

DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
January 2020



Dear Diamond Families,

Happy New Year to all of our Diamond families and welcome back! We hope you had an enjoyable winter break filled with rest, relaxation, and plenty of memorable experiences with your family and friends. We have made many great accomplishments during 2019 at Diamond Elementary. As we begin a new year, we look forward to adding new accomplishments and achievements as we strive to make Diamond ES the best school we can be to ensure we provide each and every child with a wonderful and rigorous learning experience! I know that with your continued support, we can achieve this goal.

Please help your child to make good clothing choices for the cold weather. Layers are an excellent choice as the heat in our building is frequently varied from room to room. When the outside temperature is in the high 20s or above, we will have outdoor play at recess. Wind-chill is always taken into account when determining outdoor recess. Exercise and fresh air are important to engaged learning. Also, please have your child arrive at school before 9:25 a.m. so they will not be marked tardy. To be present in the classroom by 9:25 is important to beginning the day smoothly and establishing community in the classroom. We have been experiencing a higher number of tardy arrivals and we appreciate your support with making sure your child arrives on time.

Congratulations to **Ms. Alie Brooks**, Diamond ES Art Teacher who was recognized by the Maryland Art Education Association as the 2019 Elementary Novice Art Educator for MCPS for extraordinary dedication to student learning and advancing visual arts education. Way to go Ms. Brooks!

We have a lot of fun school events going in during the month of January including 3rd grade classes working with Author Mary Amato, PTA sponsored Finn-Go Night, First Grade Assembly with Eric Energy, and Kindergarten workshop on Reptiles.

On behalf of the Diamond ES staff, we would like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy 2020! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 240-740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

JANUARY CALENDAR

Thursday, January 2

Students return from Winter Break

Tuesday, January 7

PTA Meeting @ 6:30 PM in Media Center

Thursday, January 8

3rd Grade Writing Workshop with Author Mary Amato

Friday, January 10

PTA Sponsored Finn-Go Night- 7:00-8:00 PM

Monday, January 20

Holiday—Schools Closed

Tuesday, January 21

First Grade Assembly—Eric Energy

Friday, January 24

End of Second Marking Period
Early Dismissal—1:20 p.m.

Monday, January 27

No school for Students—
Professional Day for Teachers

Tuesday, January 28

Third Marking Period Begins
Kindergarten Workshop-
Reptiles Live

Thursday, January 30-31

Third Grade Mad Science in
School Field Trip

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

Update on Diamond ES Main Office Construction Project: Originally the new main office addition was projected to be ready by January 2nd, but due to some delays, we are expecting the new main office addition to be up and running by end of January. We will send out school information regarding when the new main office and new school main entrance will officially be open for school use.

Bar-T Families: Inclement Weather Policy Reminder: This information is shared from the BAR-T staff. If MCPS schools including Diamond Elementary School are closed, delayed, or dismissed early due to inclement weather, here's how you can find out Bar-T's status:

- Check your email... BAR-T will email you as soon as they know anything.
- Call your center land line phone after 6 AM for the opening status (recorded on the voice mail greeting message)
- Watch local TV stations for announcements from Bar-T
- Follow on our [Facebook page \(https://www.facebook.com/BarTKidsClub\)](https://www.facebook.com/BarTKidsClub)
- Check our [website](#) home page
- **UPDATED:** A text message can be sent to your phone. Just text "[@bartalerts](#)" to **81010** (or <https://www.remind.com/join/bartalerts>) to sign up. Standard text messaging rates apply.

As always, when in doubt, reach out to your BAR-T Director via email or telephone. All contact information is listed in the Parent Handbook ([click here to download the handbook](#)).

Reminder- End of Day Plan Policy- Changes to Dismissal Plans: Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated with the school at the beginning of the school year. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If there will be a variation in your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change in after-school care/activity or play-date with another child), your child must have a note addressed to the teacher explaining this particular change. A student who is going with another student on a different bus, cannot ride the bus unless he/she has a written note from his/her parent. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, you can call the main office to (240) 740-2120 prior to 3:15 p.m.

Visitors: All visitors must enter the building through the main entrance, stop at the main office to sign in, and wear a visitor's badge while in the school. For the safety and security of all individuals, we need to be aware of the presence and location of all visitors in the building. Any individuals without a visitor's badge will be asked to report to the main office. Please help us keep all students in our school safe by following this important procedure! We ask for your support in maximizing the instructional time for students.

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 above the mid twenties in 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.

Health Office Update: We want to keep the students and the school operating on a normal schedule and minimize any disruption to teaching and learning. You can help us in our efforts to prevent the spread of flu by:

- Knowing the symptoms of the flu. These include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired.
- Keeping children home from school if they are sick. Individuals who have been sick with the flu should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours. Any children or staff who are sick at school will be sent home.
- Reminding your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.
- Encouraging your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or utensils.
- Telling your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If they don't have a tissue, they should cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands.

For more information, on when to keep your child home, visit the Montgomery County government website at <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/elementary-schools/d-g/diamondes/uploadedfiles/about/when20to20keep20your20child20home20from20school.pdf> . In addition, you can visit the DES Health page at <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/elementary-schools/d-g/diamondes/uploadedfiles/about/des20health20room20information202019.pdf> or contact Mrs. Julie Mowdy, school nurse or Sandy Honour-Holloway, school health technician at 240-740-2122

MCPS Updates:

The Facts About the Boundary Analysis: Board of Education President Shebra L. Evans and Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith have sent a letter to the community to clarify misconceptions related to the MCPS Districtwide Boundary Analysis currently under way. To read the letter, visit montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2019-2020/boundary-analysis-update-20191211.html.

2020–2021 School Year Calendar: The Board of Education has adopted the school year calendar for the 2020–2021 school year. The traditional school year will begin on Monday, August 31, 2020, and the last day is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The calendar includes 182 days of instruction; a 10-day spring break; closures for planning and professional development; and an operational closure in September.

Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/proposed-calendar-2020-21.aspx to see the calendar for all closures and early release days. The calendar was developed to comply with closings required by state law, guidance from the state superintendent of schools regarding emergency make-up days, and early release days that are contractually required by the Montgomery County Education Association.

The Board also adopted an Innovative School Year for Arcola and Roscoe R. Nix elementary schools. School will begin on Monday, July 6, 2020, for these schools.

REMINDER: United We Learn Contest: The deadline is fast approaching for the fourth year of the United We Learn student contest. This year's Innovative Communication Challenge encourages students to think about how communication affects their daily lives and how technology can be used to enhance communication.

Middle and high school students are challenged to conceptualize an Amazon Alexa Skill (or series of skills) that shares information of importance about the school district, addresses communication barriers, strengthens the home-school connection and positively impacts the MCPS community. Alexa Skills use voice to access and share information.

Elementary school students are challenged to design a webpage that shares information of importance about their school, addresses communication barriers, strengthens the home-school connection, and positively impacts the MCPS community.

The contest will take place in two phases, with the winning proposals moving on to the second phase. Second-phase participants will have the opportunity for hands-on learning as the Alexa skills and webpages are developed. MCPS will publish the winning Alexa Skill(s). Winning webpage(s) will be published to the students' schools' websites.

Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 20. To learn more about the contest, visit montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

Be Safe, Be Seen Campaign Emphasizes Pedestrian Safety: MCPS is joining safety and transportation officials throughout the region to encourage everyone to exercise caution as they go to and from schools, especially during the darker hours early in the morning and in the early evening. The district has launched a Be Safe, Be Seen campaign and created Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to raise awareness around pedestrian safety.

Shorter daylight hours in fall and winter typically lead to a spike in crashes involving pedestrians. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2015, 74 percent of pedestrian fatalities nationwide occurred during the dark, dusk-till-dawn hours, with one in four occurring between the hours of 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Other pedestrian safety resources include: [MCPS Safe Routes to Schools](#), a program that works to significantly improve safety for students who walk and bike to school, and [BeStreetSmart.net](#), a public safety campaign of Metro, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

The Be Safe, Be Seen PSAs can be seen [here](#). The Spanish versions are available [here](#).

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 due to inclement weather.

- **AlertMCPS:** Receive text messages or emails from MCPS 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 at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx>
- **MCPS homepage:** www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
- **QuickNotes email news service:** Subscribe at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/subscribe/>
- **MCPS cable channel:** Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RCN 89
- **Recorded information (English and Spanish):** 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:** <http://twitter.com/mcps>
- **Local radio and TV stations:** Visit <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/> for more information.
- **TV and Radio: Local Stations.** Tune in to local TV and radio stations for information. **Email: QuickNotes: Weather-related messages are sent in 6 languages (English, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese).**

Closure of schools

When schools are closed, all school and community activities are canceled, including athletic practices and events. Private day care providers in schools may elect to stay open if the administrative offices are open. In extreme conditions, the administrative offices may be closed.

Delayed opening

If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 5:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). Schools may open two hours late, and all operations, including bus transportation, are delayed by two hours from the regular schedule. Full-day kindergarten will follow the regular education school schedule.

Morning Head Start and morning prekindergarten are canceled. Field trips and other activities and programs that begin at 10:30 or earlier are canceled. Students can begin to arrive at Diamond ES on delayed openings at 11:00 a.m. Buses will arrive for pick-up two hours later than usual pickup.

Early dismissal

If schools are closing early, the announcements are made by 11:00 a.m. Schools may be closed 2.5 hours early, and all operations affecting dismissal of students, including bus transportation, will be activated 2.5 hours earlier than the regular school closing time. Early dismissal at Diamond Elementary School is 1:20 p.m.

Students in morning Head Start and morning prekindergarten will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. Midday Head Start and afternoon prekindergarten are canceled. School and community activities for the afternoon and evening are canceled.

After-school and weekend activities

Go to [Montgomery County web site](#) for information about cancellation of after-school or weekend activities

Montgomery County Winter Safety Tips: Stay safe sledding this winter with these tips. Please discuss these tips with your children:

Don't go sledding alone. Use the buddy system or go with an adult.

Never sled down a hill headfirst. Sit upright and face forward to avoid a head injury.

Make sure the hill is safe and does not include a street, pond, trees or other dangerous obstacles.

For more information on emergency preparedness visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs or if you do not have access to a computer, contact 311 or 240-777-0311.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program

January Newsletter

What is going on in **Art** class during January?

For Ms. Kazemzadeh's Art class:

Kindergarten will get hands on with clay to form a pinch pot, which will then be painted with watercolors.

1st Grade will first sketch a fish and then form it out of clay which will then be painted with watercolors.

2nd Grade will observe and identify proportions and draw a self-portrait.

3rd Grade will continue working on their paper collage artwork by adding details and embellishments

4th Grade will learn different sewing methods to sew together an animal plushie.

5th Grade will create a mixed media winter landscape collage.

For Ms. Brooks's Art Class:

Kindergarten will be Creating a winter landscape using collage techniques.

1st grade will be creating a cityscape using multi-media techniques.

2nd grade will be learning to weave on a loom.

3rd grade will be finishing their house of cards collaborative sculpture.

4th grade will be creating clay coil/bubble bowls.

5th grade will be completing their clay tiles for the collaborative landmark mural.

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

Kindergarten students will use ideas from a song, book or poem to inspire musical improvisations. They will identify musical elements and read iconic notation to perform rhythms. Students will sing within a limited vocal range and explore steady beat through playing classroom instruments. Students will respond to beat through locomotor and non-locomotor movement.

1st grade students will use ideas from a song, book or poem to inspire musical improvisations and present them. Students will compare musical sounds: fast/slow, loud/soft, long/short, high/low. Students will perform steady beat on classroom instruments. Students will read simple rhythm and pitch patterns.

2nd grade students will use ideas from a song, book or poem to inspire, develop and present musical improvisations. Students will demonstrate proper playing technique for classroom instruments and perform a bourdon to accompany a given melody. Students will read and perform simple rhythms and melodies.

3rd grade students will identify meter in a written musical example. Students will sing songs of varied repertoire including 2 part rounds and read music using the pentatonic scale with pitches of low so and low la.

4th grade students will be working on singing with expressive qualities using various dynamics and tempi. Students will sight read music using solfege, and perform singing games, songs and dances from various cultures.

5th grade students will be working on identifying musical form, identifying major and minor modes, and perform music of world cultures. Students will sing partner songs and descants with clear diction and expression.

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

Kindergarten students will be able to identify that the heart beats fast when performing moderate to vigorous physical activity.

1st grade students will be able to identify how the heart, lungs, and skin react during and after moderate to vigorous physical activity (e.g., heart beats fast, deeper breathing, and skin sweats).

2nd grade students will be able to explain why the heart, lungs, and skin are affected during and after moderate to vigorous physical activity (e.g., heart beats faster to pump blood with oxygen to the muscles, lungs breathe deeper to provide more oxygen throughout the body, and the skin sweats to cool the body).

3rd grade students will be able to demonstrate the forearm pass (bump).

4th grade students will be able to demonstrate the overhead pass (set).

5th grade students will be able to demonstrate the underhand serve.