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:**

We hope everyone has a safe an enjoyable winter break! It has been an amazing four months of school so far and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2018! We wanted to take a quick moment to thank the PTA for organizing the mobile snack cart this past Thursday. Staff were thrilled with all the goodies and I wish you could have seen the teachers’ faces when Erin Rehman and Jenn Perry delivered them to their doors. Thank you all for your generosity this holiday season!! You truly make Garrett Park a wonderful learning community.

Please read below regarding a wonderful event in February to support Black History Month.

**Black History Month Art Showcase - Featuring Culture Queen**

Does your child love to paint, draw, act, sing, dance, write poetry or short stores? If so, we have an awesome way to showcase their talent while celebrating black history.

**Join the Garrett Park PTA for a Student Art Showcase!**

**Wednesday, February 28 @7pm**

**in the All Purpose Room**

**with exciting programming featuring local entertainer, Culture Queen!**

Come present your talent or just to watch the show. Either way you’ll have a great time!

**Please let us know if you will join us –**[https://tinyurl.com/yb4pre9d](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__tinyurl.com_yb4pre9d&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=cAiWRJZDrSCmksTbq6HGKfs0xEkvyLc7eQNRIgUySjI&s=AmOfX6ghbtSYdKI1cu5vSoaEjNORF1vBxGh-shdZj7w&e=)

**How to Participate**

**Theme: Why is Black History Important to You?**

**Sing a song, do a dance, paint a picture, write a poem or story to tell us why.**

1.      Visit the Signup page to register and list your talent ([https://tinyurl.com/yb4pre9d](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__tinyurl.com_yb4pre9d&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=cAiWRJZDrSCmksTbq6HGKfs0xEkvyLc7eQNRIgUySjI&s=AmOfX6ghbtSYdKI1cu5vSoaEjNORF1vBxGh-shdZj7w&e=))

2.      Participants will receive a confirmation email

3.      Submit a draft of the art (song, music, poem, etc) in the PTA box in the front office or email to gpesrockyfund@gmail.com by the submission deadline of Friday, February 2nd.

4.      Participate in the Rehearsal Wednesday, February 21

5.      Attend the event on Wednesday, February 28 and Showcase your Art!

**Teaching and Learning:**

Did you know the standards have changed for science in MCPS? Read on to learn more about the NGSS… The goal of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) science program is for all students to achieve full scientific literacy through standards-referenced and problem- and project-based instruction that develops students as critical thinkers. Students apply content knowledge in the sciences through scientific content, crosscutting concepts, and engineering practices to solve problems. Ultimately, the goal of the science program is to prepare students to thrive in college, careers, and life in today’s digital age. The MCPS science curriculum framework is built upon the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), a set of rigorous and internationally benchmarked standards for K–12 science education, adopted by Maryland in 2013. The NGSS were developed in response to national research reports compelling science education to move toward a more coherent learning progression that enables students to engage in the practices of scientists and engineers, and to develop 21st century skills needed for success in both college and careers. The integration of core content ideas, application of content and connections across science disciplines is critical for scientific literacy. In the MCPS science framework, the core content includes life science, physical science, earth and space science, and engineering, technology, and applications. The MCPS science curriculum provides a coherent learning progression across grade levels. In the elementary school years, students develop proficiency with foundational knowledge related to matter, forces, energy, and characteristics of organisms, features of Earth, human impact, and engineering design. New curriculum and professional learning for teachers are underway. If you would like to learn more, contact your child’s teacher.

**Safety and Security:**

**A number of parents continue to drive on school grounds with cell phones in hand or children unbuckled. We ask that you obey all laws of the road and keep everyone’s seat belts on and put your phones down. It is not only for your child’s safety but for the safety of others as well. Thank you.**

**Important Dates:**

January 2:                                School reopens from winter break

January 5:        10:00am          School tour for perspective parents only (please call office first)

January 10:                              Middle School Magnet testing at GPES

January 11:      9:30am            Principal’s Coffee (Topic: Enrichment in Instruction)

**MCPS Updates:**

**Board of Education Elects New Officers**

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, Mr. Michael A. Durso was selected by his colleagues to serve as president of the Montgomery County Board of Education for the third time. Mrs. Shebra L. Evans was selected as vice president. Both officers will serve a one-year term. Mr. Durso was elected to his first four-year term in 2010 after being appointed to the Board in June 2009 to complete an unexpired term. He was elected to his second four-year term in November 2014. He is a member of the Board’s Committee on Special Populations. Mrs. Evans was elected to her first four-year term on November 8, 2016. She is a member of the Board’s Fiscal Management committee.

**Consejo de Educación Elige Nuevos Directivos**

El martes, 5 de diciembre, 2017, el Sr. Michael Durso fue elegido por tercera vez por sus colegas como presidente del Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery. La Sra. Shebra L. Evans fue elegida vicepresidenta. Ambos directivos servirán un mandato de un año. El Sr. Durso fue elegido para su primer mandato de cuatro años en el 2010, después de haber sido nombrado al Consejo en junio 2009 para completar un mandato no vencido. En noviembre 2014, fue elegido para su segundo mandato de cuatro años. Él es miembro del Comité sobre Poblaciones Especiales del Consejo. La Sra. Evans fue elegida para su primer mandato de cuatro años el 8 de noviembre, 2016. Ella es miembro del Comité de Administración Fiscal del Consejo.

**Early Childhood and Elementary Education Policy (English and Spanish)**

**Public Comment Sought on Early Childhood and Elementary Education Policy**

On December 5, 2017, the Montgomery County Board of Education tentatively approved amendments to [Board Policy IEA, Framework and Structure of Early Childhood and Elementary Education.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_departments_policy_1712105-2520iea-2520COMMITTEE-2520RECOMMENDED-2520DRAFT.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=Kd1jDpXTRRc4X752vevHNyz6nSc66R1p1VW_lUuEk1U&s=ICO-BTQhJJ7IYzPuMzsV30cQrz6A0Fk-tzCJOSca3Kc&e=) The amended policy includes concepts and language that reflect the current priorities of Board Policy IEF, Early Childhood Education, which will be rescinded upon adoption of amended Board Policy IEA. The proposed amendments to Board Policy IEA affirm the Board’s commitment to promoting the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth and development of children in their early learning years through high quality, developmentally appropriate, challenging and comprehensive early childhood and elementary programs. You can view the crosswalk between Board Policy IEA and Board Policy IEF [here.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_departments_policy_171205-2520Annotated-2520IEF-2520for-2520Tentative-2520Action.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=Kd1jDpXTRRc4X752vevHNyz6nSc66R1p1VW_lUuEk1U&s=tPxmEdfacjEfZFg5pTdSB_5ee-psIR3oxsG43J6apL0&e=) The draft of the tentatively approved Board Policy IEA is available for public comment [here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mcpsweb.wufoo.com_forms_board-2Dof-2Deducation-2Dpolicy-2Diea_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=Kd1jDpXTRRc4X752vevHNyz6nSc66R1p1VW_lUuEk1U&s=AkJvJ439HRKpNKNUibhMcP-IyXs8qbxzxMM0pjlEPNU&e=) until Tuesday,  March 6, 2018.

**Se Solicita Comentarios del Público sobre la Política de Educación para Temprana Edad y Escuelas Elementales**

El 5 de diciembre, 2017, el Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery aprobó tentativamente enmiendas a la [Política IEA del Consejo, Esquema y Estructura para la Educación para Temprana Edad y Escuelas Elementales.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_departments_policy_1712105-2520iea-2520COMMITTEE-2520RECOMMENDED-2520DRAFT.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=Kd1jDpXTRRc4X752vevHNyz6nSc66R1p1VW_lUuEk1U&s=ICO-BTQhJJ7IYzPuMzsV30cQrz6A0Fk-tzCJOSca3Kc&e=) La política enmendada incluye conceptos y lenguaje que reflejan las prioridades actuales de la política IEF del Consejo, Educación para Temprana Edad, que será rescindida al adoptar la Política IEA enmendada. Las enmiendas propuestas para la Política IEA del Consejo afirma el compromiso del Consejo de fomentar el crecimiento y desarrollo intelectual, social, emocional y físico de los niños en sus primeros años de aprendizaje mediante programas de alta calidad, apropiados según el nivel de desarrollo, desafiantes e integrales para temprana edad y escuelas elementales. Usted puede ver el puente entre la Política IEA del Consejo y la Política IEF del Consejo [aquí.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_uploadedFiles_departments_policy_171205-2520Annotated-2520IEF-2520for-2520Tentative-2520Action.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=Kd1jDpXTRRc4X752vevHNyz6nSc66R1p1VW_lUuEk1U&s=tPxmEdfacjEfZFg5pTdSB_5ee-psIR3oxsG43J6apL0&e=) El borrador de la Política IEA del Consejo aprobada tentativamente está disponible para comentarios del público [aquí](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mcpsweb.wufoo.com_forms_board-2Dof-2Deducation-2Dpolicy-2Diea_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=Kd1jDpXTRRc4X752vevHNyz6nSc66R1p1VW_lUuEk1U&s=AkJvJ439HRKpNKNUibhMcP-IyXs8qbxzxMM0pjlEPNU&e=), hasta el martes, 6 de marzo, 2018.

Have a wonderful winter break!
Dan