Dear Garrett Park Families,

We hope you find this bi-weekly email user-friendly and beneficial for staying informed and planning for upcoming school events. If there is information you would like us to share in upcoming editions, please let us know. You can either call the school at 240-740-0700 or email Dan at Daniel\_K\_Tucci@mcpsmd.org or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

The fall season is upon us! Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. It is also a good idea to make sure your child’s name and teacher are written in any loose clothing articles so they are easy to return if the clothing gets lost.

Thank you for visiting the school and classrooms during Open House last week. We received a great deal of positive feedback from you and we greatly appreciate it!

We are looking forward to our festivities at the end of the month! Halloween parties and parades will take place on Oct. 31st. The parade will start at 2:30pm and the class parties will take place directly after the parade. The PTA and administration are working hard to ensure that students are able to leave the school safely on this day. If you are in attendance at the party, please leave right away from the classroom at 3:30. Students will be dismissed using their normal routine unless you have alerted the teacher via a note or email. You may not take your child home with you after the party unless you are volunteering to clean up in the classroom. Thank you for your adherence to these guidelines as we look to ensure a safe and fun time for those participating in Halloween festivities.

Thank you to Bridget Manifold (organizer) and the many, many PTA Book Fair volunteers and organizers who helped coordinate another successful experience for the community. Pajama reading night was also a great success! Your support of the love of reading will help your child tremendously in many ways along their life journey. So thanks again!!

MCPS is holding a mental health awareness fair. Please see details below if you would like to attend.

See attachment for Saturday School Registration flyer & help;

See attachment for our Counselors' Corner newsletter...

**Teaching and Learning:**

All elementary students in grades 3-5 will be graded based on their ability to read and comprehend books at the grade level.  This means that some students who were not reading on grade level in the past and received A or B letter grades may receive lower grades.  By reporting a student’s performance at the grade level standard, parents will have a better indication of their child’s strengths and needs compared to their child’s grade level standard.  In addition, this grading is more aligned to the grading and reporting in middle school.  Students who have an IEP, performing two or more grades below the grade level, will continue to receive an addendum to the report card identifying the instructional grade level at which the student is performing.

**Safety and Security:**

We have noticed a number of students entering our carpool not wearing seat belts. Please make sure your child is buckled up until being let out at the carpool circle. Thank you.

**Important Dates:**

October 18                         Student Picture Day                                                      Times Vary

October 22                         Talent Show Performances                                            7:00pm

October 31        Halloween Parade and Party     2:30-3:30pm

**MCPS Updates:**

**Mental Wellness Resource Fair (English and Spanish)**

The Board of Education has proclaimed October MCPS Mental Health and Wellness Awareness Month. MCPS is hosting a Mental Health Fair on Saturday, October 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Julius West Middle School. Students, staff members, and the community can learn more about community and school resources that support students’ physical, social, and psychological well-being. For more information and to RSVP, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentservices/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_studentservices_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=uY58ObRvko3wrt_h2Ic-hP_T6zfGz3V3dJ4c0Pi27Ig&s=1dOuM56RssakEddGxyEnbROF82cAMYEjIDiwgPemfYQ&e=).