

THE FARQUHAR NEWS

William H. Farquhar Middle School

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www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- September 7: Labor Day: No school for students
- September 8: Outdoor Education Parent meeting, 7-8:30 p.m., cafeteria
- September 17: Back-to-School Night, 7-9:30 p.m.
- September 17: BOE Community Forum, please see information below
- September 22: After-School Activities begin
- September 22: Parent Health Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- September 24: Individual School Picture Day
- 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 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 8: NEC Open House at Blake HS for grade 8 parents/students, 7 p.m., auditorium
- October 12: Columbus Day Open House

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

We are thrilled to welcome all of our students back and are excited for a great year. The first marking period is the most important time to get off to a good start, form good habits, and begin the year on a positive note. Remember--effective effort is the key! A little bit of success and effort make the difference!



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) and activating your Edline account (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

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 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, 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 this week. 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.

FARQUHAR NEWS GOING GREEN!

This *News* bulletin will be published each Wednesday. Beginning next week, it will no longer be given to students for backpack distribution (where it usually gets lost forever!). Rather, the *News* will be:

- Posted weekly on the front page of the Farquhar website
- Posted weekly in the "News" section of the Farquhar website
- Posted weekly on Edline
- **Emailed to subscribers of the PTA email list (see below).**

Also, a small supply of paper copies of the *News* will be available each Wednesday in the main office and cafeteria. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please have your child stop by the main office to obtain a copy, or pick one up at lunch.

MESSAGE FROM DR. HERMANN, COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

"As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, as a result of this current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school."

HELPFUL LINKS

Updates News & Information: 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

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>