

THE FARQUHAR NEWS

William H. Farquhar Middle School

16915 Batchellors Forest Road • Olney, MD 20832 • (301) 924-3100 • (301) 924-3100 FAX
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 2009

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

November 26 & 27: Holidays: Thanksgiving

November 30-Dec 4: Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy (MMSTL)
Technology Assessments, 7th grade, during p.e. classes

December 1: Eighth grade parent meeting at FMS, for parents of students going to
Sherwood next year, 7 p.m., library media center, see attached flyer

December 4, 7, & 8: Hearing and vision screening 8th graders and students new to MCPS,
during science classes

December 7-11: Book Fair, extended hours for parents 2:40-4 p.m. & 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday,
December 8, library media center

December 8: PTA general meeting 7-8:30 p.m., cafeteria

December 10: No after-school activities

December 11: Career Café, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

December 11: Interims mailed home

December 11: PTA newsletter deadline

December 16: Winter Music concert, 7-9 p.m., Sherwood HS

December 18: Cultural arts assembly--History of Hip Hop

December 24 & 25: Holiday: Christmas

December 26-31: Winter break: no school for pupils and teachers

January 1: Holiday: New Year's Day

FARQUHAR SPRING PLAY

Attention students interested in auditioning for this year's spring play. This year's play will be *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* Auditions will be held next Wednesday, December 2, and Thursday, December 3 in the chorus room (38). Please sign up for either day in your grade-level hallway—6th grade across from room 1C; 7th grade across from room 16; 8th grade around the corner from room 35. All students are welcome to audition regardless of membership in the drama club. Please also remember to pick up an audition packet from a folder next to the sign-up sheets. See you there!

SCHOOL LUNCHES: NUT-FREE TABLE OPTION IN THE CAFETERIA

Beginning this year, our school is offering a peanut- and tree nut-free table in the cafeteria. This is an effort to reduce the risk of anaphylactic reactions as a result of severe nut allergies. We have not had any problems or medical emergencies at our school; this is in response to a new Maryland House Bill (26) that was enacted on October 1, 2009. Typically, students prefer to sit with their friends or move around during lunch. However, if you would like your child to take advantage of the nut-free table option, please contact Mr. Gitchell (Grades 6 and 7) or Ms. Geness (Grade 8), and appropriate arrangements will be made.

MR. GEDDES EARNS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Mr. Walter Geddes, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, for earning National Board Certification, announced on Friday, November 20, by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

National Board Certification is awarded to highly accomplished teachers who meet a set of high and rigorous standards. To achieve certification, candidates complete a series of rigorous assessments that include teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and analyses of their classroom teaching and student learning. Candidates also complete a series of written exercises on their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students. National Board certification is only awarded to the top few percent of all educators in the United States. Mr. Geddes joins Mr. Andre Jones, Algebra teacher, among Farquhar staff achieving this honor. Congratulations!

GIANT FOOD A+ BONUS BUCKS PROGRAM

All family, friends and relatives of the Farquhar community, please support our school by signing up today at www.giantfood.com/aplus to register your Giant Food bonus card in the A+ Bonus Bucks program. The sooner you register, the sooner Farquhar will begin to earn points and cash that will benefit the school throughout the year. Keep in mind that purchasing Extra Credit items is the key to earning more points and cash for our school. Once you access the web address above, use code **00691** to designate Farquhar as your chosen school. Thanks for taking a moment to register, it will generate great benefits for our school.

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

MARYLAND MEASURE OF STUDENT TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

Grade 7 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will take the Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy (MMSTL) between November 30 and December 4, 2009 in the computer lab during physical education classes. This measure is an online, web-based tool that blends multiple choice questions and interactive performance-based items. It is designed to be completed in one 45-minute class period and is untimed. Results of the measurement are NOT for individual student accountability, but will give schools, the district office and the State a snapshot of where we are with regard to student technology literacy. Scores will not be placed on

report cards or high school transcripts. The school results do not affect Adequate Yearly Progress since it is a “measure of literacy” and not a high stakes assessment.

One of the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is to ensure that every student has the technology skills to succeed in school and in their future lives. By June 2009, all states are required to report to the U. S. Department of Education the number of students who have met this goal. We also recognize the importance of this measure to help us ensure that all students have the technology skills they need, and that our schools have teachers and administrators who have the knowledge and skills to inform and deliver quality instruction.

If you should have further questions, please contact Mr. Gitchell to talk about the MMSTL. Parents and students may view a sample of the measure at the following website:
<http://www.lerning.com/tla/20itemsample/fall06/middle>.

FARQUHAR YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are now on sale for \$30 through December 4, and order forms were sent home with students October 21. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please put the completed order form along with your check made payable to Farquhar Middle School in the yearbook envelope. Order forms may be given to Mrs. Grandin (room 26), Ms. Lazarick (room 15), or the main office. After December 4 the price will be \$33. Extra order forms are available in the main office and posted on the FMS website. If you have any questions please contact Becky Grandin, co-yearbook sponsor, at [Rebecca A Grandin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rebecca.A.Grandin@mcpsmd.org) or Rachel Lazerick, co-yearbook sponsor, at [Rachel Lazarick@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rachel.Lazarick@mcpsmd.org)

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>

Parent Academy: www.mcpsparentacademy.org