

# NEW HAMPSHIRE ESTATES NOTES



## NEW HAMPSHIRE ESTATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Bob Geiger**

Principal

**Thomas Ryan**

Assistant Principal

**School Phone Number**

240-740-1580

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### PARENTS SEEK AID FOR AFTER - SCHOOL PROGRAM IN NHE

NHE Parents are working to help bring the Excel Beyond the Bell -- Elementary after-school program to our school next year. A group of five NHE parents traveled to Bethesda on Tuesday night to make their case to persuade Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett to include money for the program in his proposed budget for next year. Patience paid off for Sonia Castro, the parent of one of our kindergarten students. After Ms. Castro persistently raised her hand for more than 20 minutes, Mr. Leggett called on her. Speaking in Spanish through an interpreter, Ms. Castro explained that New Hampshire Estates was a good school and that the proposed after-school program would benefit her and her child, allowing Ms. Castro to work while her child benefited from enriching after-school activities. Ms. Castro, who was accompanied by her daughter, was flanked by other NHE parents, including Lizeth Amaya, Evelyn Ortiz and Eduardo Ortiz. Ms. Amaya was holding a big New Hampshire Estates sign. The Excel Beyond the Bell -- Elementary program now exists at four MCPS schools and is looking to expand. It is intended to be a two-hour after-school program available Monday-Friday for up to 120 NHE students. The program would include an hour of academics and an hour of enrichment activities, as well as a hot meal. Parents whose children participate in the program would agree to volunteer two hours a month with the school. We discussed the program at a Principal's Parent Coffee in the fall, and there was an overwhelmingly positive response from parents. When Ms. Castro finished speaking about why we should bring the program to New Hampshire Estates, there was considerable applause. Mr. Leggett was not promising to fund any new or additional programs on Tuesday night, saying that he would need to consider the overall budget. But Mr. Leggett did make a point of having the name of our school repeated so his staff could note it for future consideration.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

### IMPORTANT DATES

**02/09** 100th Day of School

**02/19** President's Day - School and Offices Closed

**02/20 - 02/23** Head Start Home Visits - No School for Head Start Students

**02/27** Principal's Parent Coffee, 9:00 a.m.

**03/01** Donuts with Dads, 8:40 a.m.

### AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR MET WITH OUR SECOND GRADERS

On January 29, Matt de la Pena, the first male Latino author to win the prestigious Newbery Medal for children's literature, and illustrator Loren Long, showed our second grade students how they collaborated to create their recent book, *Love*, which was the number one picture book on the New York Times bestseller list. At the suggestion of his daughters Malia and Sasha, President Barack Obama selected Mr. Long to illustrate Mr. Obama's children's book, *Of Thee I Sing*. Mr. Long showed how he went through many revisions of his illustrations for the book, *Love*. Mr. de la Pena showed students some of his marked-up drafts and explained to students that he revised the book 104 times during the six months it took him to write the book. Each of our second grade students received a free hardback copy of *Love*, provided by the Open Book Foundation, which sponsored the event. Mr. de la Pena and Mr. Long stayed after the assembly and autographed each student's book. During the assembly, Mr. Long created an illustration that we plan to have framed and hung in our lobby. If you want to see some pictures from this fantastic event, please check out the slideshow on our website.