Dear Garrett Park Families,

We hope you find this weekly email 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 or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

**The Book Fair was a huge success last week! Thank you to the PTA, Jenn Perry, and all the volunteers for putting in so many hours to make sure families were able to purchase books. Families, thank you for helping to support the school by purchasing books for your child or donating books to the teachers and classrooms. Your encouragement of reading has a major impact on the lives of our children.**

**Reminder: Please do not try to check your child out after 3:40pm. Also, please do not send alternate dismissal plans to the teacher after lunch time. Teachers often cannot check emails in the afternoon to ensure the change in dismissal routine can happen. Thank you for your understanding.**

Red Ribbon Week is October 23- 27, 2017.   This is a time for schools and communities to focus on making healthy and safe choices.  Red Ribbon Week is a wonderful opportunity to focus on drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention, as well making healthy lifestyle choices that develop healthy bodies and minds such as eating right and exercising.  Each day during Red Ribbon Week students will be provided an opportunity to dress up in support of making healthy choices.  The following themes have been chosen; please encourage your child to dress up!

Monday, October 23rd: “From Head to Toe I Make Healthy Choices” Everyone wears crazy hair and crazy socks.

Tuesday, October 24th: “Team up Against Bad Choices” Everyone wears sports shirt or jersey.

Wednesday, October 25th: “Follow Your Dreams By Making Healthy Choices” Everyone wears their pajamas.

Thursday, October 26th: “Dress for Success” Everyone dresses up. (It is Picture Day for most students)

Friday, October 27th: “Making Healthy Choices is No Sweat” Everyone wears sweatshirts or sweatpants.

**Teaching and Learning:**

Each year we update our school improvement plan based on a root cause analysis of school data. Once the plan is approved by central office, it will be posted on our school website for your perusal. As mentioned in an earlier update, our instructional focus is centered around providing meaningful and targeted follow-up instruction. Our goal is to eliminate the achievement gap, so we will specifically look to increase outcomes for our Hispanic students who are also English language learners. We will post the link in this section once the school improvement plan has been uploaded to our website.

**Safety and Security:**

We hope you have been taking advantage of the extra parking spaces at Holy Cross during large school events. Also, please remember to park legally in the neighborhood and do not park in Parkside unless you live there.

**Important Dates:**

October 17                   Talent Show                                                                 2:20 pm and 3:00 pm

                                    Talent Show Night Performance                        7:00 pm

October 25                   5th Grade Field Trip to Strathmore                                 9:40 am – 12:45 pm

October 26                   Student Individual Photo Day

                                    Grade 4 Field Trip to SERC (1/2\*)                                9:30 am – 3:30 pm

October 27                   Grade 4 Field Trip to SERC (1/2)                                  9:30 am – 3:30 pm

                                    Grade 5 Field Trip to Annapolis                        9:30 am – 2:45 pm

\*4th grade students who attend the field trip on Oct. 26 will take their individual photos on 10/27

October 31                   Halloween Parade                                                         2:30 - 3:00pm

                                    Halloween Parties                                                         3:00 - 3:30pm

**MCPS Updates:**

**NAACP Parents’ Council to Hold Kickoff Meeting**

The NAACP Parents’ Council kickoff meeting will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, October 16 at Gaithersburg High School. This event will bring together parents, MCPS teachers, and principals to share ideas on cultivating parent engagement and promoting student achievement. The event will begin with a community resource fair to highlight community services and resources of interest. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from speakers who are educational experts in the area of promoting minority student achievement and participate in breakout sessions on topics including closing the achievement gap, parent-teacher conferences, and discipline. To register for the event, visit [naacppc-md.org/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__naacppc-2Dmd.org_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=l0WnyKmNMaZv8vI_OHnMRVJx_zsfM4OEArZR6547Yus&s=x1TTFWq0PgZZO_vRCiZBpw6W7AfWDWJAL1HcaGMsvSY&e=).

**Community Service Week (English and Spanish)**

**Celebrate the 31st Annual Montgomery County Community Service Week**

Get ready for a week chock-full of volunteer opportunities across the county in honor of Montgomery County’s 31st annual Community Service Week, set for October 22-29. There will be lots of ways for students and families to help a variety of local nonprofits, schools, and government agencies throughout the week, including many projects preapproved for student service learning hours.

Check the Montgomery County Volunteer Center’s [online calendar of volunteer needs](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__montgomerycountymd.galaxydigital.com_calendar_2017_10&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=l0WnyKmNMaZv8vI_OHnMRVJx_zsfM4OEArZR6547Yus&s=mE7yhT9oM1YxRabAQYKh9IvI8_BrN98W6y9wJ76XjEM&e=) for the latest list of projects (and check back regularly as projects are being added daily), and pick any or all that match your interests! Schools and PTAs are planning volunteer projects as part of the service week. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/Community-Service-Week.html](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomerycountymd.gov_volunteercenter_volunteers_Community-2DService-2DWeek.html&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=l0WnyKmNMaZv8vI_OHnMRVJx_zsfM4OEArZR6547Yus&s=Mv1oTV8OJluDLHx4PhKWB1ox5fE4UCQ9PN_-vaK_F_M&e=) for more information.

**Celebre la Trigésima Primera Semana Anual de Servicio Comunitario del Condado de Montgomery**

Prepárese para una semana repleta de oportunidades de voluntariado en todo el condado en honor a la Trigésima Primera Semana Anual de Servicio Comunitario del Condado de Montgomery, que tendrá lugar del 22 al 29 de octubre. Habrá muchas maneras en que los estudiantes y las familias podrán ayudar a una variedad de organizaciones sin fines de lucro, escuelas y agencias gubernamentales locales durante la semana, incluyendo muchos proyectos pre-aprobados para horas de aprendizaje mediante servicio estudiantil (Student Service Learning–SSL).

Consulte el [calendario en línea de necesidades de voluntariado](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__montgomerycountymd.galaxydigital.com_calendar_2017_10&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=l0WnyKmNMaZv8vI_OHnMRVJx_zsfM4OEArZR6547Yus&s=mE7yhT9oM1YxRabAQYKh9IvI8_BrN98W6y9wJ76XjEM&e=) en el Centro de Voluntarios del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Volunteer Center) para ver la lista más actualizada de proyectos (y vuelva a consultar la lista regularmente, ya que se agregan proyectos todos los días). ¡Elija cualquier proyecto, o todos los proyectos más adecuados a sus intereses! Las escuelas y las Asociaciones de Padres y Maestros (Parent-Teacher Associations–PTAs) están planeando proyectos para voluntarios como parte de la semana de servicio. Visite [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/
volunteercenter/volunteers/Community-Service-Week.html](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomerycountymd.gov_volunteercenter_volunteers_Community-2DService-2DWeek.html&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=l0WnyKmNMaZv8vI_OHnMRVJx_zsfM4OEArZR6547Yus&s=Mv1oTV8OJluDLHx4PhKWB1ox5fE4UCQ9PN_-vaK_F_M&e=) para más información.

Have a great week!

Dan