



October 2009

## Letter from the Principal

Scott Murphy

### Dear Farquhar Community:

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and participation in activities at Farquhar. It has been impressive to see so many of you at events like Back-to-School Night, athletic contests, health night, Open House, PTA meetings, and at other school events. Your involvement in activities and your commitment to the home-school partnership is a key factor in your child's success. Thank you also for all you do "behind the scenes" with homework, Edline, and supporting your kids in the myriad of activities they are involved in. Your involvement in daily academic routines is an important element of success in school.



### New Technology



For those parents who joined us at Back-to-School Night or Open House, you hopefully observed lots of technology in action. In addition to the interactive Promethean whiteboards and "Activote" student response handheld systems in all core classes, we are also connected with high-speed wireless access throughout the building. Through the generous support of the parent community and PTA, we now have two mobile laptop computer labs that are in circulation throughout the building each day. These mobile labs consist of a set of laptops and printer on portable carts, which can be transported to all classrooms, connected wirelessly to our computer network and online resources, and available for student use. Thank you for your generous support in this effort!

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# Farquhar Forum



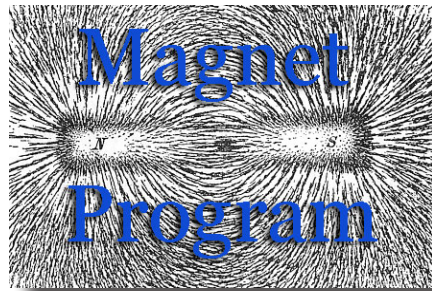
# Farquhar Forum

## Outdoor Education

Our 6th grade students and teachers are off to Outdoor Education at Summit Lake Center near Thurmont, MD October 13-15 and October 19-21. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who have donated their time to join us to help with overnight supervision in the cabins. High school counselors from Sherwood and Blake are also joining us.



Should there be weather emergencies or changes in school operations while students are at Outdoor Education, cancellations or delays to the program could occur. Emergency changes will be published on the Newsbox on the front of our website, the email listserve, Edline, and the phone calling system. With any questions, please contact one of the team leaders: Mrs. Tolkach (Sharyn\_L\_Tolkach@mcpsmd.org) or Mrs. Leibowitz (Marcie\_J\_Leibowitz@mcpsmd.org).



## 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.

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# Farquhar Forum

## End of First Marking Period

Parent conferences will be held on November 11 and 12. Please note that because of the size of our student enrollment, we do not have the capacity to meet with all parents during this time. Instead, we invite parents 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.

## MSA Practice Test



At this point, parents should have received home reports that explain student performance on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) that was administered in March 2009. At Farquhar, we are very proud of exceptional gains that were noted among all students in reading and math, outperforming the district and state in all areas. We also ranked #3 in MCPS in the Science MSA that is given to all 8th graders. The Farquhar community should be very proud of these accomplishments and growth in 2009, which can be found at [www.mdreportcard.org](http://www.mdreportcard.org). We should all be proud of our high-achieving students and exceptional teaching and support staff.

We will be giving students a "practice" MSA during the early release days on November 11 and 12. Although these practice assessments will not count towards a grade, we have found these practice sessions to be highly effective in preparing students for formalized testing environments. Students will take the practice MSA from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and have a special schedule on these days. Please check the weekly Farquhar News for specifics on the bell schedules for the early release days.

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# Farquhar Forum

## Getting Extra Help



Students are off to a great start in their classes, and there are many important assessments as we end the first marking period. I would like to highlight "Roadwork," a program for academic support during lunch. Teachers are available every day during lunch to help students as needed. Roadwork can include tutoring, reassessment, getting organized, preparing for a test, math help, reading, or simply having a quiet place to study during lunch. Students can bring their lunch and stay for a few minutes or the entire period. As students prepare for high school, seeking these resources and staff support are important skills that all students will need in their school careers. Roadwork is one of several valuable opportunities for all students; please encourage your child to give it a try!

Meanwhile, dozens of after-school activities are offered each week, including Homework Clubs, Math-on-Call, Spanish Club, and more options for additional academic assistance. Please be sure to check our weekly News and website for more information about after-school activities.

## H1N1 Preparations and Edline

MCPS officials, the county health department, and I are continuing to monitor the flu situation and are making plans accordingly. At this point, student and staff absences are in the normal range and there have not been widespread absences due to illness. In this newsletter, please find a letter from Dr. Ulder Tillman, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), providing information regarding the H1N1 (swine) flu vaccination program. The letter and additional information can be found here: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/>.



Parents- we need your help in supporting this effort. 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.

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# Farquhar Forum

## Bus Safety

As administrators met with classes during the first few weeks of school, we emphasized student safety at school and on school buses. Most of the disciplinary and bullying incidents that have occurred this school year have taken place on the school bus. As a result, the administrators met with all of the bus drivers and transportation supervisor in October to discuss these issues and how to better address them.



Parents should encourage their children to report any harassing, bullying, or other harmful behavior to a counselor, administrator, teacher, bus driver, or other school staff. We will take all reports seriously and will take action immediately. Students need to understand that the school bus is an extension of school, and the same standards of behavior apply to the school bus and bus stop. Any inappropriate behavior or bullying taking place at the bus or stop will not be tolerated. I would also like to draw your attention to the MCPS Ride by the Rules campaign, which can be found at this link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/>. Also, please note that bus drivers are not under my supervision; rather, issues can be addressed through the transportation office at 301-929-2263.

## Educational Facilities Officer (EFO) Program

As a reminder, MCPS participates in the EFO program, which provides a uniformed police officer to each high school, and provides support to neighboring cluster middle schools. Our EFO is Officer Brett Mavritte of the Montgomery County Police. Most of Officer Smith's time is spent at Sherwood High School, but she visits Farquhar regularly. You may see Officer Smith around school from time to time, as she works with us to enhance emergency preparedness, build positive relationships with students, and develop lines of communication with the police department.



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# Farquhar Forum

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.



## Enrollment & School Improvement Plan

Our enrollment is now at 622 students, with 182 students in Grade 6, 210 in Grade 7, and 230 in Grade 8. Our staff continues to work on our school improvement goals and action plans for 2009-10. One of our primary goals is to ensure that each student has meaningful relationships with many adults in the building; research shows that these positive relationships lead to increased academic achievement and a positive experience in school. Our school improvement goals include making continued gains on the MSA and outperforming the district, increasing students in the Advanced performance range, maintaining high successful completion rates in high school courses like Algebra, and decreasing students with low GPA's. Our SIP includes action plans in relationships, rigor, intervention and discipline, and parent engagement. A group of staff and parents will meet on December 3 at 3:00 to review the School Improvement Plan (SIP), monitor progress, and modify action steps as needed. All are invited!

## Finally

The marking period ends on October 30, and report cards will be distributed on November 11. Please continue to monitor your child's homework, agenda book, progress reports, and check Edline periodically. Keep the lines of communication open with your child's teachers and counselors, and please be sure to check the Farquhar and PTA websites regularly. Thank you so much for your involvement and commitment to the Farquhar community.

Sincerely,

*Scott W. Murphy*

Principal



# Farquhar Forum

## A HUGE THANKS TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL CONTRIBUTORS!!

### ROAD RUNNER GOLD LEVEL (\$500 OR MORE)

Paul & Pat Mangus

Jay Silverman & Suzanne Honeyman

### ROAD RUNNER SILVER LEVEL (\$250-499)

Karen & Stephen Blair

Kathy & John Lyons

Theresa & David Mezebish

Alice & Fred Nichols

Jackie & Gregory Reeves

Vic & Sudha Sikri

### FRIENDS OF FARQUHAR (\$100-\$249)

Stacie & Bob Anderson

Veronica & Martin Baechler

Hilary & Gary Bloom

Audra & Brian Bray

Robin & Glen Cameron

Chacko Oommen & Bini Chacko

Christina Chen

Whit Cobb & Mary Depasquale

Mark & Shelly D'Amico

Shari & Patrick Delaney

Richard & Jennifer DiPietro

Debby Fearson

Janice & Doug Flamand

Amy & David Freedman

Stephanie & George Hyde

The Jenners

Jack Kaminski

Clark & Diane Kendall

Myndee & Patrick Kerner

Beth Montgomery & David Knowles

Katherine & Vincent Loiacono

Lisa & Harvey Metro

Donna & Bennett Morrison

Jeff & Terrie Newmark

Rekha & Jay Patel

Sonal & Kalpesh Patel

Susan & John Pierson

Laura Bradshaw & Bob Pokorny

Patricia & Richard Prather

Jean & William Rager

Sharon & Joe Ranaudo

Tammy & Eric Rhoades

Steven & Betsy Sirk

Celeste Amadei & Krag Smith

Debbie & Dan Snyder

Marilyn & Gregg Taira

Ifeoma & Jonathan Thompson

Dianne & Eric Thorndike

Julie & Andy Weir

Susan & Tom Wells

Reenie & Greg Welsh

Cindy & Tom Wengert

Scott & Wendy Wykoff



# Farquhar Forum

## FARQUHAR SUP- PORTERS

(UP TO \$99)

Maureen & Tom Abrams

Osunde Akamune &  
Felicia Bassey-Akamune

Susan Rapaport &  
Ken Alexander

Cathy & Jon Angel

Brenda & Wayne Barbour

Fred & Trish Billig

Juliet & Tim Blackford

Jai & Cary Bloyd

Nicole Bouvier &  
David Weinberg

Michelle & Brian  
Bridegum

Matrice Browne

Ginny & Fred Bunke

Suzanne & Bill Burton

Anne & Rich Collins

Theresa Comer

Adrian & Dinitri Dantley

Logan Dechter Family

Gretchen Dejter

Paula & Tom Dunwoody

John Eggener

Steve Eppley &  
Corinne Verard-Eppley

Debbie & Ron Fox

Donna & Chuck  
Frederick

Liz & Craig Fricke

Jodie & Paul Friedman

Mike & Sally Glick

Cathy & Tony Hagedorn

Amy & Kevin Henry

Kristin & Thomas Hewitt

Jeff Jakobowski

Dawn Jacob

Sonia & Adrian  
Karmazyn

Randy & Nancy Keyes

Bill & Jackie Kister

Sung Koo

Robyn & Brian Kotzker

Laura Lampshire

Michelle & Marc Levy

Lynn Lockett

Jennifer & Rich Long

Cara & John Lowry

Judy Marx & Keren Kuo

Bill & Janice Marcus

Heather & Phil McIntyre

Debbie & Rick Metrey

Debbie & Paul Newman

Shelly Niverth

Lori & Alan Post

Helen Shueh  
& Peter Noonan

Denise & Scott Paton

Jeff Rosenbaum

Julie Boynton  
& Michael Rubinstein

Laura & Craig Sanchez

Virginia &  
Michael Sardone

Lucy & Brian Schindel

Scott Sigwalt

Lisa & Sam Silverman

Bob & Suzanne Simala

Katie & J'Von Spann

Elaine & Michael Steele

Michelle & Joe Steffes

April Strumpf

Cecilia Taramona

Mary & Robert Tucker

Patricia & Dennis Via

Dave & Karin Weber

Cindy Weitzner

Carol & Scott Wilson

Anthony & Erin Zagami



# Farquhar Forum



## Message from the PTA President, Joe Griffin

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their PTA membership dues and the direct appeal contribution. The money we collect is used to enhance our children's education and development at Farquhar. The funds provide the latest in classroom technology so that our children have the very best education tools

despite the fact they are in a building that is over 40 years old. The PTA pays for cultural education programs which are enjoyable for the students while at the same time expanding their exposure to various cultures and arts. The PTA provides fun family events throughout the year to help bring everyone involved in our children's education together as a close knit community. If you have not sent your dues or direct appeal, I encourage you to please do so soon in order for the PTA to continue to provide these wonderful opportunities to our children.

The October PTA meeting was very informative with a panel of the schools counselors and a MCPS School Psychologist who presented a program titled, "Bumps in the Road: How To Avoid Them; What to Do About Them." On behalf of the PTA, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone on the panel for the great job in explaining the hurdles our children may face during these difficult transition years. At the end of the discussion it was very clear to everyone in attendance that we are very lucky to have these people involved in our child's school and life.

We have coordinated our PTA meetings to be a combination of a brief 30 minute business meeting followed by an activity or presentation. I hope everyone will come to the meetings and find the information useful to helping us as parents help our children. The meeting next month will feature Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler who will discuss cyber-bullying. Mr. Gansler will present statistics and examples from our community as well as what is being done locally to deal with the problem. He will conclude with a question/answer period. I hope everyone is able to attend this important meeting on November 10th at 7pm in the media center.



# Farquhar Forum

I want to extend a special invitation to all sixth grade parents to please consider volunteering with the PTA. As with every graduating class, several valued volunteers left with last year's graduating class. Just as the student body is replenished with a new incoming 6th grade class, so to must the PTA and parent volunteers be replaced by the new incoming 6th grade families. To volunteer please email your information to Margie gBeatty at marj421@aol.com.

Have a wonderful month and enjoy the great fall weather.

Joseph M. Griffin, PTA President

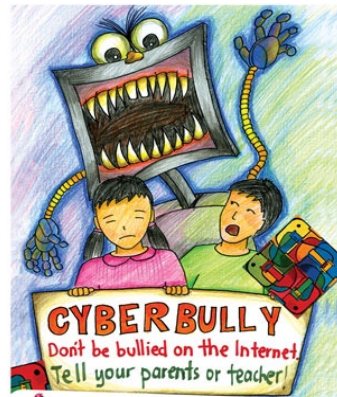
## Upcoming November PTA Meeting Information

November 10th PTA business meeting: 7 pm

Guest speaker: 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: MD Attorney General Doug Gansler

**Topic: Cyber-Bullying: Keeping Our Children Safe**



Come to the November meeting to hear our Attorney General, Doug Gansler, speak on

this very important topic.

How do we keep our kids safe in this internet connected world?

### What is Cyberbullying?

“Cyberbullying” is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor.

The methods used are limited only by the child's imagination and access to technology. And the cyberbully one moment may become the victim the next. The kids often change roles, going from victim to bully and back again. Join us at the November meeting to discuss this very topical subject in today's society.



# Farquhar Forum

## Counselor's Corner Anti-Bullying Awareness

The first week of October was Anti-Bullying Awareness Month. The week kicked off with students enjoying the first "Roadrunner Jam" of the year at lunch. The Roadrunner Jam is a chance for students to hear songs with positive messages that the students themselves nominate in advance. All week anti-bullying messages, songs and videos were a nice addition to our morning TV show. The entire staff wore colorful peace necklaces to show their support in keeping FMS a peaceful and kind place, and in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the peace sign. Students were asked to submit an anti-bullying idea for a chance to win a peace necklace. Everyone was encouraged to wear blue on Friday, October 09, 2009 to support peace and unity.



Counselors are scheduled to go into all science classes during the month of October to discuss bullying issues. In the 6th grade we will talk about our experiences with bullying, types of bullying, effects of bullying, what to do if you are bullied as well as how a bystander can help. In the 7th and 8th grades the topic will be becoming aware of our stereotypes and prejudices. We will discuss the importance of diversity, tolerance and acceptance for all people.

Throughout the year, the FMS Counseling Department will continue to highlight anti-bullying strategies and messages classroom lessons, contests and spirit days. Our next contest, in November, will be called "Express Yourself about Bullying!" Students at all grade levels can submit poems, songs, raps, posters, videos, personal stories or ideas for making Farquhar bully free and peaceful school. Samples will be shown (or heard) on the morning TV show.

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# Farquhar Forum

(Counselor's Corner cont.)

## Counseling Presentation for Parents

On Tuesday, October 13th, the FMS Counseling Department sponsored a presentation for parents entitled *Bumps in the Road: How to Avoid Them, What to Do About Them*. The presentation featured a variety of speakers on emotional and social issues that can present challenges to middle school students and their parents: depression, stress, anxiety, bullying and fitting in. Parents also had the chance to hear about Farquhar's Roadrunner Way core value program, our anti-bullying initiatives, small group counseling, and the impact of media messages on middle school students. If you were not able to attend the presentation but would like more information and resources on these topics, please contact your grade level counselor.

## Red Ribbon Week is coming!

The last week of October is Red Ribbon Week. We will be educating our students why it is imperative to continue to lead drug-free lives. The week will include students writing on red ribbons about why they choose to be drug free, a Roadrunner Jam, and anti-drug messages on our morning TV show. On October 26th, seventh and eighth grade students will participate in an assembly in honor of Red Ribbon Week, featuring former NFL player Mr. Cliff Crosby of the Richard J. Caron Foundation. On October 29th, we will have another spirit day, asking staff and students to wear red.



## Opportunities for Group Counseling

The first group counseling sessions will start in November. We will facilitate a sixth grade friendship and self esteem group and a seventh grade managing feelings group. These groups take place during the school day but vary periods so that students do not miss the same class twice. If you would like your child to participate in either of these groups or others at a later date, please contact your grade level counselor, or Heather Sobieralski, group counselor at (301)924-3100. Other groups may include: stress, divorce, grief and loss, positive choices, dealing with bullying, and getting along in the family.

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# Farquhar Forum

(Counselor's Corner cont.)

## Northeast Consortium

Eighth grade students residing within the Northeast Consortium met with student representatives from Blake, Springbrook and Paint Branch on October 2nd. FMS students had the opportunity to learn about their speakers' high school experiences and ask any questions they had about each school.

Choice forms will be mailed to students in mid-October, and should be returned to Mr. Ingram, 8th Grade Counselor, by November 9th.

## Magnet Program Application Process

Eighth grade students who are considering applying to the magnet programs at Blair or Poolesville, or the IB program at Richard Montgomery, should see Mr. Ingram to pick up an application and a test preparation book. The deadline for applications is November 9th.

Mr. Lawson-6th Grade Counselor

Ms. James-7th Grade Counselor

Mr. Ingram-8th Grade Counselor

Ms. Sobieralski- Group Counselor and Programs



# Farquhar Forum

## SIXTH GRADE NEWS!!

The sixth graders had a super time at outdoor education! Summit Lake was the perfect setting. It has excellent trails, beautiful scenery (especially with the beautiful fall colors!), and wildlife. Students participated in a wide range of educational and fun activities. These included orienteering, confidence course, predator/prey, a night hike, a camp fire, a team wide talent show and glow-in-the-dark wiffle ball game. The outdoor education experience was more than just academics. For many students, this was their first opportunity to spend time away from their family, provision for changing weather conditions, use proper dining hall etiquette, and serve meals to others. The students will find that outdoor education is truly an unforgettable moment in their school careers.



With the November conference dates coming up soon, we want to remind you to request a team conference only if your child's difficulties in school involve all or most of his or her teachers. The school counselor will notify parents of students whose progress is a concern to the staff and will set up a time for a meeting. We are limited to two half-days and will not be able to accommodate all requests. You might want to take the following steps before requesting a conference.

- Check your child's agenda nightly for assignments in all subjects and supervise their completion. Help your child study for tests and quizzes.
- Check your child's progress on Edline and look at returned work to observe daily progress.
- Read all handouts from the teachers and the school.
- E-mail individual teachers with questions and concerns.
- Counsel your child about organization, time management and strategies for learning that suit his or her learning style.
- Organize your home to support your child's changing needs.



# Farquhar Forum

## Seventh Grade News

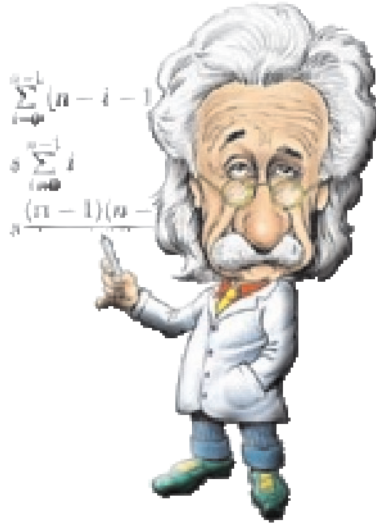
Our students had a wonderful learning experience at Medieval Times 1st quarter. Students behaved well, even as they tore into their meal with their hands! The Social Studies classes followed up the experience in the Media Center with student research. Ms. Ladd, media specialist, collaborated with the teachers and assisted students throughout the project using both traditional research methods and online tools.



Later this fall, our seventh grade students will participate in the Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy (MMSTL). This online tool is designed to provide schools, counties, and the state with information to help make decisions about technology instruction. In addition, students will be completing a survey about the amount of access they have to technology at home and school and which tools they use most.



# Farquhar Forum



## The Math Corner

Working With Your Child's School

From NCTM's Family Corner: <http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=2796>

How can I work with the school to make sure my child gets the most out of math?

Just like your child, schools need your support—especially in the middle school years. Since choice made in middle school determine high school courses that either increase or limit fu-

ture education and career opportunities, your participation is critical.

Two people you should get to know are your child's math teacher and the school counselor. Working with you and your child, they can help you decide the math your child will take in the future. Talk with them often. Let them know that you want to participate in making decisions.

How do you begin? Ask questions. After all, you have a right to know. You'll find that teachers and counselors will be happy to answer your questions. After all, you're in this together.

Ms. Carla Britt

Mathematics Resource Teacher



# Farquhar Forum



## Family and Consumer Science News

The FACS classes have used the new mini-laptops twice in the classroom. Students researched the MyPyramid.gov website to gather information needed to complete a nutritional placemat to use during the labs. This is such a convenient way for all the students have computer access at one time. We are very appreciative to the PTA for purchasing these computers for the students.

A team of FACS students are preparing an exhibit to compete at the BONE BASH at the Smithsonian. This competition is open to 7th/8th graders who develop a teaching concept to encourage young people to get more calcium in their diets. There is big prize money if our exhibit wins but members of the team are already winners having the experience of researching and preparing a multi-media exhibit. The competition will be held on November 14 at the Smithsonian.

Thanks,

Linda Lindstrom  
FACS Teacher



## Computer Literacy News

Finale Notepad software was recently installed in the computer/keyboard lab. In addition to beginning piano instruction, music reading, and theory, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in the piano investigations class now have the opportunity to compose their own music!



# Farquhar Forum

An Invitation to all Parents/Guardians:

Presented by: Scott Murphy, Principal of Farquhar Middle School

Bridging the Achievement Gap for Students:

A Bridge Too Far?

NEW INFORMATION!!

Farquhar Middle School Performance of African American Students

Full Report (2008-2009) will be presented for each subject and grade.

Don't principals always seem so busy? You hate to interrupt. Now's your opportunity. Let's hear those concerns!

PLEASE JOIN US ON:

November 5, 2009 @ 6:30pm Media Center

Farquhar Middle School

Childcare will be provided. The gym will be open for basketball, reading (bring your favorite book) etc. during the meeting.

Organized by: NAACP Parent Council

If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Bromfield or Kim Macedo (301) 602 0826 or via email at [jbromfield@comcast.net](mailto:jbromfield@comcast.net)



BRIDGING • THE • GAP



# Farquhar Forum

## SPECIAL H1N1 INSERT

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will offer H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine to MCPS students, private school students and other healthy children from 2 years up to 18 years of age at FREE school-located clinics on the following dates: Wednesday, October 28, Wednesday, November 4, Wednesday, November 11 and Wednesday, November 18 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD 20874

Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD 20851

H1N1 vaccine will also be offered for students at the School Health Services Center, MCPS Rocking Horse Road Center, and 4910 Macon Road, Rockville, MD 20852 starting on Thursday, October 15, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Both the H1N1 (swine) flu nasal spray and injectable (flu shot) vaccine will be offered as it is available. Individuals cannot receive the H1N1 (swine) flu nasal spray within 28 days of receiving the seasonal nasal spray (FluMist) vaccine.

In the next several weeks, the DHHS will offer the H1N1 (swine) flu nasal spray vaccine to MCPS students in Pre-K, Head Start and PEP classes during the school day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have identified children of this age as one of the priority groups for the H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine. There are no plans to administer H1N1 (swine) flu nasal spray vaccine to other MCPS students during the school day.

For current information on locations and times of H1N1 (swine) flu clinics, check the County's website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu> or call the flu hotline at 240-777-4200. In addition to the local health department, retail locations and some private physicians will be receiving the H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine.

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# Farquhar Forum

As you know, the school based seasonal flu vaccine campaign has been suspended. Instead, free seasonal injectable flu vaccine is being offered for students at the School Health Services Center, MCPS Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Rockville, MD 20852 on Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Students under 9 years of age who need a second dose of seasonal flu vaccine may receive it at these clinics. Free seasonal flu vaccine clinics that are open to everyone will be held on October 31 st at Silver Spring Health Center 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., on November 5th at Germantown Recreational Center 8:30 a.m. -12:00 Noon and on November 12th at University of Maryland Shady Grove, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The vaccination for the seasonal flu and the H1N1 (swine) flu is entirely voluntary and not required for school attendance.

Sincerely,

Ulder J. Tillman, M.D., M.P.H.