



Farquhar Forum

Apr. 2010

Letter from the Principal

Scott Murphy

Dear Farquhar Community:

The fourth marking period is here, and we have just eight weeks to go in the school year. Report cards were distributed on April 14, with well over 55% of our students on the Honor Roll. As our work continues into the fourth marking period, "spring fever" typically arrives and students can get distracted with the excitement of the warm weather and the end of the school year. Thank you for your support as we emphasize with students how important it is to remain on task, concentrate on academic priorities, complete homework, and take school seriously during the final weeks. We are also reinforcing our expectations for a "hands-free" school environment— no physical contact with others, no physical aggression, no hugging or other affectionate behavior, no electronics— and wearing appropriate dress to school. Please see the student agenda book for more information, and we appreciate your reinforcement of these important items in the final marking period.



Save the Dates!



As we near the end of the school year, I would like to draw your attention to several important dates and activities that will be taking place in the coming months:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| April 23-25 | Beauty & the Beast, Jr. |
| April 29-30 | Science MSA (8th Grade) |
| May 6 | The National Players Present:
Much Ado About Nothing (8th Grade
Event) |
| May 7 | Honor Roll Celebration (afternoon) |
| May 14 | Cultural Arts Assemblies |
| May 18 | Algebra HSA (a.m.) |
| May 18 | 8th Grade Picture (2:00 p.m) |



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SAVE THE DATES (cont.)

- May 20 After-school activities end, except for exam review sessions
- May 21 PTA Dance
- May 28 8th Grade Trip
- May 28 6th/7th Grade Awards Programs*
(Times: 6th grade 8:30 a.m. 7th grade 10:30 a.m.)
- June 2 Spring Concert, 7 pm
- June 5 8th Grade Dance
- June 8 Exam Review Day
- June 9-15 Final Exams
- June 15 8th Grade Farewell, 1:00 pm, followed by ice cream social
- June 16 Half Day, Last Day for Students

*For end of year programs, parents of students receiving awards will receive an invitation, but all are welcome.

Summer Programs



Summer course offerings have been finalized! Course offerings will include intervention programs in reading and math, as well as for acceleration into Algebra next year. Courses will include:

Reading 7/8 (July 6-30, Cost \$95, check made out to MCPS)

Mathematics 7 (July 6-30, Cost \$95, check made out to MCPS)

Focus on Algebra (July 12-30, Cost \$75, check made out to MCPS)

Writer's Workshop (July 12-30, Cost \$150, check made out to FMS)



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Courses will be filled on a first-come basis, with priority registration given to students recommended by their teacher for intervention. The courses will be held from 7:45 – 11:30 a.m. each day. Bus transportation is available, as is financial assistance for students who demonstrate financial need.

Parents of selected students will receive an invitation letter in the mail during the week of April 23. The registration window will last until May 7, at which time enrollment will be open to all students in the Sherwood Cluster. Classes will then be filled on a first-come basis until course enrollment meets capacity. Please note: We have partnered with Rosa Parks MS to offer a wide range of course offerings in our local area. The following courses will be offered at Rosa Parks and Farquhar students are welcome to attend: Reading 6, Math 6, Math 8, and IM.

Contact Mr. Geddes (Walter_C_Geddes_Jr@mcpsmd.org), summer school coordinator, with any questions about summer reading and math programs, or Mr. Heifetz (Adam_M_Heifetz@mcpsmd.org) for Writer's Workshop information.

2010-11 and MCPS Budget



Meanwhile, planning for next school year is in full swing. Counselors have registered students for courses, based on the registration cards that were returned in February. Staffing decisions and final course offerings are based on this registration data, and we are now in the process of drafting the master schedule for next year. If you would like to discuss any changes to your child's schedule for next year-- there is plenty of time-- but please do so sooner than later, as schedules are finalized in the coming months. Final course selections will be sent home with all students on or around June 1.

As you may have heard, initial staffing allocations to schools for 2010-11 is based on an increase in class size by one student and a decrease in enrollment at Farquhar. As a result, staffing allocations have been decreased substantially for next year. However, I do not expect these decreases to cause any major cuts in the offerings in our instructional program. Regardless, I will keep you updated about how the budget situation impacts our staffing and instructional program at Farquhar for next year.



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Finally...

Interim reports for the last marking period will be mailed on or around May 12. Please remember to regularly check backpacks/binders for assignments, homework, and messages from teachers, and check Edline regularly. Also, please note that each Wednesday, a copy of The Farquhar News and any other important school information is published on the school website, Edline, and sent through the PTA email list.

Thanks for all you do to support your students, and as always, please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Murphy

Principal

Enjoy Beauty and the Beast THIS Weekend!

Under the direction of Ms. Erin Lorenz, English teacher and theater director, and a corps of dedicated parents, the cast and crew are ready for our main stage production of Beauty and the Beast coming to the Farquhar stage THIS WEEKEND, April 23-25. We hope the entire community can join us for the show!





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IN THE NEWS



Sherwood Yahoo Group

This message is for 8th grade parents who are moving on to Sherwood High School. Sherwood has an email list just like the one that you are subscribed to at Farquhar. This is a great way to stay informed about events and issues in the Sherwood community. The list is hosted by Yahoo in the form of a Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SherwoodPTSA>). If you already have a Yahoo account, you can join with your existing Yahoo ID. You do not need to be a Yahoo member to subscribe to the list, see below for details.

A Yahoo group has two types of memberships: email-only and web-enabled. An email-only account allows you to send and receive messages to and from the group. All you need is a valid email address. A web-enabled account requires a Yahoo account (free). In addition to the email features, it allows you access to the group web site to browse message archives, or change your email delivery preferences. A web-enabled account also allows you access to other features that we may enable, such as calendars or surveys.

To subscribe with an email-only account:

Send a blank email to: SherwoodPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and follow the instructions on the confirmation email that is sent back to you. The email will direct you to a web page, on that page click the option for "join the mailing list" To subscribe with a web-enabled account (if you do not already have a Yahoo account):

Send a blank email to: SherwoodPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and follow the instructions on the confirmation email that is sent back to you. The email will direct you to a web page, on that page click the option for "Join the group". On the next page, click "Sign up" to begin the creation of your free Yahoo account.

To subscribe with a web-enabled account (if you already have a Yahoo account):

Sign in to your Yahoo account and then visit:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SherwoodPTSA/join>



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Appreciation Committee Appreciates!

The Staff Appreciation Committee would like to thank Stacie Anderson, Amy Freeman, Lori Post, Cindy Weitzner, Niki Bouvier and Dawn Sadler for their generosity in providing snacks for the Staff meetings these past few months.



Blake Spirit Wear On Sale!

Tuesday April 27th - 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

The Blake Booster Club will hold its semi-annual Parking Lot Sale of our line of Blake merchandise. Sweats, tee's, shorts, jackets and more. Check, cash, Mastercard/VISA.

Please pass the word to families of incoming Blake students as this will be the last opportunity before September to buy Blake High School gear.

Pom Try Outs Meeting for Incoming Sherwood Ninth Graders!



There will be a Try-Out Informational Meeting for all Pom Candidates and Parents on Wednesday, April 28th at 4:00 in the Sherwood Cafeteria. Potential Candidates and a parent should plan on attending this meeting to meet with the coach and captain and acquire all necessary information and MCPS forms required to be eligible to audition. The week of try-outs is Monday, May 24th through Friday, May 28th. Proof of an up-to-date medical physical must be rendered before any candidate can begin the try-out process in May. A clinic will be offered on Mon-Wed 5/24-5/26, and actual try-outs will be held on Thursday 5/27 and Friday 5/28.



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COME ONE COME ALL, TO WHITE FLINT MALL

(In Rockville off Nicholson Lane) for the Annual Middle School Art Show.



Beginning Wednesday, April 21 thru Sunday, April 25 come view the art and digital photography work created by the following Farquhar students:

Rachel Colliton
Maggie Delaney
Michael Crooks
Youn Ji Park
Joan Woods
Molly Anderson

Victoria Mangus
Devin Healy
Kasey Rosen
Eun Seo Kim
Yeon Choi
Anna Mudryakova

Jack Sadler
Harrison Schweitzer
Juliette Baek
Mollie Rhoades
Jeff Kim
Brett Silverman

This year our display will be on the first level across from 9-West. I hope to see you there—Mrs. Rodriguez



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Message from the PTA President, Joe Griffin

Road Runner Night was well attended and a huge success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this, the biggest PTA event of the year. I especially want to thank Sherri Tempchin and Tibbi Kenney for planning and coordinating RRN. They really did an outstanding job. I also want to thank the

co-chairs of the silent auction Jennifer Hallmark and Glenda Cole-Bobo. Thanks to their hard work the silent auction brought in more money than ever before. A great deal of planning and preparation goes into Road Runner Night and it takes dozens of volunteers to run all of the games and the prize table as well as the snack bar. Everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated.

This month we once again have several opportunities to volunteer. First, the week of May 3rd – May 7th is staff appreciation week. It begins with a breakfast for the staff on May 3rd followed by snacks and desserts Wednesday May 5th. The week ends with a Lunch for the staff on May 7th. We are very grateful to the staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year to educate and help our children to develop and grow into their teenage years in a safe and nurturing environment. Please volunteer to help by either setting up and serving at one of these events, or by contributing desserts or snacks to be served. Contact Suzanne Simala or Eileen O'Neale at sk@lilly.com or eoneale55@comcast.net if you are able to help.

The Eighth grade dance is June 5th. It is a tradition at Farquhar for the 6th and 7th grade parents to be responsible for this dance. Please contact Victoria Copeland or Karen Blair at Victoria_copeland@hotmail.com or stephenblr@msn.com to volunteer for anything from donating refreshments to helping to decorate or chaperone.

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer it is easy to get distracted and let school work and assignments slide. We need to keep our children focused so they may finishes the last quarter strong. Luckily today we have many tools at our fingertips to help us make sure our children are on schedule with their work. Edline is an amazing tool which allows us to see from



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day to day what assignments are due and what our child's grade is currently. Please use Edline to help your child stay on track and get the grades they are capable of earning.

I hope everyone has a safe and productive month. Let's make sure our children are getting out and exercising in the beautiful Spring weather. The seasons aren't very different when you are sitting on the couch. It is only when you go outside that you enjoy the different seasons of the year.

Joe Griffin
PTA President

"It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the Spring, who reaps a harvest in the Autumn. "

- B. C. Forbes



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"Hollywood Nights" – The Farquhar Eighth Grade Dance



Saturday, June 5th, 2010

7:00 – 9:30 pm

The Farquhar Main Gymnasium

The Farquhar School & PTA are pleased to announce the Annual 8th Grade Dance Celebration. A letter from Principal Murphy will be sent out with the

guidelines for the dance and each 8th grade Student will receive an individual invitation to the dance in May.

The theme for each year's dance coincides with the After-Prom theme from Sherwood High School, who donates its decorations to us. This year's theme is "Hollywood", and we have planned some great entertainment for the students.

There is no cost for students to attend the dance as we provide refreshments (light snacks, dessert & drinks).

Volunteers are needed to help make this Farquhar tradition a success for our 8th grade students. If you can help in any of the following areas, please contact Victoria Copeland or Karen Blair this year's co-chairs:

Victoria Copeland @ 3/774-1965 or victoria_copeland@hotmail.com

Karen Blair @ 3/570-3898 or stephenblr@msn.com

1. Sunday, May 23rd, Sherwood After Prom Decoration Removal at Longwood Community Center, Georgia Avenue, Olney 4:15 AM (yes, 4:15 AM).

We need volunteers to help take the decorations down from the After Prom Party and bring them to Karen Blair's to be stored. We will need 6ft. plus ladders for this, you are welcome to bring your step ladders too.



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2. Friday, June 4th, 8th Grade Dance Decorating, Farquhar Gymnasium, 3:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed to help decorate and set-up tables, etc for the dance. Dance decorations will cover the walls of both the gym and front hallway. Tables and chairs are set-up in the gym and along the front hall. Your ladders will help here too!

3. Saturday, June 5th, 8th Grade Decorating, Farquhar Gymnasium, 5:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed for last minute decorating and set up prior to the dance.

4. Saturday, June 5th, 7:00 – 9:30 pm Chaperones Needed

It has been the tradition for Sixth and Seventh Grade Parents to chaperone this event as the 8th grade students would prefer not to have their own parents to chaperone their last soiree in middle school.

5. Clean-up Crew “Many Hands make light work!” If we get several parents to ‘Pitch-in”, clean-up should be an hour or less. Please consider helping out.

6. Please volunteer to provide a dessert- cookies, brownies, etc.... (1-2 dozen per family), a 2 liter bottle of soda, or mini water bottles.

7. Last, we are also in need of white light strands. (Christmas lights) If you donate them, the PTA can use them for future events. If you would like them returned please put your name on them with masking tape and pick them up at time of clean up.

Thank you for helping make this event a success!



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Counselors Corner



FMS is celebrating Kindness month during April. The counselors provided lessons to all three grade levels in the science classes. All students received a lesson which involved not only kindness to each other, but self respect, kindness to earth, our community and the world at large. We discussed the idea of “pay it forward”, and how performing random acts of kindness do and will make a positive difference in our school, community and beyond.

For the sixth grade, counselors launched into cyber bullying and kindness on-line . The seventh and eighth grade watched a video of healthy relationships and how to recognizing dating abuse. All grade levels were given opportunity for rich discussion and “how to” tips for their respective topic.

The theme continues the entire month with daily kindness quotes on the morning announcements, student artwork demonstrating kindness in the hallways and a veterinarian coming to speak to students during Career Café.

The month also highlights a special “Kindness Week”. We will have lunch periods full of fun, including; a Roadrunner Jam (music at lunch), a performance from our STEP team and a fundraiser drive for cancer. During the last week of April all students will be encouraged to “pay it forward” by choosing three random acts of kindness to do during the week.

The 7th and 8th grade lesson on healthy relationships- One way we can show kindness show kindness is respect for ourselves. Choosing healthy friendships and relationships is one way of showing self-respect. The counselors opened dialog about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and warning signs for dating abuse. To check out the 13 minute video we showed to students you can visit www.chooserespect.com and ask your child what they learned. Stay tuned for a letter from Mr. Murphy encouraging parents to talk to their children about healthy relationships and sexuality.



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(Counselor's Corner cont.)

6th grade lesson on cyber bullying/safety- Kindness to others goes beyond face to face encounters. One major area of cruelty and abuse is online. The 6th grade students discussed the risks as well as occurrences of cyber bullying. We talked about what you put online for other s to see about you as well as what you say to other people. Many of our students use social media including Facebook and My Space often. If you are not aware if you child has an account, ask them! Let them know that the only way they can use these sites is if you are their "friend" and have access to make sure they are safe.

The Parent Academy offers workshops to give parents the tools and strategies they need to help their children be successful in school. All workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. Child care and interpretation services are provided. For more information, visit www.mcsparentacademy.org

Way 2 Go Maryland is offering a free event on May 8, 2010 at Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. Way 2 Go Maryland is committed to helping more students start on the track to college as early as possible. For more information, visit www.way2gomaryland.org



SIXTH GRADE NEWS

April is Math Month and the sixth grade students have been excited and challenged by the Problem of the Week. The first week's winners were Allison Keyes and Akhil Ajmeera. Congratulations to both of them. They had their names announced on the morning announcements and received a free ice cream coupon as a prize.

Next Friday, April 23rd ,we have a special guest speaker. Michael Reitz is a former Farquhar student and an engineer of roller coasters working at Six Flags. He helped to design and develop the world's fastest and tallest roller coaster, the Kingda Ka. He will relate his work to the current unit in science on sudden impact.

Be sure to continue to check Edline. It is a valuable communication tool and a way to frequently check your student's progress. Students need to continue to be prepared for class and instruction from now through June 16th.



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**TEAM
8TH GRADE**

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Eighth Graders have returned from Spring Break and are again hard at work as we progress through the fourth marking period towards exams.

Looking ahead, there are many things to keep in mind:

- The Science MSA will be administered on April 29 and 30. We're looking forward to another great performance by students!
- Be on the lookout for information about the National Players, who will be coming to Farquhar to perform on May 6.
- The Hershey Park trip will be taking place on May 28. Reminders and important information will be distributed beforehand. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Jeff Levine (Jeff_A_Levine@mcpsmd.org).

A Window into World Languages

EXAMS: ALL language students (French and Spanish) will be taking High School exams at the end of the year. These grades will appear on their High School Transcript, and for many students this is their first high school grade. This sets an important tone for their future success, so please encourage students to start reviewing now. There is a LOT of vocabulary and grammar to review, and starting early makes a significant difference. The oral portion of the final exam will begin around June 1, so have students make a timeline for their study schedule starting now where they are reviewing 1 unit per week. We also invite the students to attend Spanish club on Tuesdays after school for extra support and tutoring.



Real-World Applications: International Pen Pals come to Farquhar! Our Spanish students now have the unique opportunity to interact via webcam with students in the Dominican Republic and a United States Peace Corps volunteer. The mission of this program is to build international relationships of cultural understanding and awareness, promote volunteerism and practice the Spanish language. If your child would like to participate in this program, be sure to encourage them to sign up for a webcam session with their Spanish teacher and to have you sign their permission slip first. We have already conducted a few interactive sessions, and the feedback has been extremely positive. This is a wonderful way to make the language come to life for the students and to motivate them through real-world application of the language.



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SCIENCE NEWS

The FMS Science Department would like to thank all involved/attending students, parents, and community members, as well as the Sherwood High School Science Department, for their support in making the 2010 FMS Science Expo such a success.

With...

- Well over 100 students, parents, and community members in attendance,
 - Demonstrations performed by Farquhar students,
 - Hands-on labs for attendees,
 - Powerpoint and Trifold board project presentations,
 - A tower-building contest, and
 - Free raffles and refreshments throughout the night,
- It was our most successful Science Expo in memory. Thanks again!





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SSL Hours Opportunities Coming Up!

After Prom Committee Help Needed

Sherwood High School After Prom committee needs some help with decorations. These decorations are used for After Prom and then typically are recycled and used again for the 8th grade dances at FMS and RPMS.

We need a number of volunteers to come to Longwood Community Center from 9 am until 2 pm on Saturday, May 22nd to help decorate the rooms.

Middle School Students welcome and SSL hours will be available.

If you can help with this please contact Rhonda Molleur at AFMolleur@aol.com

Walk for the Homeless Volunteer Opportunity

The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless for our annual Shelter Walk 'n Roll event is looking for walk participants and a few volunteers to help with set-up, registration, face painting, operating games, and clean up.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda (amlewis@mcch.net) or 301-917-6654.

SSL Hours End of Year Information

Service performed during the second semester (to be reflected on the final report card) is due to SSL coordinators by the Friday before second semester exams begin. This year: June 4, 2010.

Documentation of service occurring after that date and throughout the summer will be reflected on the first report card of the 2010-11 school year when submitted by the last Friday in September. Next year September 24, 2010.

Please note: All 8th grade folders will be sent to their high schools Monday June 14. NO SSL from 8th graders will be accepted after this date.



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KEEP OUR HEALTH ROOM AIDES IN OUR SCHOOLS ALL DAY!!



In 2006, MCPS passed a resolution about increasing the hours of Health Room Aides in our schools, and these efforts were successful when the hours were increased to 7 hours/day two years ago. For the health and safety of our children, parents want health room aides present in schools at least a half hour before school opens up to a half hour after the school day ends since many children are on the school property at these times:

<http://www.mccpta.net/resolutions/healthtech092606.pdf>
any children are on Unfortunately, Mr. Leggett wants to reduce the hours to the way they were as a cost saving measure, effective July 1.

Health room aides are paid out of the Department of Health and Human Services, which is part of the county budget. To advocate against these cuts, please contact your county councilmen at the email addresses below (note: emails to President Floreen will go to all County Council members.):

County Council contact information:

Phil Andrews, District 3:

Councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov

<<mailto:Councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov>>

Roger Berliner, District 1:

Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov

<<mailto:Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov>>

Marc Elrich, At Large:

Councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov

<<mailto:Councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov>>

Valerie Ervin, District 5:

Councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov

<<mailto:Councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov>>

President Nancy Floreen, At Large:

Councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov

<<mailto:Councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov>>



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Mike Knapp, District 2:

Councilmember.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov
<mailto:Councilmember.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov>

George Leventhal, At Large:

Councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov
<mailto:Councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Nancy Navarro, District 4:

Councilmember.navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov
<mailto:Councilmember.navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Duchy Trachtenberg, At Large:

Councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov
<mailto:Councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Laurie Halverson

lauriehalverson@verizon.net

MCCPTA Health/Safety Committee Chair