

# THE FARQUHAR NEWS

## William H. Farquhar Middle School

16915 Batchellors Forest Road • Olney, MD 20832 • (301) 924-3100 • (301) 924-3152 FAX  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/)

WEEKLY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010

## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

February 25: Career Café, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., speaker: Darren Popkin, Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Office of Montgomery County

February 26: Honor Roll & Straight A celebration and picture, a.m.

February 26: Early release day: planning/grades, 12:10 p.m. dismissal

March 2: Orchestra Festival, Wootton HS, 12-4 p.m.

March 2: Interims mailed home

March 4: Band Festival, Clarksburg HS, 12-4 p.m.

March 4: Students vs. Teachers Basketball game, 2:45-4 p.m., upper gym, \$1 to benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society - Pennies for Patients, activity buses running, all other activities canceled

March 8-17: Maryland State Assessment (MSA) testing begins with modified bell schedules.

March 8-17 modified bell schedules will be published around March 1.

MSA Reading:	March 8-9	Grade 6
	March 10-11	Grades 7, 8

MSA Math:	March 12 & 15	Grade 6
	March 16-17	Grades 7, 8

March 9: Boys and Girls soccer tryouts begin, please read attached information

March 9: PTA general meeting (7-8:30 p.m.), lmc, special guest speaker: John McCarthy, State's Attorney for Montgomery County, topics: Bullying, Gangs, Cyber safety, & more!

March 12: PTA newsletter deadline

March 16-18: Soccer tryouts continue

March 18-22: MSA makeup testing

March 19: Career Café, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

March 19: PTA Roadrunner Night, 7-9:30 p.m.

March 23-25: Port Isobel field trip, departure 3/23—8 a.m., return 3/25—3 p.m.

March 26: Third marking period ends

March 29-April 1: Spring break: no school for students and teachers

April 2 & 5: Holidays: Good Friday and Easter

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD TRIP

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the Smithsonian originally scheduled for December 23 and February 12 has been cancelled due to the snow closures. The \$8 that students paid for the trip will be credited towards the cost for the annual theater production by the *National Players*, which will take place in May and typically costs around \$10. If you would prefer an immediate refund, please contact Mrs. Judy Yu, financial specialist.

## BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TRYOUTS

Tryouts begin on March 9. Tryouts will be held from 2:45-4:30 p.m. on the afternoons of March 9-11 and March 16-18, and the 4:30 p.m. sports will be available. The following forms are required prior to tryouts: parent/guardian permission, medical card, and current physical (good for two years). Forms are available through the PE department or soccer coaches. Please return girls' forms to Tania Barbera and boys' forms to Coach Dworin. If your child makes the team, a one-time extracurricular activity fee (\$30) is required by the county. If you have any questions, please contact [Tania C Barbera@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tania_C_Barbera@mcpsmd.org) or [Jonathan M Dworin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jonathan_M_Dworin@mcpsmd.org).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MAKING UP SNOW DAYS

The recent blizzards have created an unprecedented weather event for MCPS, closing schools and administrative offices for an entire week. It also raised some questions about the school year, testing and other issues.

Q: We've had nine snow days so far this year. Will we have to make up all those days?

**A: There are four days that are built into the school year, so the most we would have to make up at this point is five days (unless there are additional snow days this winter). State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick has indicated she will ask the State Board of Education to waive some of the instructional days missed due to the weather last week. MCPS would not need to make up any days that are waived by the state, but it's not clear when—and if—the State Board will make that decision.**

Q: How will any snow days be made up?

**A: The calendar, as passed by the Montgomery County Board of Education last year, would add days onto the end of the school year. Any change to those plans would have to be considered and voted upon by the Board of Education.**

Q: Does the early release day we had on Feb. 5 count as a day of instruction?

**A: Yes.**

Q: The Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) are coming up and we just lost a week of instruction time. Any chance the MSAs will be moved back?

**A: We've asked the state about this and are awaiting more information**

## ONE-TIME STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING WAIVER FOR SNOW AID

### Key Points

- Due to the historic nature of the recent weather, and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick's, state superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education, request for local school districts to encourage approval of student service learning (SSL) hours for "snow aid", schools may follow the process described in this memorandum to grant a one-time waiver of SSL regulations to award up to eight (8) service-learning hours for participating in the snow assistance efforts in their communities.
- Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regulations allow students to earn SSL hours toward the state graduation requirement in specific courses, school-sponsored clubs with a service focus, and with preapproved community organizations and opportunities. All SSL must include phases of preparation, action, and reflection; be performed under the supervision of an adult representing a nonprofit, tax exempt organization; occur in a public place; and not include financial compensation. SSL guidelines **do not** allow service on private property supervised by a parent or individual. In all cases, SSL is promoted as a high school graduation requirement, not as "volunteering," performing "community service" or as individual acts that support neighbors, family, and religious organization members. Guidelines are available in detail at [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) and in other MCPS publications and communications.
- Schools may approve a one-time waiver of the SSL guidelines outlined above, for up to eight (8) hours of service learning credit for students who assisted in providing "snow aid" to their community, if the student met the following criteria:
  - The service was completed between the dates of February 5 and February 21, 2010.
  - The service helped a community member, such as a neighbor, nonprofit community organization, or neighborhood recover from the impact of severe snow.
  - The student did not receive compensation for their service.
  - The service was completed for community members or organizations not related to their family or family's business or employer.
  - Students complete MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification* and submit it to the school-based SSL coordinator according to established timelines. Students must complete the *Student Information* and *Student Reflection* sections of the form. The individual or organization for whom the service was performed should record the number of hours completed (up to eight) and sign as the supervisor in the *Organization* section of the form (Attachment A).
- Outside of the timeframe and the purposes established in this memorandum, all SSL activities must follow the SSL guidelines as stated on the website [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) and in other MCPS publications and communications.

### HELPFUL LINKS

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

Edline Assistance: [Beth.A.Hopkins@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Beth.A.Hopkins@mcpsmd.org)

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>

*PrepTalk*: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/resources/preptalk.aspx>

NEC Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec>

Parent Academy: [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org)

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

Yearbook Order Form:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/news/Yearbook%20Order%20Form%2009.jpg](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/news/Yearbook%20Order%20Form%2009.jpg)

Silent Auction Donation Form:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/news/silent%20auction.pdf>