A message from GARRETT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Garrett Park Families,

We hope you find this email version 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:**

What a great turnout at the Family Sweetheart Dance!! Thank you to the entire community for supporting this event and thank you to the GPES Education Foundation team for organizing such a wonderful family function for the community. It was so nice to see everyone dressed up for family pictures and having fun on the dance floor! Remember, your admission supports all children at Garrett Park so thanks again for your attendance. One more quick thank you goes to the building service team and the volunteers for helping set up and clean up. That’s a big undertaking… Can’t wait for next year ☺ <http://www.gpesef.org/index.htm>

This week we will be celebrating Valentine’s Day with classroom parties on Thursday, Feb. 14 at 2:45-3:30pm. We appreciate all the volunteers and room parents who contribute to the parties and help make this a fun and safe event for students. A couple reminders which you probably already heard from your homeroom teachers… For safety reasons, if you are a visitor or volunteer you may not check out your child at 3:30. All students will dismiss at 3:50. Please include everyone in the class when buying cards or treats. Also, if you are supplying treats for parties, please keep the items in the store bought packages so we can determine with the ingredients if they may impact a student with allergies. Thank you!

**Teaching and Learning:**

The Center for Enriched Studies results letters will be mailed home from central office very soon. Parents will receive an email message from MCPS early this week informing you of the change. The parent response date will be extended to Feb. 19th. If you have questions, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DC CAPS). <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice/>

**Safety and Security:**

**I want to reiterate the importance of parents dropping children off in the carloop to stay in your car and let a staff member or safety patrol assist in getting children out of cars. Drivers getting out on the left side of your car present a danger as cars sometimes pass others in the loop. We strive to help get all students (and parents) get to school and home safely and your cooperation is paramount in helping us achieve this goal.**

**Important Dates:**

Feb. 13 After School Activity Clubs – Session 2 begins 4:10-5:10 pm

Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day classroom parties 2:45-3:30 pm

Feb. 18 Presidents’ Day – No school All day

Feb. 20 Class and club photos All day

Feb. 20 3rd grade recorder concert 7:30-8 pm

Feb. 21 Class and Club photos All day

**MCPS Updates:**

**Student Transfer Application Season Begins February 1 (English and Spanish)**

Parents and guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season which begins on February 1. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than April 1.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, MCPS students are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under limited circumstances. For more information, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers).

**Temporada de Solicitud para Transferencias de Estudiantes Comienza el 1ro. de Febrero**

Los padres y guardianes que deseen solicitar un Cambio de Asignacion de Escuela (Change of School Assignment–COSA) para sus hijos desde su escuela local a otra pueden iniciar el proceso durante la proxima temporada de transferencias de escuela que comienza el 1ro. de febrero. Todas las peticiones de COSA deben ser presentadas a mas tardar el 1ro. de abril.

Excepto para los estudiantes en las zonas de Northeast Consortiium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC) y Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC), los estudiantes de MCPS son asignados a una escuela de acuerdo a su domicilio o de acuerdo con su Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program–IEP) y por lo tanto deben asistir a su escuela local. Los cambios de asignacion de una escuela a otra son permitidos a los estudiantes bajo circunstancias muy limitadas. Para mas informacion, visite [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers).

**Students Can Design Their Dream Classroom in United We Learn Contest (English and Spanish)**

Montgomery County Public Schools is launching the third year of its student contest, United We Learn. This year’s contest, United We Learn: Schools of the Future, allows students to design their ideal learning space and challenges them to think critically about how their physical environment affects their ability to learn.

The contest follows a November 2018 survey that asked students and staff about how they use learning spaces at their schools, and what they would like classrooms and schools to look like in the future. Recurring elements mentioned in the survey feedback included considerations regarding color, lighting, furniture, technology, and security. That feedback will be used to support the continuous improvement of our educational facilities. The contest tasks students to consider these same elements as they design their vision of what an ideal learning space might look like in the future. By participating in this contest, students may also have the ability to help influence future design. More details are available on the contest website: [montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/](https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/).

**Los Estudiantes Pueden Diseñar el Aula de Sus Sueños en el Concurso Unidos Aprendemos**

Montgomery County Public Schools esta dando inicio al tercer ano de su concurso para estudiantes, Unidos Aprendemos (United We Learn). El concurso de este ano, Unidos Aprendemos: Las Escuelas del Futuro (United We Learn: Schools of the Future), permite a los estudiantes disenar su entorno de aprendizaje ideal y los desafía a pensar de manera critica sobre como su ambiente fisico afecta su capacidad de aprender.

El concurso sigue a una encuesta realizada en noviembre 2018 que les preguntaba a los estudiantes y al personal acerca de como ellos usan los espacios de aprendizaje en sus escuelas, y como les gustaria que fueran sus salones de clase y sus escuelas en el futuro. Los elementos recurrentes mencionados en las respuestas a la encuesta incluyeron consideraciones relacionadas con color, luz, muebles, tecnologia y seguridad. Esos comentarios/sugerencias seran utilizados para apoyar el mejoramiento continuo de nuestras instalaciones educativas. El concurso asigna a los estudiantes la tarea de considerar estos mismos elementos al disenar su vision de como seria el espacio ideal para el aprendizaje en el futuro. Al participar en este concurso, los estudiantes tambien tienen la capacidad de ayudar a influenciar los disenos futuros. Hay mas detalles disponibles en la pagina web del concurso: [montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/](https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/).

**Community Conversations on the Future of High School Programs (English and Spanish)**

MCPS is holding a series of community conversations with Chief Academic Officer Maria V. Navarro to discuss the future of high school programs. Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss what high school programs MCPS should offer in the future to best support college and career readiness. Staff, students, parents, guardians, and members of the community are invited to attend. The forums are scheduled for:

* Monday, February 11, Clarksburg High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
* Monday, April 8, Richard Montgomery High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Register online at [mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/](https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/).

**Conversaciones con la Comunidad sobre Programas Futuros en las Escuelas Secundarias**

MCPS esta llevando a cabo una serie de conversaciones entre la comunidad y Maria V. Navarro, Jefa de Asuntos Académicos (Chief Academic Officer), para hablar sobre el futuro de los programas en las escuelas secundarias. Quienes asistan tendran la oportunidad de hablar sobre que programas deberia ofrecer en el futuro MCPS en las escuelas secundarias para apoyar de mejor manera la preparacion para la universidad y para carreras. El personal, estudiantes, padres, guardianes y miembros de la comunidad están todos invitados a asistir. Los foros han sido programados para los dias:

* Lunes, 11 de febrero, Clarksburg High School, 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.
* Lunes, 8 de abril, Richard Montgomery High School, 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.

Inscribase en linea en: [mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/](https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/).

Thanks and have a great week!

Dan Tucci