Dear Garrett Park families,

We hope you find this email version user-friendly and beneficial for staying informed and planning for upcoming school events. If there is information you would like us to share in upcoming editions, please let us know. You can either call the school at 240-740-0700 or email Dan at [Daniel\_K\_Tucci@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_K_Tucci@mcpsmd.org) or Melanie at [Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Melanie_S_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org)

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

Happy 2020 to the entire GPES community! It is hard to believe we are coming close to the end of the second marking period already. This also means that we can anticipate some winter weather coming our way. Are you ready for the impact and changes to the schedules? Here is some school information that can help…

Regular school hours are 9:25am – 3:50pm. Students may not enter the building until 9:05am. When there is a 2-hour delay, students may enter the building at 11:05am and school hours are 11:25am – 3:50pm.  In case of an early dismissal due to weather, please pay close attention to the MCPS announcements.  The dismissal time will be adjusted according to the announced closure (two and a half hours early = 1:20pm). If you have any questions, please call the main office. Also, make sure to notify your child’s teacher and the main office of any dismissal changes as they occur. Buses run according to the adjusted hours.  Please see the links below for information on weather-related school closings: [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/closings/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_emergency_closings_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=KvQ0f6b1Pr3w6t6VmwJo_bDQjpJeM6IkZXv3Kl7w850&e=)

There are exciting events happening for the school community. We had a great turnout for the PTA sponsored movie night on Friday. We hope you enjoyed the show and thank you for supporting the 5th grade promotion by attending! The GPES Education Foundation is once again sponsoring the Family Sweetheart Dance on Feb. 7 from 7-9. The flyer is attached for you.

Also, Walter Johnson High School invites you all to their Winter Carnival on February 1st! They will be having lots of fun games and events including a bounce maze, cupcake wars, carnival games for prizes, and an all hands on the van where the last to leave wins a big prize. This event is perfect for all families- they’ll have all these fun games, plenty of food, and their amazing WJ community. All of the events in February raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through their Pennies for Patients event, and the Winter Carnival is the kick off to this fun filled month. This is from 2 to 7 on February 1st in WJ’s cafeteria!

**Safety and Security:**

It is cold and flu season.  When your child is sick and needs to stay home, please call and leave a message on the attendance line 240-740-0701.

Please use the attached guide from the MC Department of Health and Human Services as a resource to understanding when your child should stay home due to illness.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/School%20Health/FS-25%20When%20To%20Keep%20Your%20Child%20Home%20From%20School%20ES.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomerycountymd.gov_HHS-2DProgram_Resources_Files_School-2520Health_FS-2D25-2520When-2520To-2520Keep-2520Your-2520Child-2520Home-2520From-2520School-2520ES.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=O8hfxQ9DyrZ8Q0XRLy1VvpQ-pd_Cx93ZBP3AhHzKaG8&e=)

**Important Dates:**

* **Jan. 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day                                         No school**
* **Jan. 24: Early Release**  **1:20 pm dismissal**
* **Jan. 27: No School for students**
* **Feb. 4:  PTA Meeting                                                                  6:30 pm in Media Center**
* **Feb. 7:  5th Grade Family Life Parent Info. Mtg                        8:30 am in Rm. C-270**

**Family Sweetheart Dance - APR                                   7-9pm**

**MCPS Updates:**

The George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. Saturday School will be starting **CODING** classes at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington, MD on Saturday January 25th and the **STEM Curiosity Academy** at Northwest, Wheaton, Magruder and Rockville High Schools on February 1!  All Elementary School students in grades 3-5 are invited to attend.

**STEM** **Curiosity Academy** will be focusing on various aspects of engineering and our **CODING** Program will teach computer programming skills through activities using multiple CODING platforms. Both of these activities are perfect for students that are interested in critical thinking and problem solving.

For more information please visit the website at [www.saturdayschool.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.saturdayschool.org_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=KfL5RHq59bpOEM-rb0HusRFv-iL1eLnaQgNN7BSwDnQ&e=) to register or find out additional information about The George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. Saturday School.  You may also call the office at 301-287-8980.

**Districtwide Boundary Analysis Meetings (English and Spanish)**

Several meetings will be held around the county in December and January for members of the community to participate in conversations about the Districtwide Boundary Analysis.

The MCPS Districtwide Boundary Analysis is an initiative designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of Montgomery County Public Schools’ boundaries by analyzing factors such as:

* School facility utilization and capacity
* Student demographics
* School assignment
* Travel patterns

This initiative will result in an analytical assessment and a summary of the community engagement process. It will not make recommendations on potential boundary revisions.

The meetings will follow the same program. The meeting will feature brief presentations that share basic information about the issues to be discussed during the boundary analysis and, after each presentation, there will be an opportunity to provide feedback during facilitated table discussions. Each participant will also be given an opportunity to share written comments and questions, which will be collected and tallied

The meeting dates are as follows:

* Saturday, January 11, 2020, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, Maryland
* Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, Maryland

To learn more and RSVP visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_publicinfo_boundary-2Danalysis_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=7baM7S2sQZsU0ukJH3RVzazUnEkHauS_w1cC4xeAAPg&e=).

**Reuniones sobre el Analisis de Límites Geograficos para Todo el Distrito Escolar**

Habra varias reuniones en todo el condado en diciembre y enero para que los miembros de la comunidad participen en conversaciones sobre el Analisis de Límites Geograficos para Todo el Distrito Escolar.

El Analisis de Limites Geograficos de MCPS para Todo el Distrito Escolar es una iniciativa disenada para proveer una evaluacion integral de los limites geograficos de Montgomery County Public Schools, analizando factores tales como:

* Utilizacion y capacidad de instalaciones escolares
* Datos demograficos estudiantiles
* Asignacion escolar
* Patrones de Viaje

Esta iniciativa resultara en una evaluacion analítica y un resumen del proceso de participacion de la comunidad. No hara recomendaciones sobre posibles revisiones a los límites geograficos.

Las reuniones seguiran el mismo programa. La reunion destacara presentaciones breves en las que se compartira información basica sobre los asuntos de discusion durante el analisis de los limites geograficos y, despues de cada presentacion, se facilitara la oportunidad de proveer comentarios/sugerencias durante conversaciones de mesa. Cada participante tambien tendra la oportunidad de compartir comentarios y preguntas por escrito, los cuales seran recolectados y contados.Las fechas de las reuniones son las siguientes:

* Sabado 11 de enero, 2020, 10:00 a.m. a 12 del mediodia,  
  Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, Maryland
* Martes, 14 de enero, 2020, 7:00 a 9:00 p.m.,  
  Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, Maryland

Para conocer mas sobre el tema y confirmar su asistencia, visite [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.  
org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_publicinfo_boundary-2Danalysis_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=ghugRd5gEhcNiWrZo2UKV7PQm2LKMFhG89oqUCDFS50&e=).

**Superintendent Smith Recommends $2.8 Billion Operating Budget (English and Spanish)**  
Superintendent Jack R. Smith is recommending a $2.8 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 that will allow the district to manage significant growth and ensure that students have the access and opportunity they need to meet their full potential. The recommended operating budget for FY 2021 is a $121 million (4.5 percent) increase over FY 2020. Most of the recommended spending increase will be used to provide services to a growing number of students; fund ongoing salaries and benefits; and manage increasing operational costs.

The recommendation also includes $23.7 million to expand and implement strategic key bodies of work including expansion of Head Start and full-day prekindergarten programs; increasing exposure to language opportunities; and increasing investment in support for English Language Learners.

The process and timeline for the FY 2021 operating budget is:

* Mid-December 2019 through early January 2019: Signups for operating budget hearings
* January 13 and January 15, 2020: Board of Education holds operating budget hearings
* January 22 and January 28, 2020: Board of Education holds operating budget work sessions
* February 10, 2020: Board takes action on the recommended budget

Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_budget_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=Nvt0R_YxmG4ePjp2vnBzUHhYPPwp2ten2XneNsSrbGs&e=) for more information.

**Superintendente Smith Recomienda un Presupuesto Operativo de $2.8 Mil Millones**

El superintendente Jack Smith recomienda un presupuesto operativo de $ 2.8 mil millones para el ano fiscal (FY, por sus siglas en ingles) 2021 que permitira al distrito administrar un crecimiento significativo y garantizar que los estudiantes tengan el acceso y la oportunidad que necesitan para alcanzar su maximo potencial. El presupuesto operativo recomendado para el ano fiscal 2021 representa un aumento de $121 millones (4.5 por ciento) sobre el ano fiscal 2020. La mayor parte del aumento de gastos recomendado se utilizara para proporcionar servicios a un numero creciente de estudiantes; financiar salarios y beneficios continuos; y gestionar el aumento de los costos operativos.

La recomendacion tambien incluye $23.7 millones para expandir e implementar grupos clave de trabajo estrategico, incluyendo la expansion de Head Start y los programas de prekindergarten de dia completo; incrementar la exposicion a oportunidades de lenguaje; y aumentar la inversion en apoyo a los Estudiantes del Idioma Ingles

El proceso y el cronograma para el presupuesto operativo del ano fiscal 2021 es:

* Mediados de diciembre de 2019 hasta principios de enero de 2019: Inscripciones para audiencias sobre el presupuesto operativo
* 13 y 15 de enero de 2020: Consejo de Educacion lleva a cabo audiencias sobre el presupuesto operativo
* 22 y 28 de enero de 2020: Consejo de Educacion lleva a cabo sesiones de trabajo del presupuesto operativo
* 10 de febrero de 2020: Consejo toma medidas sobre el presupuesto recomendado

Por favor visite [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_budget_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=UTN26lMbDttxuEKANsavA4p_7hw33r-u-VMYmpyrxFA&e=) para mas informacion.

**Don’t Miss Upcoming Meetings on Districtwide Boundary Analysis (English and Spanish)**

Members of the community are encouraged to participate in upcoming Boundary Analysis meetings. The meetings will be held:

* Saturday, January 11, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, Maryland
* Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, Maryland
* The purpose of the meeting is for community members to learn more about the districtwide boundary analysis directly from the firm conducting the work and share feedback that will inform the analysis going forward. Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_publicinfo_boundary-2Danalysis_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=ghugRd5gEhcNiWrZo2UKV7PQm2LKMFhG89oqUCDFS50&e=) for more information on the boundary analysis.

**No se pierda las proximas reuniones sobre Analisis de limites geograficos en todo el distrito**

Se alienta a los miembros de la comunidad a participar en las proximas reuniones de analisis de limites. Las reuniones publicas se llevaran a cabo:

* Sabado, 11 de enero, 2020, 10 a.m. a 12:00 p.m., Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, Maryland
* Martes, 14 de enero, 2020, 7:00 a 9:00 p.m., Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, Maryland.
* El proposito de la reunion es que los miembros de la comunidad aprendan mas sobre el analisis de limites en todo el distrito directamente de la empresa que realiza el trabajo y compartan comentarios que informaran el analisis en el futuro. Visite

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familycommunity/parents/advisorycouncil.asp](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_publicinfo_boundary-2Danalysis_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=ghugRd5gEhcNiWrZo2UKV7PQm2LKMFhG89oqUCDFS50&e=) para mayor informacion sobre PAC y sus miembros.

**2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Tribute Set for January 20**

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Tribute and Celebration will be held from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 20 at the Music Center at Strathmore.

The event will celebrate Dr. King’s life through presentations, music, and theatrical performances. A visual arts exhibit prepared by MCPS students interpreting “Children of the Dream” will be displayed. There will be performances by Dem Raider Boyz Step Squad, the Akhmedova Ballet Academy, Kevin Dukes, and a special performance by Ronnie Diamond Hoard – former lead singer of the Ohio Players. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and the Vast Expressions of Song Ensemble will be performing and lead by local artists Vohn Higgonbotham.

This family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Tickets are available the day of the celebration only on Monday, January 20 in the Music Center foyer beginning at 3:00 p.m. Seating is general admission and one ticket will be distributed per person. Seating will begin at 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit the [Strathmore website](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.strathmore.org_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=hd5XWBH4HNpUnGtvhaKHazrAlHx0v80OKAY09LpO5lQ&e=) or the [Montgomery County Office of Human Rights website](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomerycountymd.gov_humanrights_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=O2EHjCjIVs6y3bR-DHQkNTENkeA8IeKT690lb3L_H4E&e=). The Music Center at Strathmore is located at 5301 Tuckerman Lane in North Bethesda.

**Science Night Coming January 21 (English and Spanish)**

MCPS and the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) are hosting a Science Night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, at Gaithersburg High School. The snow date is Tuesday, January 28. At the event, parents/guardians will hear from MCPS teachers about science standards and what they can expect their children to learn in class. Sessions are targeted to parents/guardians with students in elementary and middle school.

**El 21 de enero es la Noche de Ciencias**

MCPS y el Consejo de PTA del Condado de Montgomery (MCCPTA, por sus siglas en ingles) estan organizando una Noche de Ciencias de 6:30 a 8: 30 p.m. el martes, 21 de enero en Gaithersburg High School. La fecha alternativa en caso de nieve es el 28 de enero. En el evento, los padres escucharan a los maestros de MCPS hablar sobre los estandares de ciencias y lo que pueden esperar que sus hijos/as aprendan en clase. Las sesiones estan dirigidas a padres con estudiantes de escuela elemental y escuela intermedia.

**Councilmember Rice to Host Forums on the State of Education in Montgomery County**

Montgomery County residents are invited to participate in two upcoming meetings on the state of education in Montgomery County. The forums, hosted by councilmember Craig Rice, will provide an opportunity for community members to learn about academic readiness, career pathways, and work-based learning opportunities that take our students from prekindergarten to jobs. The meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 28 at the Montgomery College Germantown campus and Wednesday, March 4 at Northwood High School. Dr. Smith, Montgomery College President Dr. DeRionne Pollard, and Dr. Stewart Edelstein, executive director of the Universities of Shady Grove, will participate in the conversation.

Thank you,

Dan Tucci

**File attachments:**  
[GPESEF Valentine Flyer ALL families.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__connectdocs.blackboard.com_xythoswfs_webui_-5Fxy-2D1246701-5F1-2Dt-5FACqIXtEH&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=8lPDACDOFqgm6auA2S1g5IJOuIRxZHEBn1e4aHErVEk&m=vheVymXD-A8lZillrLpzFF-0-ss6066gwyOx43p-7Ks&s=nhOWu3Xk0OP4qTIk1SKhSUIdlxiI1vl1ooOEb3p6iLg&e=)