

# THE FARQUHAR NEWS

## William H. Farquhar Middle School

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[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharm/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharm/)

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- September 11: PTA newsletter deadline
- September 17: Back-to-School Night, 7-9:30 p.m., see attached letter
- September 17: BOE Community Forum, please see information below
- September 17-23: Measures for Academic Progress in Reading (MAP-R) tests will be given to all students on the computer in English/reading classes 9/17-23. The computer program adjusts the reading level for students, and the results enable the teacher to plan instruction at the appropriate level and to provide intervention or support to students in a timely manner. The test will take about one class period.
- September 18: Sixth grade science assembly, Brain Benders, 9 a.m.
- September 22: After-School Activities begin, please see webpage and attached flyer
- September 22: Parent Health Education meeting, 7-8 p.m., room 4
- September 24: Individual School Picture Day—pictures will be taken during physical education classes. Picture information packets will be distributed the week of September 21.
- September 25: Course related fees due: FACS--\$5, Art--\$5, Unified Arts (6<sup>th</sup>)--\$5  
Student Agenda Book--\$5, payable to FMS:
- September 25: Student Service Learning Activity Verification forms (MCPS form 560-51) due in the main office for service performed during the summer. (Please see FMS website for more information.)
- September 25: School dance: music department sponsored, upper gym, 7-9 p.m., tickets \$6  
Edline assistance available to parents in the library media center
- September 28: Yom Kippur: No school for students
- October 2: Early release day: planning and grading (12:10 p.m. dismissal)
- October 5: NEC Open House at Paint Branch HS for grade 8 parents/students, 7 p.m., auditorium
- October 6: Interims mailed home
- October 8: NEC Open House at Blake HS for grade 8 parents/students, 7 p.m., auditorium
- October 12: Columbus Day Open House

## SOFTBALL AND CROSS COUNTRY—7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**Girls' and boys' softball and girls' and boys' cross country tryouts** are underway and will continue through September 17. Completed health forms and parent permission form are required before students can tryout. These forms are available on the FMS webpage—Athletics and Clubs, Athletic Forms. If you have any questions, please contact:

Boys' coach: [Jason R Ingram@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jason_R_Ingram@mcpsmd.org) Girls' coach: [Michael F Bready@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Michael_F_Bready@mcpsmd.org)

Cross Country coach: [Walter C GeddesJr@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Walter_C_GeddesJr@mcpsmd.org)

Athletic coordinator: [Richard L Eisenacher@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Richard_L_Eisenacher@mcpsmd.org)

## SEEKING PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

If you are interested in serving as a parent volunteer at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor education program at Summit Lake Education Center, Emmitsburg, MD, October 13-15 or October 19-21, please contact either 6<sup>th</sup> grade team leader. Parents are needed to assist with overnight supervision in the cabins. Thank you.

[Marcie J Leibowitz@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Marcie_J_Leibowitz@mcpsmd.org) or [Sharyn L Tolkach@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sharyn_L_Tolkach@mcpsmd.org)

## H1N1 ("SWINE FLU") PREPARATIONS

As you may be aware from the news headlines, the school system and nation are preparing for a potential outbreak of the H1N1 virus, or "Swine Flu." Parents, please help us by:

- Updating all emergency contact information on the yellow sheets and returning them to school ASAP. Please be sure to include a cell phone and email address that can be used in emergency communications.
- Signing up for the PTA Email List ([www.farquharpta.org](http://www.farquharpta.org)) and activating your Edline account ([www.Edline.com](http://www.Edline.com))
- Keeping children home if they are sick.
- Helping children learn and practice good hygiene (washing hands regularly, covering coughs and sneezes, keeping personal distance)

Here at school, we are making preparations to use Edline to provide assignments to students in the event that they are absent for an extended period, or if there is a major change in school operations. We will also be reminding our students about good hygiene and have an extensive supply of sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizers, and tissues available for students. The building will be cleaned nightly with the highest grade solutions.

To stay informed about H1N1, please visit this website regularly:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/index.aspx>

## ACTIVATE YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNTS!

The PTA email list is the primary means by which important school information is emailed directly to parents. Not only will the weekly *News* be emailed to subscribers, but the Email List is also used for emergency communications. All parents must sign up now at [www.farquharpta.org](http://www.farquharpta.org)

**All parents and students must have active Edline accounts!** For new parents--activation codes and instructions for account activation will be sent home in the U.S. mail, so please look out for this envelope on or around September 1. For returning parents, usernames and passwords will remain the same as in 2008-09. If you have difficulty, please go to [www.Edline.com](http://www.Edline.com) and click "Forgot Username" or "Forgot Password." Students will receive their activation codes at school. For advanced assistance with your Edline account, please contact Beth Hopkins [Beth A Hopkins@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Beth_A_Hopkins@mcpsmd.org), or go to <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/oars/>.

## IMPORTANT ITEMS TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

Many important pieces of information were sent home with students the first week of school. Please be sure to carefully read all items. The following important papers need to be returned as soon as possible:

- 1) Yellow Emergency Information sheets (must be returned to receive a locker). Please be sure to include cell phone and email address that can be used in cases of emergency.
- 2) Emergency Parent/Child Reunification Contact Sheet, Parent Release
- 3) Free and Reduced Meal (FARMS) Application

## BOE COMMUNITY FORUMS

The Montgomery County Board of Education will hold two public forums to provide parents, staff, students, and community members the opportunity to give their input on important issues affecting the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The forums will be held on September 17 at Quince Orchard HS and on Thursday, October 15, at John F. Kennedy HS. Both forums will take place from 7-9:30 p.m. Parents, students, staff, and community members wishing to speak at the forums will be asked to address the following question: "During difficult economic times, what priorities in the MCPS strategic plan should we focus on to improve achievement for all students?" The information shared at the forums will assist us in setting priorities for the Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget.

## CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Applications for Free and Reduced Meals need to be returned to the main office by Friday, September 18. Blank applications may be picked up in the main office or in the cafeteria. Also, you can replenish your child's cafeteria account at any time. Make checks payable to Farquhar Cafeteria and please include your home phone number along with your child's name and PIN on the check. Cafeteria accounts may also be replenished online at [Mylunchmoney.com](http://Mylunchmoney.com).

## HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

The Safe School Reporting Act of 2005 mandates the Maryland State Board of Education report to the legislature certain information about incidents of harassment and intimidation (bullying) that are brought to the attention of school staff. This includes electronic forms of harassment that may take place online. MCPS Form 230-35, *Harassment of Intimidation (Bullying) Reporting* form can be used by students, parents, staff, or close adult relative of students to report an incident. It can be used to report an incident by obtaining a copy from the main office or MCPS website, [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org). An incident can also be reported by simply contacting a counsellor, administrator, or security personnel.

## HELPFUL LINKS

Updates News & Information: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharm/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharm/)

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

Staff Directory: <http://coldfusion.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/directory/index.cfm?s=dbd&pl=03507>

Edline: [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net)

Sign Up For the Email List: [www.farquharpta.org](http://www.farquharpta.org)

PTA Information: [www.farquharpta.org](http://www.farquharpta.org)

Lunch Pre-Payments: [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.myLunchMoney.com)

Daily Cafeteria Menu: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv](http://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>

