

THE FARQUHAR NEWS

William H. Farquhar Middle School

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www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

December 24 & 25: Holiday: Christmas

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

January 1: Holiday: New Year's Day

January 8: School-wide Geography Bee 1st period

January 8: Student service documentation of service performed during the first semester is due to Mrs. Rodriguez, room 41 or main office. Complete the SSL Verification form at www.mcpsssl.org or the FMS website—Edline or Student Service Learning

January 12: Basketball: Banneker, boys away, girls home

January 12: PTA general meeting, 7-8:30 p.m., lmc

January 14: Exam review day

January 14: MCCPTA is hosting a Student Service Learning (SSL) Question & Answer evening, CESC auditorium, 7-9 p.m. The forum is offered to clarify and broaden parents' understanding regarding MCPS SSL guidelines.

January 15-21: Final exams first semester, see attached exam schedule

January 21: Basketball: Argyle, boys home, girls away

January 18: Holiday: Martin L. King, Jr.'s Birthday

January 22: Exam make-up

January 22: Second marking period ends

January 25: Professional day: report card preparation & planning; no school for students

January 26: Third marking period begins

January 28: Basketball: Briggs Chaney, boys away, girls home

January 28: Parent/Student Meeting and Course Fair for 8th graders attending Sherwood HS next year, 6 p.m., Sherwood HS

**The Farquhar MS staff wishes you a Happy Holiday Season and a
Happy New Year.**

We look forward to continued success for our children in 2010.

MCPS PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR

Our Superintendent, Dr. Jerry D. Weast, has released his proposed operating budget for next school year. The recommended budget proposes no new initiatives but allows our school and our school system to maintain the services and programs we are currently providing. The only increase – about 1 percent – is to help fund MCPS' continued growth in enrollment.

Given the economic challenges at the state and county levels, the future of Dr. Weast's proposal is very uncertain and before the budget receives final approval from the County Council and the Board of Education, the district could be forced to make some very difficult cuts. With his recommendation, Dr. Weast and the budget team – which included our employee associations and PTAs – released a list of areas that could be impacted should cuts to the budget need to be made. These are not final recommendations and we are hopeful that we will not need to make any reductions. We want to maintain the high level of service to our students that has yielded such outstanding results in our school and our system. However, we must be prepared.

With all of this uncertainty, it is more important than ever that our parents and community members are fully informed about the budget and know exactly how to make their voice heard. A budget website has been created that includes a video presentation by Dr. Weast; the full budget book, as well as a summary; frequently asked questions and much more. Please take the time to learn more about Dr. Weast's proposal and make sure the members of the Board of Education and the County Council know your priorities and your concerns. You can visit the website at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/>.

As we all know, even in difficult times, we must continue to invest in education to secure the future of our children and our community. Thank you for your continued support!

KID STUFF COUPON BOOK

[Don't Forget the KidStuff!](#)



The coupon book is **JAM PACKED** with **GREAT COUPONS** for places you shop. **Not only will you be helping Farquhar, but in the end, you will have SAVED** more money than you **SPEND** on the book. **Imagine that!**

Want to know JUST who's in the book before you buy it? Click this link to view all the stores participating! For more information, visit: <http://farquharpta.org/>

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.

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

Edline Assistance: Beth_A_Hopkins@mcpsmd.org

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

Giant Food A+ Bonus Bucks Program (use code 00691): www.giantfood.com/aplus

Yearbook Order Form:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/news/Yearbook%20Order%20Form%2009.jpg

Silent Auction Donation Form: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/news