

240-740-1420

November 1, 2018

Greencastle Gazette

It is hard to believe the first marking period is almost over! As the quarter winds down, this is a great time to talk to your child about his or her progress. Help your child reflect on what is off to a great start and what he or she may need to improve. Discuss a specific action step that your child can take to make the second quarter even better than the first.

On the same note, please be sure to sign up for a parent-teacher conference. The official MCPS conference days are Monday and Tuesday, November 12th and 13th. If you have not already done so, please contact your child's teacher to set up an appointment. The following link is a helpful resource to help parents prepare for having a successful conference:

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/community-engagement/Parent-Teacher%20Conference%20Guidelines-Standard\(1\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/community-engagement/Parent-Teacher%20Conference%20Guidelines-Standard(1).pdf)

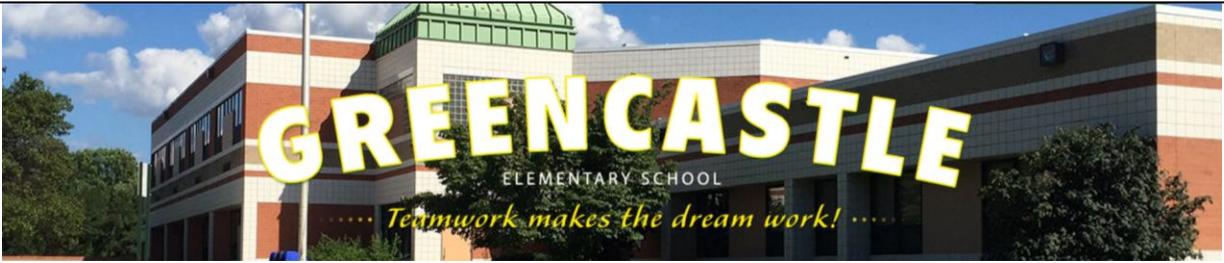
On Monday, November 12th, we will also hold a special day for students to bring a significant male role model to school with them. We know this takes many forms. For some students, this may be their dad, for others an uncle, an older brother, a grandfather, a coach, or any one of numerous possibilities. When a child has a significant male role model in his or her life, it leads to increased success, both academically and socially/emotionally. Be on the lookout for additional details coming soon about this special day!

November has four early release days on the 7th, 12th, 13th, and 21st. Dismissal is at 12:55 p.m. One day is for teachers to grade and plan, two are for the parent-teacher conferences, and one is the day before Thanksgiving. Please ensure your family plans ahead for this so students are not waiting to be picked up at school.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, this is a great time to reflect on what we are thankful for. Here at Greencastle, we are all thankful to have the opportunity to work with such amazing students. We are grateful that our community has entrusted us and we strive to make a difference for everyone who enters this building. Thank YOU for all you do at home to support the students' education.

CROSSWALK SAFETY

For those who walk home from school, please be sure to utilize the crosswalk. We have a wonderful crossing guard there to ensure everyone's safety. Crossing further up Robey Road is dangerous for our students and families. Please take the extra minute to go to the crosswalk so we can keep everyone safe.



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MCPS PARENT PORTAL

As you know, MCPS has instituted a new parent portal. On this site, you can view your child's schedule, mid-quarter progress reports, marking period grades, and also keep track of attendance.

Beginning in marking period 2, grade views in the parent portal will update more frequently for students in grades three, four, and five.

- Grades for students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 will update every weekend for parents. In addition, a view of assignments that have contributed to grades will be available for parents.
- Grades for students in Grades K, 1, and 2 will update at the same frequency as last year. Parents will see a progress report at the mid-quarter time and will see marking period grades. No assignment grades will be shown at this time, only summary grades.

Please visit <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/> for an overview of the Parent Portal. If you scroll about halfway down the page, there is a brief video on the right-hand side that outlines some of the features.

The Parent Portal can be accessed here: <https://portal.mcpsmd.org/>. If you have not already created an account, you will need the access ID and password information that MCPS mailed home earlier in the school year. If you need this information again, please contact the main office.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING FRAMEWORK

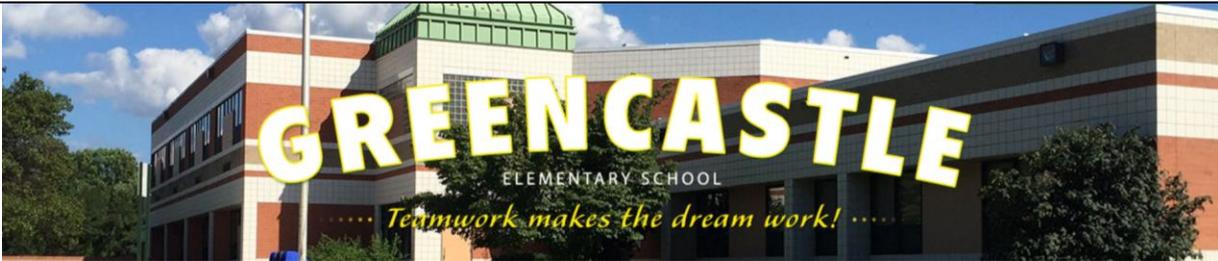
MCPS has developed the Evidence of Learning (EOL) framework to help us answer the critical questions:

- Are our children learning?
- Are they learning enough?
- How do we know?
- *If not, why not?*
- *What are we going to do about it?*

The EOL includes multiple measures in classroom, district, and external measures that assess student learning. The goal is for every student to achieve at least two of the three measurement categories.

Additional information and parent guides to the EOL can be found here:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/evidence-of-learning-framework/>



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FARMS FORMS

If your family has a need for your child(ren) to receive Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS), please be sure to fill out the application if you have not already done so. The application can be accessed online at: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>. There are also paper copies of the form available in the main office. Ms. LeBlanc and Ms. Bader are available to support if you need assistance in completing them. Part of our funding as a focus school is based on the percentage of our students who qualify for FARMS, so please be sure to fill this out if you have not already submitted it!

COUNSELING CORNER

October was Mental Health Awareness Month. Your students participated in age appropriate mental health lessons. Students learned what mental health is, how to know if they need help, and coping skills to keep themselves healthy. Remember that Greencastle's counselors, Mrs. Brock and Mrs. Dommu, are here to support all students!

November will be dedicated to Personal Body Safety. Counselors will be teaching lessons to students about how to protect themselves from child abuse. Your student(s) should have already brought home a letter with information about these lessons. As always, feel free to contact Mrs. Brock or Mrs. Dommu for more information.

WHAT'S GOOD, MCPS

MCPS has created a new webpage to celebrate the good news about the district's great students, staff, and schools. [What's Good, MCPS](#) stories are collected from social media, MCPS community and staff newsletters, local media, and more. You can also join in the conversation and tell us about the great things you are seeing in MCPS by using the hashtag #WhatsGoodMCPS on social media or by submitting the following form when you hear about other good news:

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyax02sFuOLtrFkdSzBmH7JLPfY-HIST3uE1p_FyWvgWSjA/viewform.

The webpage will be updated regularly so check back frequently.

MCPS NEEDS YOUR INPUT TO HELP PREPARE THE OPERATING BUDGET

MCPS is seeking specific input on areas the school district should prioritize in the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020. Tell us which strategies, programs or efforts are working or are not working to help improve outcomes for all students.

Please complete a brief [survey](#) to provide your feedback. MCPS will use the information it receives from this survey to help guide the development of the budget.



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2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

MCPS is developing the school calendar for the 2019–2020 school year. The Board of Education held a discussion at its business meeting on October 9, 2018, about the process, options, and challenges for developing the calendar and is considering two potential calendar scenarios.

As the district develops a calendar, it must start with several requirements from the state:

- September 4–June 15: the permissible time frame for instruction
- 180: the minimum number of instructional days required
- 15: the number of state-mandated days that schools must be closed
- 3: the number of snow make-up days required at the end of the year (before June 14)

For a more detailed explanation of the process, visit the [2019–2020 calendar webpage](#). The scenarios are posted on the website for public information and review. If you would like to offer comment on the calendar, please do so using the drop box provided on the calendar information [webpage](#).

The Board will hold a final discussion and adopt a final calendar later this fall. You can stay engaged and informed in this process by visiting the [Calendar webpage](#).

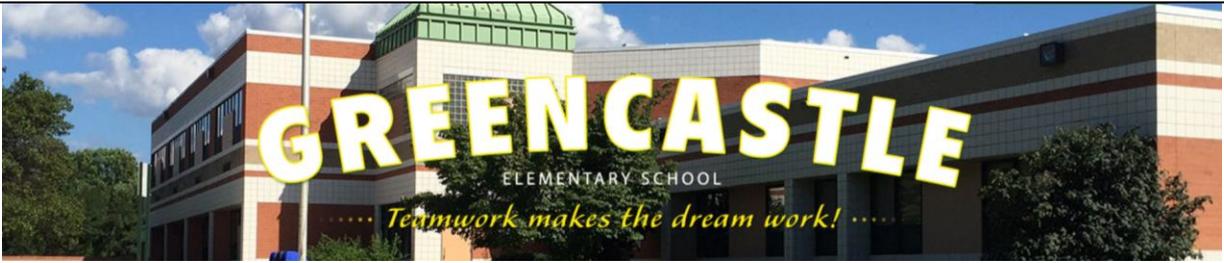
NEW ANONYMOUS TIP LINE AVAILABLE

The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is an anonymous reporting system used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of students.

Students, parents/guardians, faculty, staff, and members of communities throughout Maryland may use this anonymous, app- and web-based reporting system to share their concerns, such as:

- Mental health crises
- Bullying
- School and community violence
- Drug activity
- Abuse and harassment
- Other issues affecting our Maryland students

The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is a tool for proactively addressing harmful situations and helping students who need it. By using a variety of communication modes to support the reporting and routing of tips, The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line empowers the citizens of Maryland to create a culture of preparedness, prevention, and school safety for our students. For more information, to share a concern and to download the app, visit safeschoolsmd.org/.



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2018 SCHOOL-BASED SEASONAL FLU CLINICS

The 2018 flu season is upon us. There are simple steps you and your child can take to stay healthy and help prevent the flu. That includes getting a yearly flu vaccine.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will conduct free injectable flu vaccine clinics on November 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for children 18 and under at John F. Kennedy, Northwest, and Rockville high schools. These clinics will be open to any school-aged child.

The clinic services are free, but **registration is required due to limited vaccine supplies**. For more information, visit the [Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services website](#).

Here are some additional steps that you and your family can take to help prevent the spread of the flu and other seasonal illnesses:

1. 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 schools (e.g., near the cafeteria or all-purpose room, near the main office).
2. When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth to minimize the chance for infection.
4. Stay home from work and school if symptoms develop such as fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, headache, and body aches.
5. 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:

- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm
- Montgomery County: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html

NATIONAL HISPANIC COLLEGE FAIR

The National Hispanic College Fair (NHCF) will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at the Bohrer Park Community Center in Gaithersburg. This annual event sponsored by NHCF and MCPS for juniors and seniors is free for students. The fair features more than 40 colleges, universities, and service organizations committed to providing outreach and opportunity to all students.



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MCPS students participate by attending with their schools; this event is not open to the public and is held during the school day. Registration and permission forms for this event can be accessed by contacting the College and Career Coordinator at your child’s school.

For more information, you may contact the NHCFC Coordinator, Ms. Patricia Maloney, via e-mail, at Patricia_A_Maloney@mcpsmd.org or by telephone, at 301-353-8029 or Ms. Robyn Hart, via e-mail at Robyn_H_Hart@mcpsmd.org or by telephone, at 240-314-4862.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
November 2, 2018	Fall Into Books Parade – 2:30 p.m.
November 6, 2018	No School – Election Day
November 7, 2018	End of First Marking Period Early Release – 12:55 p.m. No PEP Classes; AM PreK ends at 10:50 a.m.
November 12, 2018	Dads/Significant Male Role Models Bring Kids to School Day Early Release – 12:55 p.m.
November 12-13, 2018	Parent-Teacher Conferences No PEP or Pre-K Classes
November 14-15, 2018	COGAT testing – 5 th Grade
November 20, 2018	Report Card Distribution
November 21, 2018	Early Release – 12:55 p.m. No PEP Classes; AM PreK ends at 10:50 a.m.
November 22-23, 2018	No School – Thanksgiving Break
November 26-28, 2018	Hearing & Vision Screening
November 28, 2018	2 nd Grade Field Trip to Strathmore -
November 29, 2018	Green & Gold Assemblies - Gym Grades 3-5 – 9:15-10:15 a.m. Grades 1-2 – 2:05-3:05 p.m.
December 3-7, 2018	PTA Book Fair – Media Center
December 4, 2018	PTA Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
December 5, 2018	Retakes – Individual Student Portraits – 9:15-11:45 a.m.
December 13, 2018	Interims Go Home
December 24-31, 2018	Winter Break