A message from GARRETT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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 take school safety very seriously at Garrett Park and we need to work as a community to keep all our children safe. It is certainly not easy to be a young person these days. Please find below some information and resources to help navigate these difficult times.

Information about MCPS emergency preparedness is accessible here.

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/preparedness/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_emergency_preparedness_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AAbpdshA8WO2_Fxjx7GjILIAQTKeEDcqk_ZDbQEUo84&s=QH16xS4uQpDhAsfXLjjCHCA6Xeg84rHMbzTjYlb5QJw&e=)

American Academy of Pediatrics, Talking to Children About Tragedies and Other News Events

[https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.healthychildren.org_English_family-2Dlife_Media_Pages_Talking-2DTo-2DChildren-2DAbout-2DTragedies-2Dand-2DOther-2DNews-2DEvents.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AAbpdshA8WO2_Fxjx7GjILIAQTKeEDcqk_ZDbQEUo84&s=CpROzj9A7p0aFRo34S5OCYYFQqZtTSf2Mcqioen9tPM&e=)

National Association of School Psychologists, School Violence Prevention: Tips for Parents and Educators

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-prevention/school-violence-prevention-tips-for-parents-and-educators](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.nasponline.org_resources-2Dand-2Dpublications_resources_school-2Dsafety-2Dand-2Dcrisis_school-2Dviolence-2Dprevention_school-2Dviolence-2Dprevention-2Dtips-2Dfor-2Dparents-2Dand-2Deducators&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AAbpdshA8WO2_Fxjx7GjILIAQTKeEDcqk_ZDbQEUo84&s=jvRKSUvHfUgWFR8rLIXbA0xin0AT4O0cjTsZyh05r5E&e=)

Thank you to the community for your help in making the Valentine’s Day parties safe and fun for our students! I saw a lot of smiles and happy students leaving with a bunch of sugar  Room parents and building service staff were great in organizing and cleaning up from the parties. Thank you!!

A huge thanks to the PTA and nutrition committee!! We will be offering a new addition to our school lunches each day starting next week. We are excited to introduce to the students a new Self-Serve Salad option to the menu each day beginning February 21st. Students will have the opportunity to serve their own fresh salad and veggie mix and choose a side of dressing. The option is included with a purchased school lunch or your child can purchase it a la carte for $.45 an ounce. Staff will be promoting the salad option on the announcements and in the lunchroom as well. This is part of a pilot program for MCPS so we will be providing feedback on this new option for students. We hope you encourage your child to take advantage of our new healthy option!

**Black History Live! - Featuring Culture Queen**

Hear ye, hear ye! Come one, come all! Join the GPES PTA on a musical journey to Culture Kingdom. From boogieing down with African, calypso, jazz and hip hop beats to singing fun and uplifting lyrics and learning about local Black history, children and families are sure to have a royal time. This performance will combine movement and storytelling to complement its message of celebrating the rich diversity of our community.

**Wednesday, February 28 @7pm in the All Purpose Room**

**Please let us know if you will join us –**[https://tinyurl.com/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__gpespta.us16.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D2f08b49793051df819ae1f050-26id-3D2c499fb0c3-26e-3D08989f3483&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=g6zO4Xstkw7iRJ8pk_j3RQhKztrtkCZxiZwL2W91fiI&s=npbbK9UgU8tynRmkvwbC8pe2oOzttGmRv1puNyZWn3g&e=)[yb4pre9d](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__gpespta.us16.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D2f08b49793051df819ae1f050-26id-3D45cc4cb736-26e-3D08989f3483&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=g6zO4Xstkw7iRJ8pk_j3RQhKztrtkCZxiZwL2W91fiI&s=duqorEDaE52D2HNW9S1D7Icjj74kZsk9LjaTnOTPvvc&e=)

About Culture Queen: With just a spoonful of magic and ancient wisdom, Jessica “Culture Queen” Smith helps children discover their own regalia and connect with their culture through self-affirming songs, rich storytelling, and body-positive dance. A master performing and teaching artist, Culture Queen travels near and far to inspire and entertain at venues like the Kennedy Center, National Children’s Museum, and Smithsonian museums.

Kindergarten Orientation will take place on April, 18, 19, and 20, 2018 for all children who will turn five by September 1, 2018. Registration materials and more details will be posted on our school website soon. Please spread the word!

Tilden’s Drama Club is inviting FUTURE Tilden students in grades 3-5 from Garrett Park, Luxmanor, and Farmland Elementary Schools to audition for ensemble chorus roles in our 2018 spring musical! (See attachments).

**Important Dates:**

February 1-28:                     African American Heritage Month

February 19:                         Presidents’ Day; No School for Staff or Students

February 20:                         3rd Grade Recorder Concert- APR, 7:30-8:00 pm

February 21:                         Class and Club Photos

February 22:                         Class and Club Photos

February 24:                         PTA Silent Auction and Family Game Night, 6:00-9:00 pm

February 28:                         PTA Black History Live Featuring Culture Queen, APR, 7:00-9:30 pm

**MCPS Updates:**

**Breaking the Code: Creating a Welcoming Environment for Girls of Color in STEM (English and Spanish)**

In celebration of Black History Month, MCPS will host a special event, Breaking the Code: Creating a Welcoming Environment for Girls of Color in STEM, on **Wednesday, February 28**. The panel discussion will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium at John F. Kennedy High School, located at 1901 Randolph Road in Silver Spring.

Join us for an engaging conversation on how MCPS can ensure that girls of color are welcomed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics classes and programs. Panelists will address some of the barriers in STEM for girls of color and highlight steps the district, businesses, and community organizations are taking to overcome those barriers. The event is free and open to the public.

**Descifrando el Código: Creando un Entorno Acogedor para Niñas de Color en Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics–STEM)**

En celebración del Mes de la Historia Afroamericana, MCPS estará presentando un evento especial, Descifrando el Código: Creando un Entorno Acogedor para Niñas de Color en STEM, el **miércoles, 28 de febrero**. El panel de debate tendrá lugar de 6:00 a 8:00 p.m., en el auditorio de John F. Kennedy High School, ubicada en 1901 Randolph Road, en Silver Spring.

Acompáñenos para entablar una conversación interesante sobre cómo MCPS puede asegurar que las niñas de color sean bienvenidas en las clases y programas de ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas. Los panelistas tratarán algunas de las barreras en STEM para las niñas de color y señalarán los pasos que el distrito escolar, las empresas y las organizaciones comunitarias están tomando para superar esas barreras. El evento es gratuito y abierto al público.

**Upcoming County Education Budget Meetings (English and Spanish)**

Five Education Budget Meetings presented by Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice, Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith, and Montgomery College President DeRionne P. Pollard, are scheduled for February and March. Come find out how budget decisions are made, what the county is doing today to get ready for FY 2019 and beyond, and learn about the opportunities you have to influence budget decisions. The meetings will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

**February 21**, Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus
**February 28**, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus (Theatre Arts building), 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville
**March 7**, John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring
**March 14**, Robert Frost Middle School, 9201 Scott Drive, Rockville
**March 19**, White Oak Middle School, 12201 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring

The county executive will announce his Recommended FY 2019 Operating Budget in March. In April, the County Council will hold public hearings and approve the operating budget at the end of May.

**Próximas Reuniones sobre el Presupuesto para la Educación**

Hay cinco reuniones sobre el Presupuesto para la Educación, presentadas por el Concejal del Condado de Montgomery Craig Rice, el Superintendente de Escuelas Jack Smith y la Presidenta de Montgomery College DeRionne Pollard, que están programadas para febrero y marzo. Venga e infórmese sobre cómo se toman las decisiones presupuestarias, lo que el condado está haciendo hoy para prepararse para el Año Fiscal 2019 y más adelante y conozca las oportunidades que los residentes tienen para influenciar las decisiones presupuestarias. Las reuniones tendrán lugar de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., en los siguientes lugares:

**21 de febrero**, Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus

**28 de febrero**, Montgomery College, Campus de Rockville (edificio Theatre Arts),
51 Mannakee Street, Rockville

**7 de marzo**, John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring

**14 de marzo**, Robert Frost Middle School, 9201 Scott Drive, Rockville

**19 de marzo**, White Oak Middle School, 12201 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring

En marzo, el ejecutivo del condado anunciará su Presupuesto Operativo Recomendado para el Año Fiscal 2019. En abril, el Concejo del Condado (County Council) llevará a cabo audiencias públicas, y a fines de mayo aprobará el presupuesto operativo.

Have a great weekend!
Dan

**File attachments:**
[AuditionInformationBBes.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__connectdocs.blackboard.com_xythoswfs_webui_-5Fxy-2D933114-5F1-2Dt-5F2ypF5Jkm&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AAbpdshA8WO2_Fxjx7GjILIAQTKeEDcqk_ZDbQEUo84&s=a0wkB0FmD5K7H-y-XAlXXoxGFqnNqh9zcSfXiMMLlGU&e=)
[BBelementaryaudition.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__connectdocs.blackboard.com_xythoswfs_webui_-5Fxy-2D933115-5F1-2Dt-5FCmWvKlPL&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=AAbpdshA8WO2_Fxjx7GjILIAQTKeEDcqk_ZDbQEUo84&s=qTFgKRaC8RdnG7FZ1VNbEIpavL3l5Y54qW-3cDDAUVk&e=)

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