

THE FARQUHAR NEWS

William H. Farquhar Middle School

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www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- October 26-30: Red Ribbon Week (anti-drug & alcohol awareness)
- October 26: Red Ribbon assembly, guest speaker from the Richard Caron Foundation, 7th & 8th grades
7th grade attend 2nd pd, 8th grade attend 3rd pd
- October 29: Red Ribbon "Wear Something Red Day"
- October 30: Individual school picture retakes in the a.m.
- October 30: School dance: Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored, upper gym,
7-9 p.m., tickets \$6 & tickets will be sold at all lunches & at the door
- October 30: First marking period ends
- November 2: Professional Day: report card preparation and planning; no school for students
- November 3: Second marking period begins
- November 5: Bridging the Achievement Gap for Students, 6:30 p.m.,
lmc, organized by the NAACP Parent Council, see attached flyer
- November 6: Career Café, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., all grades
- November 10: PTA general meeting, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, guest speaker,
Topic: Cyber Bullying & Keeping Our Children Safe on the Internet,
7-8:30 p.m., lmc
- November 11: Report cards distributed
- November 11: Early release day, 12:10 p.m. dismissal, parent conferences, MSA reading
practice test in the a.m.
- November 12: Early release day, 12:10 p.m. dismissal, parent conferences, MSA math
practice test in the a.m.
- November 13: PTA newsletter deadline
- November 20: Sixth grade science assembly: Under the Sea
- November 20: PTA Variety Night: Night of 1,000 Stars, 7 p.m.
- November 25: Honor Roll celebration and picture

November 25: Early release: day before Thanksgiving, 12:10 p.m. dismissal

November 26 & 27: Holidays: Thanksgiving

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT – DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE OR SHE MISSED? USE EDLINE!!!

Farquhar teachers are posting assignments, due dates, weekly updates, and supplementary lesson materials on their Edline sites. Please be sure to check Edline **daily** for assignments when your child is absent. Students are also encouraged to check Edline to stay up to date. After checking Edline, if an assignment is not posted, please call the main office for assistance. If you are having trouble accessing Edline, please email [Beth A Hopkins@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Beth_A_Hopkins@mcpsmd.org). Let Edline help you to stay informed! Thank you

HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET PROGRAM INFORMATION

For 8th grade students, the application deadline for high school magnet programs is November 9. These programs include highly competitive programs at Blair, Richard Montgomery, and Poolesville High Schools All application information, dates, and forms can be found on this website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications/>

For students attending high school in the Northeast Consortium (Blake, Springbrook, Paint Branch), the school choice forms are due to Mr. Ingram on November 9.

For students matriculating to Sherwood High School, stay tuned for information on upcoming parent meetings in January and February 2010.

WANTED: CAREER CAFÉ SPEAKERS

Parents, please consider making a one-time commitment to speak at one of our six fun lunchtime career programs this year. Share about your career in an informal setting, with staff members present to assist you. Please contact Susan James, Career Committee chairperson at [Susan C James@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Susan_C_James@mcpsmd.org)

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences will be held on November 11 and 12. Please note that because of the size of student enrollment, teachers do not have the capacity to meet with all parents during this time. Parents are invited based on their child's progress so far this year; counselors will be contacting parents if staff feel that a conference is warranted. However, if you would like a conference with your child's teachers outside of this timeframe, please feel free to contact the counselor so arrangements can be made.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING AWARD MODIFICATION

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, all students who meet the 75 hour Student Service Learning (SSL) graduation requirement by the first Friday in April of a middle school year will receive a Superintendent's SSL Award. Due to this year's scheduled spring break and the holiday on April 2, 2010, middle school students will have until the second Friday in April (April 9, 2010) to qualify for this award. For additional modifications to the middle school SSL awards program, please visit the MCPS SSL website at: www.mcpsssl.org.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK, OCTOBER 19-23

Watch *Ride By the Rules* Here:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/ride_rules/

H1N1 PREPARATIONS AND EDLINE

As you may know, flu is spreading easily from person to person and school-age children are among the groups most affected. As a result, student and staff absences from school will fluctuate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that flu is widespread in many states, including Maryland, and that almost all of the flu viruses they have identified so far across the country are of the H1N1 strain. Although the school is unable to verify whether sick students and staff have H1N1 (swine) flu, we do know that people are reporting or exhibiting flu-like illness.

Please be assured that we are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu in our school. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) continues to work closely with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor student and staff absences due to illness. Students and staff who exhibit flu-like symptoms are staying home or being sent home in accordance with guidance from the CDC. Staff continues to model and encourage students to practice good hygiene—washing hands frequently; coughing into a tissue or sleeve; and avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth—and our school is being routinely cleaned following guidelines approved by county health officials.

We want to keep the school operations on a normal schedule and minimize any disruption to teaching and learning. You can help us in our efforts to prevent the spread of flu by:

Knowing the symptoms of the flu. These include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired.

Keeping children home from school if they are sick. Individuals who have been sick with the flu should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours. Any children or staff who are sick at school *will be sent home*.

Reminding your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.

Encouraging your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or utensils.

Telling your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If they don't have a tissue, they should cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands.

For more information, visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, the Montgomery County government website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu, or call the County flu hotline at 240-777-4200.

Parents-- we need your help. Please be sure that your emergency contact information is up-to-date in the main office, and please contact us immediately if a phone number or email address changes. Also, please be sure to sign-up for the PTA Email Listserve (<http://farquharpta.org>) and activate your Edline account, which will be used for communication. Edline can be used to find out assignments that your child missed when absent, and it will also be used to continue instruction should there be a major disruption to school operations. Finally, please continue to reinforce good hygiene habits and keep your children home if they have a fever or show any flu-like symptoms. We will continue to keep you updated on this situation and thank you for your support.

HELPFUL LINKS

Updates News & Information: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/

Calendar: <http://coldfusion.mcps.k12.md.us/cfms/webteam/calendar/calendar.cfm?calendarID=farquharms>

Staff Directory: <http://coldfusion.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/directory/index.cfm?s=dbd&pl=03507>
Edline: www.edline.net
Sign Up For the Email List: www.farquharpta.org
PTA Information: www.farquharpta.org
Lunch Pre-Payments: www.myLunchMoney.com
Daily Cafeteria Menu: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv
H1N1 Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/>
Student Service Learning: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>
Bullying: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>
PrepTalk: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/resources/preptalk.aspx>
NEC Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec>