Dear Garrett Park Families,

Please find our school updates contained in the message below. 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 or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

Wow, it is hard to believe we are already winding down the 3rd marking period of school and we have completed our spring break! This marking period ends on April 9th which happens to be an early release day for students as well. March was such a busy time for teachers, students and the community, but we were able to come together in ways that show how amazing and rich our diversity and talents are at Garrett Park. I have so many people to thank for coordinating International Night! It was great to see hundreds of you out learning about the plethora of different cultures represented by our families in the community. As always, the food was delicious in each room and the displays were incredible! Also, Joe Smith and his production team put on an incredible show, Beauty and the Beast. The students shined in their performances and it came together beautifully. Thank you to all participating staff and students for all your hard work and thrilling us with an amazing show!

A reminder there is no school for current Kindergarteners on April 18, 19, and 20th due to Kindergarten Orientation! If you have a sibling/child you need to register please visit our website to get signed up. [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/garrettparkes/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_schools_garrettparkes_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=SSaZwMP1SZrHzDipqYWG6Ak8HUNNn0LevBPsGnwnbR4&s=ufC4dkpoTM7dTTYAeCXxGCnTI-PM7qKU9SOPvbfgWak&e=)

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Cathy FINK & MARCY MARXER - **Zoom a Little Zoom, A Ride Through Science**, this **Friday April 6**:

**Doors Open 7:15, Show starts 7:30** **IT’s** **FREE!!** **In the** **GPES APR…**

Join us for a special GPES concert by children’s music GRAMMY® Award winners, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. They will share the music from their latest recording "Zoom A Little Zoom! A Ride Through Science”. With songs like  “Constellation Jig”, “Why Does the Sun Shine?” and “What Makes the Lightning?” the science will sneak in as these veteran performers engage and entertain the kids. An activity guide written for the CD by Lynn Baum, former head of School Programs at the Boston Museum of Science, is [available for free download](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.cathymarcy.com_zoom_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=U0L9UJKJpMyl2uRFSvwdeUSSH1xKxjwMwd1QhglWCXk&s=vdDy10eKGX1XzvamszW1tfzzESHpm3C8FffNyjSVr70&e=) – perfect if you need an idea for the science fair!

Cathy and Marcy are trailblazers in children’s and family music, their relationship with family audiences spans over 30 years of live performances. They play dozens of instruments from banjo to mandolin to rockin’ electric guitar, steel drum and ukulele. You may know them as artistic directors of Strathmore’s annual Ukefest. Two GRAMMY® Awards (and 14 nominations), Parents’ Choice Awards, American Library Association Awards, and more all attest to the superb quality of their body of work.

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Baking soda volcanoes! Dinosaur dioramas! The 2018 Science Fair will be Thursday, **April 19th from 7-9pm**.  Students in **grades K-4** are invited to make projects either as individual or in groups of up to 4 kids. Some students do experiments and present their results. Others show what they have learned about a topic. Local scientists will interview the students. There is no judging, just fun!   Websites with project ideas include:

                                    [http://www.sciencebuddies.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.sciencebuddies.org_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=EEF5SI34D3_D-ft9b3-EDnpXYwoHJdSGSJIHOUwtBvo&s=tz6kS8-4cO0manyF3dnpxxoxItX9rhCjM-gbJleq33w&e=)

                                    [https://www.education.com/science-fair/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.education.com_science-2Dfair_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=EEF5SI34D3_D-ft9b3-EDnpXYwoHJdSGSJIHOUwtBvo&s=2RNphTebO93LAyknKsv9DbbVRruR8fNyidH5vrgUnzc&e=)

Please use the link below to register your project. For group projects, please be sure that only one person fills out the form and lists the names of all students.

                                              [**SIGN UP**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.signupgenius.com_go_409044EACA72FA2FA7-2D20171&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=EEF5SI34D3_D-ft9b3-EDnpXYwoHJdSGSJIHOUwtBvo&s=xv66AR3vokzLp0mej2mzsE0dEDqI1Vn1W_aIpfmp43Y&e=)

**Rules**

The project must stand on a tabletop. No fires or flames.  No animals alive or dead.  No harmful microorganisms.  No body fluids. No harmful chemicals (such as bleach or lye), organic solvents, or dry ice. No electrical outlets can be used.

**Logo Contest**

If your student would like to enter the logo contest, please print the document found [HERE](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.gpesef.org_SciFairLogo2018.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=EEF5SI34D3_D-ft9b3-EDnpXYwoHJdSGSJIHOUwtBvo&s=c-RSKK-2kHCzyezKqaL6beTdTbDv7nX0KYT02gg9-0Y&e=).  We are trying to reduce paper waste by not distributing one to every child.  Logo submissions should be returned to your student’s teacher.

**Teaching and Learning:**

Enriched and Accelerated Courses in Selected Middle Schools

As part of the middle school magnet field test, every fifth grader in the Takoma Park and Eastern middle schools magnet programs catchment area was centrally reviewed for potential to access enriched and accelerated instruction.  The following middle schools are part of the catchment:  Benjamin Banneker, Briggs Chaney, William H. Farquhar, Robert Frost, Herbert Hoover, Cabin John, Francis Scott Key, Col. E. Brooke Lee, Newport Mill, Rosa Parks, North Bethesda, Thomas W. Pyle, Silver Creek, Silver Spring International, Sligo, Tilden, Julius West, Westland, Earle B. Wood, White Oak, and the Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) schools: Arygle, A. Mario Loiederman, and Parkland.

Based on the results of the central review process, significantly more students surfaced demonstrating the potential to thrive with enriched and accelerated instruction. While some students were invited to attend the magnet, based on the data, many more demonstrated an instructional need for enriched and accelerated instruction.   In order to address the increased need, new enriched and accelerated courses modeled after the instructional approaches and curriculum implemented in the Humanities and Communications and Math, Science, and Computer Science magnet programs are being implemented at local middle schools.

Course offerings will begin with the 2018–2019 school year and include mathematics and humanities.    Decisions regarding the number of courses offered at each school will be monitored and finalized based on student enrollment and performance data.   All middle schools in the catchment area will implement one or both courses with the exception of the three MSMC schools.  MSMC schools are whole-school magnets with enrichment and acceleration opportunities embedded in the programs.    School staff in the field test catchment area will receive professional learning, consultation on master scheduling, and central services support.

Below you will find course descriptions:

Applied Investigations into Mathematics (IM) 6

This course is designed to extend students’ understanding of mathematical concepts aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards, accelerating the pace of instruction while diving deeper into concepts at an equal level of intensity. This is much more than an accelerated mathematics course as the program offers access to many academic competitions and the opportunity to conduct fieldwork.  Students work with an academic cohort to conduct independent inquiries using mathematics, computer science, and the scientific process to solve real-world problems.

Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities 6

This course is built around the core Grade 6 social studies curriculum that includes historical content from early civilizations, the empires of Greece and Rome, the dynasties of China, and civilizations of the first millennium. Cohort students will go beyond this core however as they learn additional content, explore deeper connections to today, engage in investigative inquiry to strengthen their writing through Document Based Questions, and enhance their learning through relevant literature connections.

Grade 5 students whose parents had opted them out of testing for the middle school magnet programs also are being considered for the enriched and accelerated courses.  Middle school principals are reviewing their incoming Grade 6 student data and notification of individual student placements will be sent to parents in early April.

For questions about programming, parents may contact Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, 240.740.3110.  After individual placement notifications occur in April, questions about course(s) availability, sections, and scheduling may be directed to your middle school principal.

**Safety and Security:**

**Some parents continue to drive swiftly through the busy intersections at the stop signs and into the carpool lane during arrival and dismissal. Please make sure to slow down for the safety of all children, including your own. Also, a reminder that our carpool is right side drop off only. If you need to step out of your car to get your child out, find a space to park in the main parking lot or legally in the neighborhood. This is for your family’s safety. Finally, thank you for allowing buses to have right of way as they enter and depart the school. They are moving several hundreds of students in and out each day and I appreciate your willingness to allow that to happen in a timely manner.**

**Important Dates:**

April 9                                   Early Release; Students Dismissed at 1:20 pm

Flyer Distribution #4

April 18                                 Kindergarten Orientation (9:30am-3:30pm)

April 19                                 Kindergarten Orientation (9:30am-3:30pm)

                                                Report Card Distribution

                                                PTA Science Fair (7:00pm-9:00 pm)

April 20                                 Kindergarten Orientation (9:30am-3:30pm)

**MCPS Updates:**

**Kindergarten Orientation Set to Begin April 3 (English and Spanish)**

The 2018 kindergarten orientation season kicks off on April 3. During orientation, parents and students will meet the school principal, kindergarten teachers and other staff members.

The sessions—[scheduled at every elementary school between April 3 and May 26](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_info_enroll_orientation.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=SSaZwMP1SZrHzDipqYWG6Ak8HUNNn0LevBPsGnwnbR4&s=Ei-qddXt7rB5HDX5Yi04-DYHBWXouP_5tLfJbSwFbC0&e=)—are for children who will be five years old by September 1, 2018, and their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians should call their home school to make an appointment to register for that school’s specific date(s). Parents/guardians who are not sure which elementary school serves their area should contact the Boundaries Office at 240-314-4700 or access the [School Assignment Locator](http://gis.mcpsmd.org/SchoolAssignmentTool2/Index.xhtml) on the MCPS website. For more information, contact the Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services, at 301-230-0676.

**Orientación de Kindergarten Programada para Comenzar el 3 de Abril**

La temporada de orientación de Kindergarten 2018 comienza el 3 de abril. Durante la orientación, los padres y los estudiantes conocerán al director/a de la escuela, a los maestros/as de Kindergarten, y demás personal escolar.

Las sesiones—[programadas en todas las escuelas elementales entre el 3 de abril y el 26 de mayo](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_info_enroll_orientation.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=SSaZwMP1SZrHzDipqYWG6Ak8HUNNn0LevBPsGnwnbR4&s=Ei-qddXt7rB5HDX5Yi04-DYHBWXouP_5tLfJbSwFbC0&e=)—son para niños que habrán cumplido cinco años de edad antes del 1ro. de septiembre, 2018, y para sus padres. Los padres/guardianes deberán llamar a su escuela local para programar una cita para inscribirse para la fecha de orientación específica para esa escuela. Los padres/guardianes que no estén seguros de qué escuela elemental corresponde a su área deben comunicarse con la Oficina de Límites Geográficos (Boundaries Office), llamando al 240-314-4700, o accediendo al [Localizador de Escuela Asignada (School Assignment Locator) en el sitio de Internet de MCPS.](http://gis.mcpsmd.org/SchoolAssignmentTool2/Index.xhtml) Para más información, comuníquese con la División de Programas y Servicios para Temprana Infancia (Division of Early Childhood Programs and  Services), teléfono 301-230-0676.

**MCCPTA Special Education Committee Awards (English and Spanish)**

The Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, Inc. (MCCPTA) is                     seeking nominations for its annual awards to honor educators, programs, parents, and                     students who foster acceptance and provide outstanding support to students with special               needs in MCPS. MCCPTA will present the awards at a special recognition ceremony                                  on May 14 at Rockville High School. Nomination forms are available online at: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/special-education/2016-2017-SpecialEducation-NominationForm.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_departments_special-2Deducation_2016-2D2017-2DSpecialEducation-2DNominationForm.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=SSaZwMP1SZrHzDipqYWG6Ak8HUNNn0LevBPsGnwnbR4&s=5QMUk6pWrsdIPiIpLEAxivZ6NitwsdPpCK1MzNKTTcc&e=). Nominations must be received by Friday, March 23.

**Premios del Comité de Educación Especial de MCCPTA**

El Concejo de Asociaciones de Padres y Maestros del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc.–MCCPTA) solicita nominaciones para sus premios anuales que rinden homenaje a educadores, programas, padres/guardianes y estudiantes que fomentan la aceptación y proveen apoyo excepcional a estudiantes de MCPS con necesidades. MCCPTA presentará los premios durante una ceremonia de reconocimiento especial que tendrá lugar el 14 de mayo en Rockville High School. Los formularios de nominación están disponibles en línea ingresando a: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/special-education/2016-2017-SpecialEducation-NominationForm.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_departments_special-2Deducation_2016-2D2017-2DSpecialEducation-2DNominationForm.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=SSaZwMP1SZrHzDipqYWG6Ak8HUNNn0LevBPsGnwnbR4&s=5QMUk6pWrsdIPiIpLEAxivZ6NitwsdPpCK1MzNKTTcc&e=). Las nominaciones deben ser recibidas a más tardar el viernes, 23 de marzo.

Have a great week!
Dan