

THE DAMASCUS DRAGON

Family Newsletter

*Damascus Elementary School
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<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/damascuses/>

DAMASCUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
October 2009


SCHOOL MISSION

We will develop excellent students at DES by respecting each other as learners and striving to do our best.

YOU'RE INVITED! Our annual Parent Open House will be on Monday, October 12, 2009. This is an opportunity for you to see your child "in action" in the classroom. Parents from kindergarten through fifth are welcome to visit classes from 9:30am through their child's lunch time. I invite all visiting parents to join me for coffee and conversation in the Media Center from 9:00am to 9:45am. This is an opportunity to have your questions answered or share feedback about our school. Please drop in and say hello.

CALLING ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS Are you new to Damascus Elementary, never volunteered before or just want a refresher? Please join one of two Parent Volunteer Training Sessions offered this fall. Laurie Murtaugh will have a session on Thursday, October 15 from 9:30am to 10:30am and then again on Monday, November 16 from 2:15pm to 3:15pm. Please call the office to let us know if you will attend. We cannot make our school successful without parent involvement. Please come and learn how you can help us create a wonderful learning environment.

PARENT CONFERENCES Have you signed up for your fall parent teacher conference? If not, please stop by the front hall and sign up. This is an opportunity to sit down and discuss with the teacher your child's strengths and weaknesses and how you can help at home. Our hope is that EVERY parent has a conference with the teacher. All grades and classes have posters with dates and times available for you to select the best time for you. Stop by the front hall today!

 **OCTOBERFEST** A reminder that our 75th Anniversary Celebration as well as our annual Fall Family FunFest is on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. We hope you come out to have some fun, celebrate our wonderful school and support our playground fund. There will be music, hay rides, a moonbounce, food, a silent auction, the staff raffle, merchandise mart....the list goes on! Don't miss out on a great event!

Welcome back to **Mrs. Moxley!** She has returned from maternity leave and is "back in action" in fourth grade.

Welcome to **Mrs. Lori Mutiga!** She will be teaching **kindergarten reading** beginning next week. More information about this will be coming home to kindergarten parents next week.

DEADLINES, DEADLINES.....

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND last chance for:

- Silent Auction Items for Octoberfest
- Sally Foster Gift Wrap Orders
- Flu Buster Clinic Sign-Up

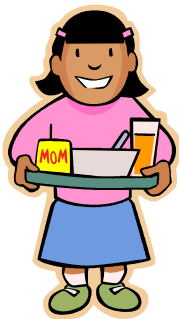
IN ADDITION: If you have not filled out your **Parent Child Reunification Form**, we need these back ASAP. In the event of an emergency, this is the **ONLY** list we can use to release your child to someone other than the parent or guardian.

LASTLY: Send in your email address to Ms. Jones to receive newsletters and other information electronically.

HOMEWORK HOTLINE LIVE! MCPS Instructional TV is once again airing its program, Homework Hotline Live! Students can call 301-279-3234 to get help with their homework in any subject area. The show airs live on TV every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. starting October 7, 2009. Homework Hotline can be seen on Comcast Channel 33, Verizon Channel 35 or RCN Channel 88. The school with the most calls at the end of the season will receive a trophy. Call with your questions!

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS: Once again Montgomery College is offering programs for youth including Kids College and Saturday Discoveries. Classes for Kids College begin in October and Saturday Discoveries begins in November. Courses include science, math, art, drama, game design, music, study skills, and keyboarding. Classes are held on the Rockville AND Germantown campuses. Limited scholarships are available. Register soon to reserve your spot. Applications can be picked up in the main office or at www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth or by calling Sharon Wolfgang at 240-567-7264.



GEORGE B THOMAS LEARNING ACADEMY Looking to accelerate your child's mastery of academics, specifically reading, language arts and mathematics? Is your child in need of some extra time with grade level material? Then the Saturday Academies is right for you! Saturday, October 3rd is the beginning of the program and runs through the entire school year. Students can join at any time, but this Saturday is the kick-off. We encourage all families to participate. The centers located closest to Damascus are at Gaithersburg High School, Watkins Mill High School, and Northwest High School. Visit the website at www.gbtlearningacademy.org or call 301-320-6545 for more information.



LOW BALANCE IN YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH MONEY ACCOUNT??? You can add money online! MyLunchMoney.com is a service to make prepayments to your child's cafeteria account using your credit card. The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. Simply go to www.myLunchMoney.com to enroll and start using the site to deposit funds into your child's cafeteria account. Once your account is established, you can check balances and fund the account anytime from your computer. Your child's information is safe and your personal and payment card information is protected by the most advanced internet security. There is a \$1.95 convenience fee per transaction. Using myLunchMoney.com is optional for families. You can still send checks or cash to school, but online payments save time and are convenient. No more losing checks or cash!!

Happy Halloween 

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Early Dismissal 1:00pm	3
4	5	6 PTA MEETING 7PM in Media Center	7	8	9	10
11 Octoberfest!	12 OPEN HOUSE 9:00-LUNCH FLU BUSTERS CLINIC 3-7:45pm	13	14	15 Volunteer Training 9:30-10:30am	16 NO SCHOOL For Students and Staff	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Help the Home- less Mini-Walk during recess for all grades	24
						
25	26 Cultural Arts Assembly 2:15pm	27	28	29	30  Halloween Parade & Parties 2:00pm <i>First Marking</i>	31