



# The Darnestown Pony Express

We have just completed our first marking period and report cards will be issued at conferences. Parent conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12. Darnestown parent participation in conferences is always very high! Thank you so much for taking this opportunity to discuss your child's progress and academic and behavioral expectations with the teacher. Please see the "Tips of Parents for Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences" below. We hope this will be helpful as you plan for the conference.

**Note:** These conference days are early dismissal days for students.

## Tips for Parents for Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences

### Before the conference:

Plan questions to ask the teacher (you might include questions about your child's performance levels, instructional strategies and materials the teacher uses, and/or the grade level and homework expectations);

Ask your child if there are any things that he/she would like you to talk with the teacher about.

### During the conference:

Arrive on time (the teacher will be working very hard to keep the schedule);

Ask the questions you had planned to ask;

Expect to see samples of your child's work;

Be prepared to share what you see as your child's strengths and areas of need.

### After the conference:

Talk with your child about the conference and his/her performance;

Contact the teacher if you need clarification or still have questions about information covered in the conference;

Continue to communicate with the teacher throughout the year.

*Thank you for partnering with us on your child's educational journey.*

## Important Dates to Remember:

### Monday, Nov. 9

Book Fair Open, 9 - 4  
MS Magnet Applications due  
Recommendation requests due to ES teachers (from students)

### Tuesday, Nov. 10

Book Fair Open, 9-4

### Wednesday, Nov. 11

Early Release Day, K-8, dismissal at 1 PM (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

Book Fair Open, 9-6

### Thursday, Nov. 12

Early Release Day, K-8, dismissal at 1 PM (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

Book Fair Open, 9-6

BOE Public Hearings, DES Expansion, 7:30PM, CESC

### Friday, Nov. 13

Final Day for Book Fair, Open 9-10 am only.

### Tuesday, Nov. 17

Grade 2, Strathmore Music Center, 9:30 - 12:30

### Wednesday, Nov. 25

Early Release Day, K-8, dismissal at 1 PM

### Thursday, Nov. 26 &

### Friday, Nov. 27

No School for Students, Thanksgiving Holidays

## PTA News....

The Board of Education holds public hearings on the Superintendent's recommended capital improvements plan (CIP) next Thursday, beginning at 7:30 pm at the Carver Educational Services Center in Rockville. The proposed expansion of our school will be the topic of testimony by our PTA cluster coordinators, and I will also testify on behalf of our school. It would be terrific if we had a block of Darnestown parents present to show our support for the CIP recommendations! If you are interested in attending, please let me know. This is an exciting opportunity for our school, and we need to be advocates to ensure that the project remains on track in a tough economic climate.

Sincere thanks to Mrs. Colgary for her continued patience in answering parent questions regarding the new grading and reporting format at this week's PTA general meeting. I urge you to contact school staff if you have questions or concerns. Especially for parents of 1st or 5th graders, the new system may be a bit of a conceptual challenge, and we really appreciate Mr. Burns and Mrs. Colgary for helping us 'build toward proficiency' in our understanding!

Our bus drivers enjoyed the breakfast last week provided at DES by our wonderful Hospitality chairs, Heather Ahrens and Chris Lyn. Thank you! It is so appropriate to pamper these caring drivers for getting our children safely to school and back each day.

The flyer and ticket order form for PTA Family Movie Night on 11/23 is attached to the newsletter. Our terrific restaurant fundraiser, Abbey Lackey, persuaded Noodles & Company (in the Kentlands) to give a portion of their profits on that evening to the DES-PTA, so if you're looking for a quick and easy dinner, stop by Noodles before the movie.

The deadline for Mustang Spiritwear orders has been extended to Wednesday, Nov. 11th. If you need another order form, or have any questions, please contact Rosetta Cavallo at 301-547-0642, or rcfish1@verizon.net.

Our annual Thanksgiving food drive for Gaithersburg Elementary is just around the corner. This year, we are also asking for new or gently used cold weather clothes for their students. Please take a look in your children's closets and set aside any sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, gloves, scarves or hats that they no longer wear. We'll be collecting them in a couple of weeks. Thanks for your generosity!

The Scholastic Book fair opened today, and the wonderful books on display have the students excited. This is a great opportunity to do a bit of holiday shopping, so please stop by the sale when you are visiting the school. The fair is open during the school day, until 4 pm each day, and also from 4-6 pm on teacher conference days next week. Thanks to our book fair chairs, Vicki Mostrom and Amy Gross, for all their hard work on this event, and also to Sylvia Pomrenke for decorating the book display case and bulletin boards. Hope to see you at the fair!

*Kelley Rogers, DES-PTA President*

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### **Darnestown ES Expansion - Board of Education Public Hearings - 11/12/09**

Cluster Coordinators testify on DES behalf - approximately 7:40 pm

DES-PTA President testifies - between 8:15-9:30 pm

Carver Educational Services Center

850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123

Rockville, Maryland 20850

*(From Darnestown, take Rt 28 to Gude Drive. Right on 355, pass Montgomery College, then right on Manakee. Entrance to CESC is on left).*

#### **Please Note:**

##### Early Release Days for Students -

Nov. 11 & 12, dismissal at 1 PM with regular bus service provided. (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

Nov. 25, begin Thanksgiving Holiday

##### No School Days for Students and Staff -

Nov. 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving Holidays

#### Emergency Information Notification

*Please notify the office immediately in writing of any change of address or phone numbers. This information is essential in the event of an emergency situation. with your child.*



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