



Neelsville News



The Neelsville MS PTSA Newsletter

October 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS –

- **October 22**
>Reading Knight for the family (7- 9 PM)
- **October 26**
>IB meeting at Richard Montgomery HS (7 PM)
- **October 29**
>Magnet Program Application workshop at Gaithersburg HS (7 pm)
- **October 30**
>1st marking period ends
- **November 2**
> NO SCHOOL
> Magnet Program Application Workshop at Wheaton HS, (7 p.m.)
- **November 4**
>Outdoor Ed 6th Grade Parent Meeting - NMS Cafeteria (7 – 9 PM)
- **November 9**
> Magnet Program Application deadline (postmarked or delivered)
- **November 11**
>Early release day K-8.
>Parent conferences.
>Report cards distributed
- **November 12**
>Early release day K-8. and Reading
>Parent conferences.
- **November 18th**
>Straight "A" Dinner
Location: Cafeteria (7:00 - 8:30 PM)
- **November 19th**
>Drama Production "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" (7 – 9 PM)
- **November 20th**
>Drama Production "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" (7 – 9 PM)
- **November 24th**
>NO Activity bus
- **November 25th**
>NO Activity bus,
>Early release day K-12
- **November 26th - 27th**
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the start of a new year at Neelsville Middle School. We currently have 900 students this year. We have an extremely exciting year ahead of us and I invite you to be an active member of our school community.

Encourage your children to get off on the right foot this school year by practicing good work and study habits from day one. Homework is important, as are deadlines, asking questions, being self-advocates and putting forth one's best effort. Success breeds success and students who keep up, but ask for help when they need it, ultimately feel more invested in school. We will do our best to provide regular communication to both students and parents.

Neelsville Middle School is dedicated to maintaining an open communication policy to enhance the parent-school partnership in education. Listed below are some of the ways we can communicate more effectively with you.

- **Edline-** This on-line grading reporting system will enable parents and students to regularly check their child's progress in each of their classes.
- **Connect Ed-** This new automated phone system can send out mass informational messages to all of our parents regarding school related events.

How do we communicate with you?

- Edline- Check it often
- Callouts-Make sure we have your current phone number. Listen to the entire message
- Email- Make sure we have your current email address
- Newsletters- Read them each month
- Website- Check it for updates
- Progress Reports- Look for the dates in the agenda book

How can you communicate with us?

- Email Us- Our email addresses are on the Neelsville Website
- Call us- We will return your call within 24 hours
- Set up a conference- Call your students counselor to schedule.
- Write us a note in the agenda book

Students gain SKILLS from high quality student service learning.

Student Service Learning (SSL) is a graduation requirement in Maryland. This graduation requirement is not intended to replace support for family members, neighbors, and religious organization members. All service for which SSL hours are desired must be performed under the supervision of a nonprofit tax exempt organization. For-profit assisted-living and nursing home facilities are the only exceptions to the nonprofit rule.

Continues on page 2 ...

(From the Principal's Desk ...continued from page 1)

All SSL activities must be approved in advance of any service. This is done by either selecting an activity and organization that is pre-approved on the Web site www.mcpsssl.org or submitting MCPS Form 560-50, *Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity* for approval by the school SSL coordinator in advance of any service. Full participation by students in service-learning activities can result in increased social, communication, and human relation skills.

Neelsville's SSL Coordinator – Ms. Marilou Nowak Marilou_Nowak@mcpsmd.org

Our 2009-2010 Baldrige School Improvement Goals are:

- Neelsville Middle School will meet or exceed the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) on the Maryland School Assessments in all subgroups in Math.
- Neelsville Middle School will continue to improve our school climate with the reduction of student referrals and suspensions
- Neelsville Middle School will increase the participation and success in rigorous courses for all students

This management plan document was developed with input by staff, students and parents and serves to guide instruction for this school year and long term. The objectives must be measurable and focus on student achievement.

Monday, October 12 (**Columbus Day**) was designated as “Open House” day for all MCPS schools. We welcomed 71 parents to our school. Thank you for coming out to support your amazing children.

To discuss a grade, concern, or classroom policy

1. Start with a call or e-mail to the teacher.
2. If needed, follow up with a call to the team leader.
3. If needed, follow up with a call to the grade level administrator.

To discuss or review a child's placement in a class

Contact the counseling office or the resource teacher for the subject department

Our activity buses began on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 and will run three days a week. Activity buses will depart from Neelsville at 4:15 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This year we have three routes, which means that it may take students longer to get home than on the regular bus. Many of our activities have not begun yet but some students may need to stay after school to receive extra help. In the next few weeks your child will be receiving an activities handbook that will describe our extracurricular activities. Please encourage your child to participate in at least one after school activity. It does make a school year more enjoyable and research shows that when students participate in activities they do better in school.

Please read our monthly newsletter very carefully each month for information about parent meetings as well as the many activities that go on at Neelsville. For parents new to Neelsville, we welcome you and hope you will volunteer in whatever capacity works best for you. Our PTSA provides a multitude of ways to get involved, plus it's a great way to meet other parents. Your child may not admit it, but they like seeing that their parents are involved and invested in what happens in their school life. We welcome your involvement and hope to see you at the many activities that we offer.

Thank you for sending us such great students! Just a reminder-- that every Wednesday during “Knight Time” students are given pertinent information related to upcoming events at Neelsville Middle School and the Watkins Mill cluster. Please ask your child for this information if he/she has forgotten to give it to you. Communication helps us work together most effectively in support of every student's success.

Dollye V. McClain

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT?...

MCPS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be documented the following ways:

- **Full—day Absence** - Student is present less than 2 hours during the day
- **Half-day Absence** - Student arrives more than 2 hours late that is an a.m. absence
***** *If student leaves more than two hours before the end of the day that is a p.m. absence; if student leaves school more than 2 hours during the day that would be an a.m. or p.m. absence*
- **Tardy** — Student arrives within the first 2 hours of the day
- **Early Dismissal** — Student leaves within the last 2 hours of the day

If your child needs to attend an appointment, please try and schedule them in the later part of the afternoon.

MCPS BULLYING POLICY

Bullying happens more often than people think and affects students from elementary school through high school. Neelsville MS does not tolerate bullying and the principal, teachers, and counselors are valuable resources for you if your child is being bullied. Find out all about the MCPS policy regarding bullying and the process to report it at - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/bullying/>

MCPS has a form to report alleged bullying, harassment, or intimidation that occurred on school property; at a school-sponsored activity or event off school property; on a school bus; or on the way to and/or from school, in the current school year. If you are a student victim, the parent/guardian of a student victim, a close adult relative of a student victim, or a school staff member and wish to report an incident of alleged bullying, harassment or intimidation, complete the form and return it to the Principal at the student victim's school. Contact the school for additional information or assistance at any time. You can download this form at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtml>

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Neelsville 4th Annual Reading Night - October 22, 2009 (7:00 – 8:00 pm)

We want you to bring your whole family to to Neelsville's 4th Annual Reading Night on October 22, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

We will have games, prizes, art projects, readers theatre activities and informational sessions. These sessions will help clarify Neelsville's Accelerated Reader program as well as the different reading tests that your child will be taking this year.

We look forward to seeing you on October 22nd! Remember we would like the whole family to participate – all students who attend must be accompanied by an adult family member!

~Neelsville's Reading Night Committee

Outdoor Education Information Meeting – November 4, 2009 (7:00 pm)

Calling all 6th Grade parents!! Please come to an "Outdoor Education" information meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., in the Neelsville Middle School dining room.



Student Service Learning (SSL)

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes
Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference
October 2009

Students FORM COMMUNITY ATTACHMENTS through high quality service learning

All SSL activities must be documented on MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification* and turned in to the school SSL coordinator according to timelines.

Students should keep copies of all SSL documents that they turn into the school or community representatives.

Organizations and opportunities not listed at www.mcpsssl.org must be pre approved using MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval*.

Students may address hunger and homelessness in Montgomery County by preparing bag lunches and dinners in their homes for delivery to homeless facilities. This is an exception to the guideline that all service must occur in a public place. Check out the details at the Questions and Answers section at www.mcpsssl.org.

Stay aware of ways to become involved in the Montgomery County Community Service Day this month.

- **WHAT IS SSL** - Student Service Learning (SSL) is a graduation requirement for students in Maryland, so if you want to graduate with a Maryland Diploma you must meet this requirement. How do you meet this requirement? Just do 75 hours of service work with a non-profit organization before you graduate. Don't wait until your senior year to get all 75 hours! Pace yourself.
- **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SSL** - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/> or from your school coordinator.
- **FIND SSL OPPORTUNITIES AT** –
 - Find pre-approved SSL opportunities with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center .
Phone: 240-777-2600 Website - www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer
 - Students may earn SSL hours at school: in selected courses where SSL activities achieve instructional objectives and in school-sponsored clubs and organizations that have a service focus.
 - School clubs often focus on service using indirect action. In indirect action a need is addressed but students do not meet the recipients of their service face-to-face. Examples of indirect service activities include collections of food, clothing, and/or hygiene items, fundraising, and blood drives
- **TRACK YOUR SSL HOURS** –
 - Check the SSL information on the report card.
 - Contact your school SSL coordinator with any discrepancies. Keep copies of all SSL documentation. NMS SSL coordinator is Ms. Marilou Nowak Marilou_Nowak@mcpsmd.org
 - Remember to use the new SSL form to document your SSL hours. Forms are also available online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-51.pdf>

- **WIN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SERVICE LEARNING AWARDS -**
 - Every student who earns and documents 75 student service learning (SSL) hours by May 1 of a middle school year will receive a Superintendent's pin and certificate.
 - Every student who earns and documents 150 SSL hours by May 1 of a middle school year will receive an additional Superintendent's certificate.
 - Every student who earns and documents 225 SSL hours by May 1 of a middle school year will receive an additional Superintendent's certificate.
 - All SSL hours earned and documented by May 1 of the current year on MCPS Form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification will qualify for this award.

- **SOME SSL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES –**
 - ***Montgomery County Outdoor Education Association SSL event –***
 - WHAT - Yoke Day at the Smith Center
 - WHEN - November 7 from 8 pm – 12 noon, with light breakfast and lunch compliments of the OEA. Work involves mulching, painting, moving wood, trimming paths, etc.
 - CONTACT - Laurie C. Jenkins, Supervisor,
 - K-12 Outdoor and Environmental Education Programs, MCPS
 - Office: (301) 924-3123 Laurie_C_Bricker@mcpsmd.org
 - ***Ruth Rales – Comcast Kids ReadingNetwork –***
 - WHAT - Volunteer Reading Tutors are needed for the Ruth Rales – Comcast Kids ReadingNetwork. This MCPS partnership program provides additional support to second grade students, throughout 70 targeted elementary schools, to improve reading skills and comprehension!
 - HOW OFTEN -- One hour a week!
 - CONTACT - Peggy Graham, Office: (301-279-3890), Margaret_W_Graham@mcpsmd.org



CLASS ROOM NOTES

8th Grade News

The eighth grade teachers welcome all parents and students to the 2009 – 2010 school year. We are looking forward to a successful school year for all of our eighth graders. The eighth grade team is designated a “Super Team”, which means that not only do we work together to develop the best program for your child, but we also coordinate with the high school in order to prepare the students to be successful there, as well. In order to be the best “Super Team”, we all need to work together. We want input from students, parents and staff. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, don't hesitate to email any of us on the team.

Every student at Neelsville has an advisory period. This period meets for thirty-five minutes every day. This time gives teachers an opportunity to reach out to students and help students with organization, learning skills, reading, data collection, and distribution of materials. The eighth grade team has created a schedule for the advisory period. This will make sure all eighth graders are “on the same page”. We think the advisory period will be a great addition for all students at Neelsville Middle School. The schedule is as follows:

Monday: We Beat the Street

Tuesday: MSA Practice - Math

Wednesday: Distribution Day – please look for handouts from the school & Team Activity

Thursday MSA Practice - Math

Friday: We Beat the Street

8TH Grade Science

Students in eighth grade science are beginning to investigate the phenomena in the atmosphere we call weather. After learning about the structure and properties of our atmosphere, students will be investigating how moisture in the air and differences in heating cause local and global winds and how weather patterns develop. Students will plot the course of a hurricane and will relate hurricane damage to storm intensity. Students have received a Weather and Climate book, which should be kept, covered and brought to class each day. We look forward to an exciting year in science class!

8th Grade Math

Geometry students are studying the terms and ideas that are the foundation of Geometry.

Algebra students are solving equations and writing equations to model word problems.

Math C students are studying Real Numbers.

8th Grade U.S. History

Eighth grade students are beginning to learn about the creation of the United States of America. This month we will be focusing on the Acts of Parliament, the events that led up to the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, and the significant battles that took place during the American Revolution. Students will be seeing the changes that took place in the Americas through readings, maps, and primary sources. All eighth graders must bring their textbooks to class on a daily basis. In order to be successful, students need to be prepared. In addition, students will need their notebook, social studies journal, paper, and a pen/pencil. Please encourage your child to come to school with these materials.

8th Grade English

English students have analyzed the poetry of Langston Hughes and Pat Mora to discover messages about the importance of having dreams and goals. We finished the Formative Assessments last week; we will continue to work on appositives, parallel structure, and combining sentences. We are now into our class novels, Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikelson and I Heard the Owl Call My Name by Margaret Craven.

While we examine the journeys of the characters in these stories and how they are changed by the challenges they face, we are also studying the structure of the narrative from the exposition to the resolution---ask your child if they can explain these terms to you! Please, make sure your child is reading and completing their homework; the quarter will end in only a few short weeks. Next week we will begin the unit Common Task: an essay relating the novel to the Journey theme.

8th Grade Accelerated Reading Goals and Deadlines

Every student at Neelsville is expected to read an independently selected text for a minimum of 30 minutes a day. Eighth grade students need at least 18 points to earn a C for the marking period. The final deadline for AR for this quarter is October 30th the last day of the quarter. It is strongly suggested that students do not wait until the last day to reach this goal.

7th Grade News**7th Grade Science - (By Karen Doerrler)**

Seventh Grade science students are approaching the end of their first unit, Light and Sound. We have worked with mirrors and flashlights, slinkies and ropes, tuning forks and color filters. We will be doing a project in the media center on the Electromagnetic Spectrum. The MCPS Light and Sound test will be given at the end of October, so please keep reviewing vocabulary and concepts with your students.

7th Grade World Studies - (By Marilyn Schwille)

The 7th grade world studies students have been studying the Principles of Political Systems. We have been examining the governments of Middle Ages Europe, specifically Feudalism and the power of the Church. We have completed several mental maps to show the power shift from 100 -1000 CE. Ask your student to share those maps with you.

Students should be bringing their Social Studies Journal to class with them every day. When they need to bring their textbooks, we'll mark it down as homework. Please check your child's agenda in the evening and discuss their homework with them.

If your student needs a quiet place to do their schoolwork, the 7th Grade Homework Club meets every Wednesday in the Media Center. Your student can also make an appointment to stay with a teacher after school to get the help they need.

7th Grade English – (By Rebecca Lindsay)

In English 7, students continue to focus on Identity and how it is shaped both within themselves and within characters in various texts. Students are learning about tone, mood, characterization, commonly confused words, independent and dependent clauses, and much more! Students just finished their Unit 1 Formative Assessment and will be completing a multi-paragraph essay in the coming weeks. All 7th grade students should have an A.R. book and should be reading it nightly for 30 minutes. Points are due on the last day of the quarter, October 30th.

6th Grade News

The sixth grade teachers would like to welcome all of the new sixth grade students and their parents to Neelsville Middle School. The sixth grade teachers are looking forward to a great year. We will strive to provide the very best program and practices for students and are committed to all students' success.

The sixth grade teachers have many exciting events and activities planned for the year. Outdoor Ed will be one of our first big events. Outdoor Education will be the week of January 11-15th. This year, sixth grade students and teachers will be heading to Summit Lake Camp in Thurmont, Maryland for 3 days and 2 nights. Please be on the look-out for permission slips and flyers about Outdoor Education toward the beginning of November. There will be a parent meeting about Outdoor Education on November 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Neelsville dining hall. The meeting will provide parents with great information and a time to ask questions. We hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers. You can also contact the sixth grade team leaders, Ms. Crystal Stottlemeyer and Mr. Chris Thornett, or the sixth grade counselor, Ms. Erica Merrill, by email or by phone at 301-353-8064.

6th Grade - Social Studies

Students in social studies are well into their first unit on the geography and settlement patterns of the world. Students are locating cities and rivers using atlases and discussing the reasons behind why people settle where they do. In late October, students will begin studying Ancient Egypt and will have a research project to complete. Please check your child's agenda book for homework assignments and long-range projects that they must complete. We are looking forward to a great year!

6th Grade - Reading

The sixth grade is off to a great start in Reading! Students are currently practicing reading strategies through the use of textbook articles. These reading strategies will help them develop and maintain strong reading skills which can be useful in any subject area. They are also using a variety of graphic organizers to help make meaning from text. Students are expected to read their accelerated reading book (AR book) every night for 30 minutes. In addition, students may have to complete a Reading Log, which includes a variety of the reading strategies. Reading teachers assign a due date and deadline for these assignments. Reading Logs turned after the deadline will only receive partial credit. Keep checking your child's agenda book nightly to help insure your child's success in school!

6th Grade - English

In sixth grade English, this quarter we are focusing on foundations. The students are currently writing essays about the people and things that make up their foundations, or give them support. The due date for the essay is coming up soon, and papers will not be accepted after the deadline. We are also discussing foundations in the core novel, Maniac Magee. Continue to check Edline for any homework assignments, extra practice sheets, or important information. As the quarter comes to a close, please look for rubrics for the final project and presentation.

6th Grade - Science

In science class the sixth grade students have learned why the population of the state insect, the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly, is declining. Now, they are learning about the energy roles of the other organisms in the Baltimore Checkerspot's food web. Students will combine all of their new knowledge to develop a proposal to help save the Baltimore Checkerspot in Montgomery County.

Physical Education

The physical education department will be selling Sweatshirt/Sweatpants Spirit Wear from October 15 through October 30.

CollegeED

Students visited Hood College on October 6th. They were greeted by an admission's representative who talked about Hood College and the importance of good grades. The representative told the students that Hood College accepts about 300 out of 3,000 applicants. Importance was placed on taking challenging classes even if the results are not always an "A". Students toured the campus with college student volunteers and chaperones. Some students talked to a friendly professor who taught them how to say "hello" in Russian. The grand finale' was dining with the college kids at the college's dining hall. The students were greeted there with a smorgasbord of delightful foods. Students gave "thank you letters" to the college. The bus driver thanked them for their excellent bus behavior, and we had a pleasant ride back to school in time to attend their last two classes for the day. Students are now using Collegeboard.com in our school's computer lab to research colleges and admission requirements.

PBIS (By Denise Cherry)

Our mission this year is to improve student academic performance though positive behavior and we are on our way!

Students are earning PBIS on a daily basis. A congratulatory shout-out goes to **Janeily Perez in 7th grade and Atsue Sawai in 6th grade** who won the design contest for creating our new tickets this year. They did a wonderful job, and we are using their designs on our new PBIS tickets here at Neelsville.

The focus for October is students will be respectful and responsible by quickly and quietly changing for PE in the locker rooms. This is always such a challenge for them, especially for our newcomers in 6th grade. The fundraiser at CiCi's Pizza was a great success! Many came out to support us. There are plenty of upcoming incentives for using PBIS tickets that students receive for demonstrating positive behavior. In addition to redeeming the tickets at our school store, getting really cool picture prints with school buddies, 8th graders can paint a ceiling tile. Students that demonstrate positive behavior can look forward to quarterly celebrations such as pizza parties, auctions, etc. We are well on our way to a great year and a good start in the right direction with positive behavior at Neelsville Middle School.

Gifted and Talented

Neelsville Website Update - (By Janet Kilcoyne - Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Support Teacher)

There is now a Gifted and Talented section under Academics on the Neelsville website. This section provides resources such as upcoming enriching events, important dates for High School Magnet Program application process, word of the day websites to prep your child early for the SAT, and other important news and information for GT students and their families.

High School Magnet Programs

The application materials for the high school magnet programs are available on the MCPS Web site at: <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms>.

These are exciting opportunities for interesting and challenging experiences in high school. The program at Richard Montgomery High School is an International Baccalaureate Diploma program. Poolesville High School offers 3 programs: A Science, Mathematics, Computer Science program, a humanities program, and a Global Ecology program.

To be eligible for the Poolesville programs, you must be in Algebra I or higher. To be eligible for the Richard Montgomery program, you must be in Algebra I or higher AND have 2 years of a foreign language (if you are a native speaker of Spanish, French, or Chinese, you may also be eligible).

Some important dates to remember:

- Monday, October 26, 2009 IB Meeting at Richard Montgomery HS, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29, 2009 Application Workshop at Gaithersburg HS, 7 p.m.
- Monday, November 2, 2009 Application Workshop at Wheaton HS, 7 p.m.
- Monday, November 9, 2009 Application deadline (postmarked or delivered)

Be Connected, Be Informed-

- **Edline** – Student's grades and assignments. www.edline.net
- **NMS Website** – Morning announcements at NMS. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/neelsvillems/>
- **Quicknotes** – MCPS email news - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/>
- **NMS PTSA Yahoo Group** - PTSA information - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeelsvillePTSA/>

Don't forget to join the new NMS PTSA Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeelsvillePTSA/>)

You don't have to be a PTSA member to join. Membership is open to all parents/guardians of current NMS students and NMS staff. Email NeelsvillePTSA-subscribe@yahogroups.com to submit a membership request. Please send the following information with your membership request –

- Parents – your name, your child's name, your child's grade
- Staff – your name, department.



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

TEST RESOURCES

Maryland State Assessment (MSA)

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is a test of reading, math, and science achievement for students in grades 3 - 8, 10. Sample tests are available at http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/index_c.html.

High School Assessment (HSA)

The Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) are tests that measure school and individual student progress toward Maryland's High School Core Learning Goals in English, Government, Algebra/Data Analysis, and Biology for students in grade 7 - 12. Sample test are available at http://mdk12.org/assessments/high_school/look_like/

OTHER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Montgomery College](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youth.html) offers one day enrichment programs, summer camps and youth classes for interested K - 12 students. More info at - <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youth.html>
- [John Hopkins University](http://cty.jhu.edu/) - also offers enrichment classes to interested and qualifying students. More info at <http://cty.jhu.edu/>

CONTESTS

2009/2010 "LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE" Contest

Calling all kids (and teachers and parents)! Young readers, grades 4 to 12, are invited to express their admiration for a favorite author and showcase their reading and writing talents by participating in Letters About Literature contest sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council.

This national contest encourages students to write a personal letter to an author—from Carl Hiaasen to Anne Frank—that explores how the author's work changed their thinking about the world and their place in it. Contest guidelines are available at the Maryland Center for the Book website at www.mdhc.org/programs/maryland-center-for-the-book/letters-about-literature

This year the Maryland Humanities Council will offer the Christine D. Sarbanes Award to a teacher who participates in Letters About Literature and has encouraged reading in creative ways that have inspired a love of reading in students. Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on readers response and reflective writing, including blackline masters and assessment checklists, at www.lettersaboutliterature.org

The **submission deadline is *December 12, 2009***. State winners will be notified in March 2010 and national winners by mid-April. Maryland State winners will be honored at the City Lit Festival in Baltimore on April 17, 2010.

OTHER RESOURCES

Center of Adoption Support and Education, www.adoptionssupport.org/, 301-476-8525

L.E.A.P - The Leadership Empowerment Action Program - for middle school youth offers awesome experiences!

Completely free and open to Montgomery County, MD middle school youth (grades 6-8) who were adopted or who are in foster care with an adoption plan, L.E.A.P offers hands-on opportunities to learn about leadership, community service, cooking and nutrition, dance, photography and more. PLUS there will be field trips, special events and parent workshops.

Sponsored by the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation, L.E.A.P. is a collaborative effort by C.A.S.E., Interages, Through the Kitchen Door and Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts to improve self-esteem, build leadership skills, strengthen family bonds and expand their network of peers who share similar experiences.

WHEN: Meets most Saturdays (Nov. 7 - June 10)

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

L.E.A.P. also provides FREE Transportation, FREE Meals and FREE Childcare services (during the Parent workshops) Pre-registration required (HURRY! Spaces are filling). Call Caitlin Evans at 301-476-8525 or email her at: evans@adoptionssupport.org

Earn Free Money for Our School – Register for Giant A+ Bonus Bucks

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ Bonus Bucks. Starting **October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010** Neelsville Middle School will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ Bonus Bucks Program.

All you have to do is:

Log on - to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register your card online
OR

Dial - 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

Nominate **Neelsville Middle School** using **ID # 03312**

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your GIANT Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at giantfood.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support. Please be sure to register your card to benefit **Neelsville Middle School** using **ID # 03312**. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.

Estimados padres:

Bienvenidos al inicio de un nuevo ciclo escolar y un nuevo año de A+ Bonus Bucks . A partir del **9 de octubre de 2009 hasta el 14 de Marzo de 2010**, Neelsville Middle School tendrá la oportunidad de ganar dinero en efectivo a través del Programa A+ Bonus Bucks.

Lo único que tienen que hacer es:

Entrar a www.giantfood.com/aplus para hacer la registraci3n de su tarjeta **en l3nea**
O

Llamar al 1-877-275-2758 para hacer la registraci3n de su tarjeta **por tel3fono**

Aseg3rese de registrar su tarjeta GIANT que beneficie a **Neelsville Middle School** usando el **Nº de ID 03312**.

Despu3s de registrar su tarjeta, ¡cualquier compra que hagan en una tienda Giant usando su Tarjeta GIANT resultará en DINERO EN EFECTIVO para nuestra escuela! El monto del DINERO EN EFECTIVO será actualizado todos los meses en el sitio Web de Giant. Usted puede chequear los puntos que ha acumulado en su recibo o cuando establezca una cuenta en giantfood.com. Nuestra escuela recibirá un cheque cuando termine el programa. El dinero puede ser utilizado para cualquiera de las necesidades educativas de nuestra escuela.

Recuerden que para que nuestra escuela reciba el crédito, deben registrar su tarjeta nuevamente este año, aún si lo hicieron el año pasado. Completar este simple proceso resultará en una ENORME diferencia para nuestra escuela. Necesitamos su apoyo. Aseg3rese de registrar su tarjeta GIANT que beneficie a **Neelsville Middle School** usando el **Nº de ID 03312**.

No se olvide de alentar a sus amigos y parientes a hacer lo mismo. Nuestros niños se merecen lo mejor del mundo.

PTSA Executive Officers & Committee Chairs

2009 – 2010 PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President: Jodi Bierlair
- Vice-President: William Jarvis
- Treasurer: Mary Jane Siok
- Secretary: Pam Flatow
- MCCPTA Representative:

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

- Book Fair - Jim Schott (co-chair welcomed!)
- Fundraising - Vicky Nathan
- Membership - Charlie Hall
- Newsletter Editor - Minita Benipuri
- Newsletter Copy/Mailing – Sara Apoko
- Student Directory / Ads - Jodi Bierlair
- Special Ed - Jeannie & Shoshanna Dillingham

Still open:

- Staff Appreciation
- Volunteer Coordinator
- 8th Grade Matriculation



**Mark Your Calendar –
PTSA Meeting Schedule**

- November 10
- December 8
- January 12
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11



Don't forget to join the new NMS PTSA Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeelsvillePTSA/>)



You don't have to be a PTSA member to join. Membership is open to all parents/guardians of current NMS students and NMS staff. Email NeelsvillePTSA-subscribe@yahooogroups.com to submit a membership request. Please send the following information with your membership request –

- Parents – your name, your child's name, your child's grade
- Staff – your name, department.



COME JOIN US!
Neelsville PTSA Needs Your Support!

Neelsville PTSA
11700 Neelsville Church Road
Germantown MD 20876
301-353-8064

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ *e-Mail _____
Student Name _____ Knight Time Teacher _____

PTSA Individual Membership: **Parents and Teachers:** \$10/each **Students:** \$5/each

Member Name(s): _____

Circle One:
Parent/Student/Teacher
Parent/Student/Teacher
Parent/Student/Teacher
Total number of memberships: _____ Total: \$ _____

FREE Student Directory with Membership!
Number of Directories Desired: _____ (one directory per membership is allowed)

PTSA Direct Donation Fundraiser
We are offering a Direct Donation option for those who prefer to contribute money directly for a 100% tax deduction!
These donations are a great help to us as we plan school activities for your students!
Total Donation: \$ _____

PTSA Student Directory
\$5.00 each without PTSA membership. All directories will be sent home with your child.
Number of directories ordered @ \$5.00 each: _____ Total: \$ _____

†Cash †Check; Check Number _____ Total: \$ _____

- 1) Complete this form 2) Attach your payment (only one check is necessary; payable to Neelsville PTSA)
 - 3) Drop it off at one of the PTSA tables or Mail the form and your check to the address at the top of this page.
- We thank you for your support to the Neelsville MS PTSA.



**Ven y hágase miembro de
La Organización de Padres, Maestros y Estudiantes (PTSA) de Neelsville**
¡Necesitamos su apoyo!
 Neelsville PTSA
 11700 Neelsville Church Road
 Germantown MD 20876
 301-353-8064

Su nombre _____
 Direccion _____
 Teléfono _____ *email _____
 Nombre de estudiante _____ Profesor de Knight Time _____

Membresía Individual de PTSA : Padres y maestros: \$10/persona
Estudiantes: \$5/persona

Nombre del miembro: _____ **Indica uno:**
 _____ Padre/Estudiante/Maestro
 _____ Padre/Estudiante/Maestro
 _____ Padre/Estudiante/Maestro

Numero total de membresías: _____ Total: \$ _____

Un Directorio de Estudiantes GRATIS Con Cada Membresía!

Numero de Directorios Deseados: _____ (uno directorio por cada membresía)

PTSA Direct Donation Fundraiser

Si usted quiere, puede hacer una donación directamente a la PTSA para apoyar las actividades de la escuela.
 Donacion Total: \$ _____

PTSA Student Directory

Si solo quiere comprar un directorio de estudiante valen \$5.00. Cuando estén listos vamos a mandar el directorio a casa con su hijo(a).
 Numero de directorios ordenados @ \$5.00 cada uno: _____ Total: \$ _____

‡Efectivo ‡Cheque; Numero de cheque _____ Total: \$ _____

Solo tiene que llenar esta forma, y puede pagar por cheque al nombre de Neelsville PTSA y entregarlo en una de las mesas de información de la PTSA en la Back-to-School Night. También lo puede mandar por correo a la escuela a la dirección arriba. ¡Gracias por su apoyo!

NEELSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA VOLUNTEER FORM

Support Neelsville Middle School - Use this form to offer to volunteer!

The PTSA sponsors many activities that are both fun and educational. Volunteers make them happen! Even an hour of your time and talents would be greatly appreciated.

Please check all areas in which you can volunteer. A committee chairperson will call to see if you are available, as help is needed.

- Book Fair
- Fundraising
- Newsletter Copy/Mailing
- Student Directory/Ads
- Community Service
- International Night
- Staff Appreciation
- Student Directory Print/Dist

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Child's name _____ Homeroom teacher _____

Comments: _____

Please return this form to school marked "PTSA Membership" OR mail to –
 Neelsville PTSA,
 11700 Neelsville Church Road,
 Germantown MD 20876



A Note from the Editor

Minita Benipuri
 Newsletter Editor

Welcome to the Neelsville News, the monthly newsletter published by the Neelsville PTSA. We hope that you will find this a valuable resource for keeping up to date with PTA news, notes and events, as well as an excellent tool for communicating important PTA and school information to our school families.

The content of the newsletter comes from PTSA Members, teachers, staff, community members and students. Please submit any articles, event information, committee updates, thank-yous or anything noteworthy to be included in the newsletter. Let us also know what additional features you would like to see in the newsletter – so that it brings the most value to you.

To all the budding writers and poets in our student community - we would like to invite you to submit your articles for the Neelsville News. Write about your school, your community, your friends, your hopes and aspirations, your favorite thing/hobby/past time and get the satisfaction of seeing your name in print. The preferred method to submit newsletter content is by email, but you can also place information in the newsletter mailbox at school. If you have any questions or comments on the newsletter, please contact Minita Benipuri at mabenipuri@yahoo.com

Please note that there are limitations as to what can/will be printed in the Neelsville News. All content is subject to space limitations, PTSA by-laws, and the discretion and approval of the PTSA President, Principal, and/or Newsletter Editor. Not all content that is submitted will be printed. The Newsletter Editor, PTSA President and Principal individually and collectively reserve full editorial license to determine what content is most appropriate for and/or considered of interest to the general readership of the Neelsville News.

About the Neelsville News

Editor/Publisher: Minita Benipuri
Submit Content to: mabenipuri@yahoo.com
Deadline by email: The Friday after the PTA Meeting
Deadline in print: The Wednesday after the PTA Meeting
Distribution Date: The second Wednesday after the PTA Meeting

PTA Meeting	Print Deadline	Email Deadline	Copy & Distribute
Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 13	Nov 18
Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 11	Dec 16
Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 15	Jan 20
Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 12	Feb 17
Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 12	Mar 17
Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 16	Apr 21
May 11	May 12	May 14	May 19