GREAT SENECA CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Office of the Principal
August 9, 2021

Dear Bullfrog Parents,

I would like to welcome you back to an exciting year at The Creek. This letter provides information about many topics to help you prepare for the start of the school year. Those topics include:

- Back-to-School Resource Bank
- Breakfast and Lunch
- Find Out Your Teacher Night
- Kindergarten Orientation
- Open House
- Back to School Night
- PTA Back to School Picnic
- Northwest Football Cluster Night
- Staffing Changes at GSCES

I am very excited to welcome our new kindergarten students and newly enrolled students to Great Seneca Creek. I am also eagerly awaiting the return of all our Bullfrogs. Our focus continues to center on providing all students and their families a high-quality instructional program that prepares them to be career and college ready and prepared for the 21st century. Our students' success is built upon strong instruction, personal attention and the strong support of our PTA. We have the best PTA in MCPS. This year our PTA will be led by Mr. Michael Lacy. They are focused on continuing to provide our school with wonderful programs, events, and opportunities for all students to experience an amazing school year.

BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCE BANK

Once again, we will be using our Back-to-School Resource Bank (located on the school's website) which includes important information to help you and your family prepare for a successful start to the 2021-2022 school year. This resource provides information about the parent handbook, bus routes, supply lists, and the MCPS calendar. The Back-School Resource Bank can be found at: https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/greatsenecacreekes/parents/backtoschool/.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

For the 2021-22 school year, school breakfast and lunch will continue to be free for all students. Students who choose to eat breakfast will pick up breakfast from their classroom and eat in their classrooms.

FIND OUT YOUR TEACHER NIGHT

On Thursday, August 19, families are invited to join other families on the GSCES playground where they can pick up their child's postcard to find out their teacher for the year. The PTA has arranged for Kona Ice to be there for families to purchase a treat. This is a fun and simple way to kick off the year, find out your child's teacher, and talk to other Bullfrog families. The event will begin at 5:00 and run until 7:00. Any postcards not picked up that night will be put in the mail Friday and mailed to families.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

We will be holding Kindergarten Orientation for families and students on Tuesday, August 24. Families will be able to sign up for an hour block during the day where they will hear information about their child's kindergarten experience. Families and students will also be able to meet their child's kindergarten teacher. More information, including the sign-up link, will be shared with kindergarten families by the end of the week.

OPEN HOUSE

Our annual Open House will be held again this year on Thursday, August 26. In order to reduce the crowds in the building, we have created a schedule for when students should come to Open House. The schedule for Open House is as follows:

- 1:00 Kindergarten families only
    - Families that have a kindergarten student and an older sibling will be able to visit the older siblings' classroom(s) at 1:30, regardless of the first letter of their last name.
- 1:30 – Students whose last name begins with the letter A-L
- 2:15 – Building is cleared in preparation for the next group of families
- 2:30 – Students whose last name begins with the letter M-Z

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Families will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom to learn more about their child's school experience for the 2021-22 school year. The dates for Back to School Night are listed below:

- Wednesday, September 8 – grades 1-3
- Thursday, September 9 – grades 4-5

PTA sponsored BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

Our incredible PTA will again be sponsoring a Back to School Picnic for families and students on Friday, September 10 from 6:00-8:00. Food will be available for purchase, as well as fun and games for the kids. Makes plans to join us for this celebration of a successful start to the 2021-22 school year.

NORTHWEST FOOTBALL CLUSTER NIGHT

The Northwest cluster is bringing back this fun event for all the cluster elementary schools as a way to celebrate the elementary schools that feed into Northwest High School. On Friday, September 17, students are invited to attend the Northwest HS football game vs Gaithersburg HS. Students that wear their school spirit wear or school colors will get free admission, a coupon for concessions, a pom pom, and be recognized at half time. Kickoff is set for 7:00. Gates open at 6:30.

STAFFING CHANGES AT THE CREEK

We welcome several new staff members to our team, including some with new assignments. I want to first welcome Ms. Nadya Briggs to GSCES as our new assistant principal. Ms. Williams is moving into a role as a special education teacher after working as a 1st grade teacher. Ms. Lipsman will be teaching 1st grade after serving as a special education teacher. Joining her on the 1st grade team is Ms. Carneal, who is moving there from the 3rd grade team. Ms. Kenst is moving to 3rd grade, coming from 2nd grade. Those staff members new to Great Seneca Creek include:

Ms. Nady Briggs Assistant Principal	Ms. Caroline Brock Grade 2	Ms. Michelle Robinson Grade 4
Ms. Heather Zimmerman Special Education	Ms. Jennifer Neukam ESOL	Mr. Matthew Herson Part-time Art
Mr. Aaron Klauss Instrumental Music	Ms. Carol Eppard Paraeducator	Ms. Margaret Bell Paraeducator

Ms. Tracey Green SESES paraeducator	Mr. Rodrigo Hernandez SESES paraeducator	

GSCES GRADE LEVEL TEAMS

Kindergarten	Ms. Armstrong	Ms. Berney	Ms. Perry	Ms. O'Connor	Ms. Redman
1st Grade	Ms. Adelman	Ms. Carneal	Ms. Lipsman	Ms. Raleigh	Ms. Voiner
2nd Grade	Ms. Brock	Ms. Klineyoung	Ms. Montgomery	Ms. White	Ms. Woody
3rd Grade	Ms. Dell	Ms. Drehmer	Ms. Harrington	Ms. Kenst	
4th Grade	Ms. Carranza	Ms. Cooley	Ms. McGovern	Mr. Obendorfer	Ms. Robinson
5th Grade	Ms. Elkaim	Mr. Fidotta	Ms. Hall	Ms. Lynott	

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Open House on Thursday, August 26!

Sincerely,

Scott Curry
Principal
Scott_T_Curry@mcpsmd.org