winning teams. Entries are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28.

The Keeping it SAFE Coalition is a multi-agency, public-private coalition, whose main objective is to deter under-age alcohol use, reduce youth access to alcohol, and to reduce the effects of alcohol use in youth under the age of 21. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dlc/education/kis/coalition/ for more information and official contest rules.

Flu Prevention: The 2020 flu season has arrived and Maryland, like many states, is experiencing a widespread outbreak of the virus. We are asking students and staff to take some simple steps to keep themselves healthy, and help prevent the spread of the flu and other seasonal illnesses:

1. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months and older gets a flu vaccine.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. MCPS-approved hand sanitizer dispensers are available for use at various locations throughout the school (e.g. near the cafeteria or all-purpose room, near the main office)
3. When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth to minimize the chance for infection.
5. Stay home from work or school if symptoms develop such as fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, headache, and body aches.
6. If you have concerns about the health of your child, please contact your physician immediately or, in an emergency, dial 911.

Additional flu prevention information can be found at the following websites:

MCPS: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/index.aspx/

Centers for Disease Control: cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm

Montgomery County: montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html

Honoring Contributions to Special Education: Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to submit nominations to recognize individuals who have contributed to the success and acceptance of students with special needs. The recognitions are being given by the Special Education Committee of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc. (MCCPTA, Inc.).

Nominations are being accepted in four categories: Staff, Programs, Parents, and Students. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. Applications are due by Friday, March 22. Nominations can be submitted by e-mail attachment or in the body of an e-mail message to SpecialEd@mccpta.org. If you are unable to submit an electronic nomination, you may send a completed nomination form and a nominating statement, along with supporting statements, to the MCCPTA, Inc. office: Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc., P.O. Box 10754, Rockville, Maryland 20849.

The nomination form can be accessed at the following link: news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MCCPTA-2018-2019-Special-Education-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf

Application and Selection Process for Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs: If you are interested in having your child attend the Elementary Foreign Language Programs (Chinese, French, Spanish), the immersion lottery process application dates are from February 1st to April 24th. Parents may participate in the immersion lottery process using the Elementary Immersion Interest Form. The form and directions will be available on the Montgomery County Public Schools website at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx>, or at our school's main office, or by calling the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at 240-740-2540. Parents interested in participating in the immersion lottery must submit their requests online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciQJNaScA1TPWcpDUW8uI2qZYgRDNvXHTeCFUIOORDeXeJSA/viewform>. The deadline is April 24, 2020.

Student Transfer Application Season Scheduled from the First School Day in February 2020, Through the First School Day in April 2020

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—the first school day in February 2020, through the first school day in April 2020.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or assigned in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for a COSA from the home school, or the school of assignment through the IEP process, based on the following criteria:

- When a documented unique hardship is shown. Problems that are common to a large number of families do not constitute a unique hardship.
- When a family moves within Montgomery County, preference to remain in the original school will be considered to complete the current school year only, with the exception that Grade 11 and Grade 12 students may be permitted to stay through graduation.
- When a younger sibling seeks to attend the school where an older sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the younger sibling seeks to enroll. When an older sibling attends a magnet, language immersion, or other application program, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for younger sibling on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations, or other factors that impact the schools involved.

The criteria above regarding siblings does not apply if a boundary change has occurred.

The transfer process begins in the home school where parents/guardians may request the Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information Booklet that contains the COSA form, describes the process, and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2020, the COSA booklet will be available in schools and online at https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/info/transfers/ChangeOfSchoolAssignment_ENGLISH.pdf. The booklet will be available in English and translations in other languages. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet.

For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, 240-740-2540, or visit the website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice.

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents/guardians who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 301-309-MCPS (6277). Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.

Nominations Open for Annual Distinguished Service to Public Education Awards The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking nominations from the public for its 23rd Annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education. The awards are sponsored by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to individuals (including students), groups, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County.

Nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- business
- community individual (which can include students)
- community group
- MCPS staff
- school service volunteer
- individual pioneer

Nominations in other categories must be of individuals (including MCPS students), groups, or organizations that have, within the past three years, provided service, support, and commitment to public education as demonstrated by:

- an outstanding contribution of time and expertise to school system programs, development and/or implementation of an exemplary program or project, or
- a contribution that results in systemwide benefit.

Nomination forms are available on the Board of Education website or from the Board office. Completed nomination forms must be received in the Board of Education office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6. More information is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/.

Nominations for Presidential Awards Open to STEM Teachers

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the highest honors given by the U.S. government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. The awards were established by Congress in 1983.

The awards recognize teachers who have deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas. Since the program's inception, more than 4,800 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

Parents/guardians, students, or members of the general public may nominate exceptional individuals who teach science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science in Grades K-6 for this award year. Applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree and have at least five years of teaching experience. The nomination deadline is Sunday, March 1. The application deadline is Friday, May 1.

Winners receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation, along with recognition and professional development opportunities. For more information and to complete a nomination form, visit www.paemst.org/nomination/nominate.

Diamond Elementary Arts Program

February Newsletter

What is going on in **Ms. Brooks' Art** class during February?

Kindergarten – Students in Kindergarten will explore pattern painting and collage.

Grade 1 – Students will create collaged animals based on the book “What’s Your Favorite Animal”

Grade 2 – Students will create woven bookmarks.

Grade 3 – Students will illustrate an animal themed story through embroidery stitches.

Grade 4 – Students will finish and glaze their coil pot then begin a watercolor exploration unit.

Grade 5 - Will participate in the google doodle and place their landmark tiles on the wood for the mural.

What is going on in **Ms. Kazemzadeh's Art** class during February?

Kindergarten – Students will experiment with creating 3D objects.

Grade 1 – Students will learn about visual textures and develop a paper animal collage.

Grade 2 – Students will experiment with clay and create a pinch pot animal

Grade 3 – Students will discuss the significance of masks from various cultures and form their own mask out of clay.

Grade 4 – Students will learn clay hand building techniques and develop a coil pot.

Grade 5 - Students will pick a theme and design a drawing for it by incorporating various elements and principles of art.

What is going on in **Music** class during February?

Kindergarten students will sing within a limited vocal range and sing songs that use the voice in a variety of ways. Students will produce appropriate sounds in response to picture symbols representing long/short and high/low sounds. Students will maintain the steady beat on instruments and using locomotor and non-locomotor movements.

1st grade students will be working on reading simple rhythm and pitch patterns. Students will notate simple rhythm and pitch patterns, placing notes in spaces and on lines. Students will identify musical form that is the same or different (AB or ABA).

2nd grade Students will play a bordun or drone on barred instruments. Students will be working on reading simple rhythm and pitch patterns and musical symbols. Students will sing with proper breath support and posture.

3rd grade students will use music vocabulary to describe expressive qualities heard in music. Students will also read simple melodies and interpret music symbols to perform a song.

4th grade students will listen to and describe examples of music that represent musical styles and traditions from various historical periods and world cultures. Students will be working on notating a short rhythmic phrase from dictation using standard notation.

5th grade students will be working on identifying differences in two performances of the same selection of music. Students will also be notating a short melodic phrase from dictation using standard notation.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program February Newsletter

What is going on in **Physical Education** class during February?

Kindergarten students will be able to demonstrate gymnastics through different balances and weight transfers.

1st grade students will be able to demonstrate gymnastics through static and dynamic balances, weight transfers and sideways rolls.

2nd grade students will be able to demonstrate gymnastics through a tumbling sequence consisting of balances and weight transfers.

3rd grade students will be able to demonstrate gymnastics through a tumbling sequence consisting of balances, weight transfers, and rolls.

4th grade students will be able to demonstrate gymnastics through a tumbling sequence using balances, weight transfers and rolls.

5th grade students will be able to demonstrate gymnastics through a tumbling sequence using balances, weight transfers and rolls.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

WHEN SHOULD YOU KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME?

When your child is **sick**, keep him/her home from school. This not only benefits your child, but other children and staff at school.

WHAT ARE IMPORTANT SIGNS OF ILLNESS?

Some important signs of illness are:

- A temperature of more than 100.0 degrees. (If child has had a fever, he/she must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach Ache
- Diarrhea
- Pale or flushed face
- Headache
- Cough
- Ear ache
- Thick discharge from nose
- Sore throat
- Rash or infection of the skin
- Red or pink eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of energy or decrease in activity.


WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SIGNS?

If your child **has any of these symptoms** when it is time for school, it is best that he/she **stay home**. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your private source of medical care.

Children sometimes **use illness as an excuse to miss school**. On the other hand, some children force themselves to go to school even though they are sick. It is up to you to **be alert** to your child's health and to decide when it is best to send him/her to school.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL?

If your child complains **of being sick or does not look well** after he/she reaches school, we **will contact you**. Therefore, it is important that you provide **the school with up-to-date information** and **phone numbers** to call in case it is necessary to contact you.



Diamond Elementary Yearbooks



In conjunction with Classic Photography, Diamond Elementary School is offering yearbooks for the 2019-2020 school year.

Pre-orders began in December and will continue through April 15, 2020, with delivery expected on or about June 1, 2020.

Yearbooks cost \$23.00 each. We prefer online payments through the Online School Payments program that is on our school website. <https://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/BVModules/ProductTemplates/Bvc2013/Product.aspx?productid=BY178-536>. In addition, we accept checks made payable to "Diamond E.S." or cash payment (exact change only)

Diamond Elementary Yearbook 2020 order

Only return this tear-off form if you are submitting cash or check payment.

Student's Name: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Quantity: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

January, 2020

Dear Prospective Kindergarten Parents:

Are you planning to enroll your child in Kindergarten for next school year? In order to enter Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, your child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2020.

Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1, 2019. Please complete the form below and return it to the school office, or you can call the school and speak with Mrs. Donna Lentz to register your child for Kindergarten Orientation. After receipt of your registration request, and by the end of March, you will be notified that your registration packet is available for pick up.

If you have questions about the Kindergarten Orientation process and about Kindergarten in general please plan to attend one of our **Incoming Kindergarten Parent Coffee Tours for prospective parents at 9:45 a.m., on either February 19, March 6 or March 26, 2020**, in our all-purpose room. During this event, you will have an opportunity to hear information about kindergarten orientation, ask questions, and receive a tour of the school building. Please complete the online-form to RSVP your attendance at the Kindergarten Parent Coffee <https://forms.gle/th51rs7y6f5SWHJv5>, or call the main office at (240)-740-2120. This is an adult only meeting and child care will not be provided.

We would appreciate it if you would pass this information along to any friends or neighbors who may have children eligible to enter Kindergarten next fall. In addition, we look forward to meeting you and your incoming kindergarten child at the Kindergarten Orientation in May.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

Kindergarten Orientation and Parent Coffee Tour Registration

Legal Name of Child (first, middle and last): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender (Please circle): Male or Female

Parents/Guardians Names: _____

Address: _____

Cell Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Name of oldest child at Diamond ES, if any: _____

Number of parents attending Incoming Kindergarten Parent Coffee: ___02/19/20___ ___03/06/20___ ___03/26/20___