



# Neelsville News



The Neelsville MS PTSA Newsletter

December 2008

## Parent to Parent

**Steven Thornberry**

PTSA President

### Family Fitness Night

On the schedule for PTSA activities is Family Fitness Night, scheduled for Friday, January 23. We are still planning the activities, and will put out further information later. I'm hoping we can count on the support of students, faculty, and parents.

### Scholastic Book Fair

The PTSA Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, through Monday, February 23. It will be held during school hours. We always need volunteers to work at the sale and in setting up. Setup will be on Friday, February 13, after school. It should take no more than a couple of hours. Students are welcome to help, and will earn SSL hours for the time they work at setting up. We will take down after the sale ends on February 23. Students are, again,

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## From the Principal's Desk

**Dollye McClain**

Principal

The winter season is upon us and the second semester will be ending before we know it. I am very appreciative of the Neelsville school community for the support they have provided as we have moved through the more difficult aspects of this fall.

It's hard to believe that the first semester will be coming to a close and final exams will begin soon. Our final exams begin on January 15-23, with review days on January 13-14. Final exams are two hours in duration and given math--IM, Algebra, Geometry, foreign language, and social studies. Final exams count for 25% of the semester grade.

We have a number of resources that both students and parents can tap into to assist in monitoring student progress and success. **Edline** is an excellent source of information on how well your child is doing. **Peer tutors** work with students in areas of need under the supervision of Dr. Susan Morgan. Students who take advantage of this find it is a huge help. Older, successful students are a great source of support to younger students.

Many teachers are available at lunch to work with students. We currently have a Girl's Club, and a Boy's Club's which meet three days a week, at lunch to help selected students get their AR points completed. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, coinciding with activity bus days, the media center is open after school and there is an organized homework help. There are many other ways teachers work with

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## **From the President** *(cont. from page 1)*

welcome and encouraged to help.

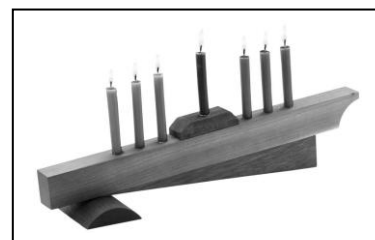
### **8th Grade Promotion Ceremony**

This year, the PTSA will be responsible for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion reception that is held directly before the promotion ceremony. Later next year, we will be coming to the parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders to ask their help and donations to make this reception an enjoyable one for all concerned.

### **Student Writers**

I would like to get Neelsville students engaged in contributing to the Newsletter. So, we are looking for students who like to write and who want to write articles for the Newsletter. There would be no restriction on subject or length. They may write about school activities, write reports on favorite books or even video games, or even just write their personal reflections. It is a great way for students to improve their abilities at writing and expressing themselves. It would be nice to start this "Students' Corner," or "Students' Page" with the January Newsletter. Any student who has something he or she would like to contribute, take it to the office in an envelope marked "PTSA Newsletter Editor" or e-mail it to me at: [thorn9145@comcast.net](mailto:thorn9145@comcast.net).

I wish you all a happy and enjoyable holiday season! Come back to school rested and ready for (dare I say it?) final exams. ☺



## **From the Principal's Desk** *(cont. from page 1)*

students but the key thing is students taking advantage of the tutoring, and one-on-one help teachers go above and beyond to provide. Students who are struggling, but do not take advantage of these opportunities have no excuse.

Our school counseling team can offer a wide range of resource supports, particularly when students have issues that warrant socio-emotional support. When communicating with teachers about concerns, keep the grade level administrator, health room personnel and school counselor in the loop, as valued members of the team who work so hard to support our students.

### **Maryland School Assessment (MSA) Updates**

This year students will take the MSA on **March 16, 2009** and testing will run through March 26, 2009. It is vital that all students be in school and well rested for each day of testing. Please make sure that you schedule your travel plans to allow your child to be in school, well rested and ready to be successful on the MSA. More specific details will be provided as they are available.

I wish you and your family a healthy, safe and happy holiday season and look forward to 2009 at Neelsville Middle School.

# A Note from the Editor

**Mary Jane Siok**

Newsletter Editor

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

In order for the Neelsville News to be the best it can be, we will need your help. The content of the newsletter comes from PTSA Members, teachers, staff, community members and students. It is your content that makes up the Neelsville News. Please submit any articles, event information, committee updates, thank-yous or anything noteworthy to be included in the newsletter. 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 Mary Jane Siok at 301-540-6540 or maryjane@sioks.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:** Mary Jane Siok  
**Submit Content to:** maryjane@sioks.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
Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 16	Jan 21
Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 13	Feb 18
Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 13	Mar 18
Apr 14	Apr 15	Apr 17	Apr 22
May 12	May 13	May 15	May 20

**Please Note:** Ellen Beck, our Art Educator (and Webmaster) has just redesigned the Neelsville Website and it looks great. Included in the website will be the current newsletter and copies of the previous edition. Please check it out at:

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/neelsvillems/>

# School / PTA Calendar

## December

2 Activity Bus Resumes  
 9 PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm  
 10-11 Winter Concerts  
 23 No Activity Bus  
 Dec 24 - Jan 2 Winter Break

## January

5 School Resumes  
 6 Activity Bus Resumes  
 7 Girls Basketball vs. Poole  
 13 PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm  
 13-14 Exam Review Day  
 14 Boys Basketball vs. Clemente  
 16 Semester Exams Begin  
 19 Holiday – Schools Closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)  
 20 Holiday – Schools Closed for Inauguration Day  
 15-23 Exams  
 23 2nd Marking Period Ends  
 Family Fun Night 7-9 pm  
 26 Professional Day – No School for Students  
 27 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Articulation Meeting 7:00 pm  
 28 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Articulation Meeting 7:00 pm

## February

3 Girls Basketball vs. Rocky Hill  
 4 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Articulation 7 pm (snow date)  
 Boys Basketball vs. Mont. Village  
 10 PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm  
 11 Straight "A" Dinner  
 13 SGA Dance 2:45  
 16 Presidents Day Holiday – No School  
 17 Girls Basketball vs. Kingsview  
 17-23 Book Fair  
 Girls Basketball vs. Baker  
 19 Science Inquiry Knight 7:00 pm  
 26 Science Inquiry Knight (snow day)  
 27 Early Release

## March

9-13 Spirit Week  
 10 PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm  
 13 Academic Pep Rally  
 16-26 MSA Testing  
 Marking Period Ends  
 27 SGA Dance 2:45

27-31 MSA Make-Ups  
 30 Professional Day – No School for Students  
 31 No Activity Bus

## April

1-2 No Activity Bus  
 6-13 Spring Break – No School  
 Activity Bus Resumes  
 14 PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm  
 Report Card Distribution  
 16 Girls Soccer vs. Mont. Village  
 22 Girls Soccer vs. Mont. Village/Straight "A" Dinner  
 23 Spring Drama Production 7:00 pm  
 Take Your Child to Work Day  
 24 Spring Drama Production 7:00 pm  
 29 Boys Soccer vs. Baker

## May

5 Girls Soccer vs. Rocky Hill  
 7 Boys Soccer vs. Clemente  
 8 SGA Dance 2:45  
 12 PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm (Final One)  
 13 Boys Soccer vs. King  
 15 Variety Show 7:00 pm  
 18 HSA Algebra  
 20-21 Spring Concerts  
 25 Memorial Day Holiday  
 26 HSA Algebra Make-Up  
 28 Awards Night at Clarksburg 7:00 pm  
 29 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance

## June

4 Last Day for Activity Bus  
 9-12 Final Exams  
 15 Exam Make-Up  
 16 Last Day of School for Students – Early Release  
 23 Report Cards Mailed Out

## **Sixth Grade News**

Students and teachers are having a great year so far in the sixth grade! The teachers appreciate everything parents are doing at home, such as checking agenda books, keeping up to date on Edline, and making sure their child comes to school everyday with the necessary materials like pencils and paper. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's individual teacher or Ms. Stottlemeyer or Mr. Thornett, the sixth grade team leaders.

In sixth grade science we are continuing the unit called "Diversity and Adaptations." The students are investigating the many adaptations of plants and animals, and the way these adaptations enable both groups to continue their survival. The similarities and differences in all living things, along with their behaviors and functions, are also being covered in science.

The students have cut and drilled the frames of our Sea Perches. Everyone is excited about the building process, and we are learning how important cooperation and safety are in the classroom. Later in the year we will begin the wiring the thrusters of our Sea Perches.

In reading students are exploring the characteristics, purpose, and meaning, of Greek myths. While reading a large variety of myths, they will be making connections to the study of Greece in Social studies, connections to vocabulary, and connections to present day life. For the culminating unit project, students will be writing an original myth.

They should continue to read 30 minutes each night for Accelerated Reading and be mindful of the AR point deadlines.

In social studies students are continuing their study of government. Students have learned the many different principles of government and are now turning their focus toward the origins of government. Students will be studying Ancient Greece and Rome, starting with their geography and moving through their history. While there is now final project with this unit, there will be numerous homework assignments and a final assessment. Please continue to check your child's agenda book and social studies section of their binder to stay on top of what we are doing in class.

## **Seventh Grade News**

Seventh grade scientists have finished their CSI investigation with excellent results.

Now they're beginning their study of cells, how cells work, and how the shape of a cell determines its function.

Students have completed a "Tour de City" or "Tour de School" project in which they compared the structures found in cells to the structures found in a city or school.

Stock up on raw eggs – your students might want to experiment with them like we will be doing in class!

Seventh grade math students are continuing to work on Unit 2. We are now working on solving inequalities and learning how to graph them on a number line. We will be completing Unit 2 before the winter break. We will then begin Unit 3 which is our Geometry unit, which focuses on constructions of congruent angles, parallel lines, and line segments.

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Please check your student's binder – they should have paper, pencils, pens, and other necessary supplies. A good activity to do at home would be to organize those binders – some are a bit messy.

As we get closer to Winter Break, it's sometimes hard to stay focused. But, school continues.;-)

In English, the seventh grade students continue to study the unit "A Sense of Place." They are analyzing the connection between place and behavior by reading a variety of texts and by writing about their own personal experiences. Students are in the process of using the six writing traits to complete a personal essay on how and where they are affected how they feel and behave. In the coming week, students will take a formative assessment that will address skills such as analyzing a passage for tone, determining the author's purpose, identifying vocabulary in context, and making inferences. Students will also look at commonly confused words and verb tense consistency.

Students should continue to independently read their A.R. books. Seventh grade students are expected to earn a minimum of 34 A.R. points by the end of the quarter.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team would like to wish everyone an enjoyable winter break.

## **Student Service Learning (SSL) Tips**

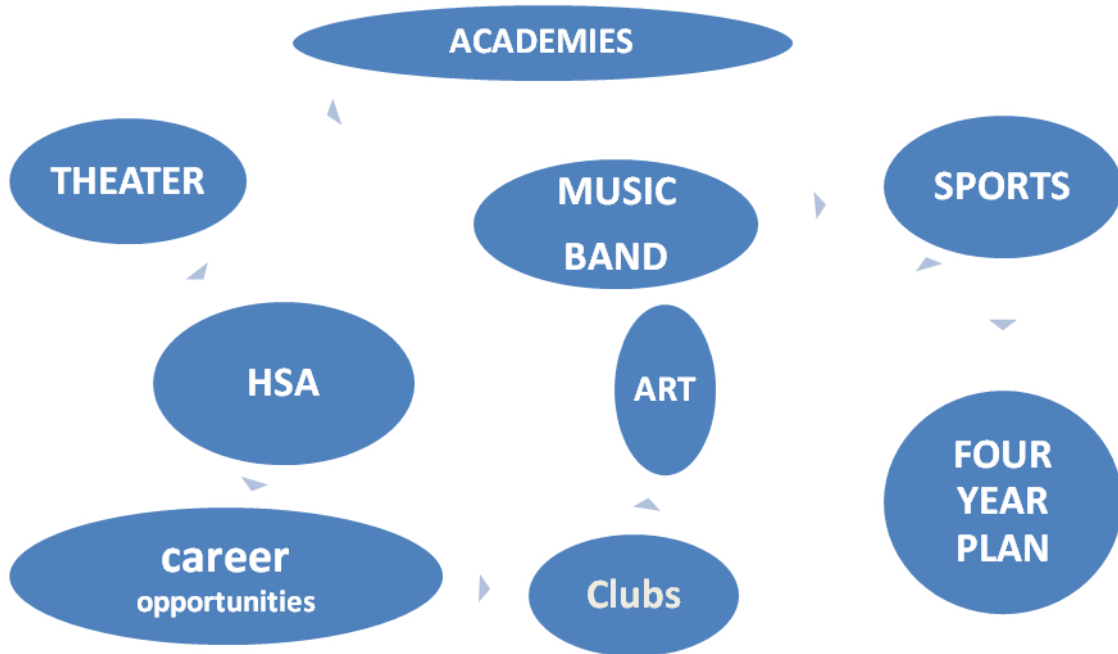
### **Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference**

December 2008

*Students EXPLORE CAREERS through high quality service learning.*

- The Friday before first semester exams begin is the deadline for turning in documentation to the SSL coordinator of service performed during the first semester.
- SSL that results in **direct action** with recipients includes activities such as serving food at a soup kitchen, tutoring a child in reading or math, and playing the piano for residents of a hospital.
- Consider qualifying for MCPS SSL award programs: Superintendent's SSL Awards or the Certificate of Meritorious Service for high school seniors who have documented 260 or more hours of SSL.
- Students may earn 1 service-learning hour for every hour of service outside of their instructional day.
- Civic engagement and political participation are key goals of SSL. Get involved in service-learning activities at school and in the community where effective citizenship can be practiced.

# ***INCOMING 9<sup>TH</sup>. GRADE ORIENTATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010***



## **WELCOME PARENTS AND 8<sup>TH</sup>. GRADE STUDENTS**

**Please join us and learn about our programs**

**Where: Watkins Mills High School**

**Media Center**

**When: Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. 2009**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

# ***ORIENTACIÓN PARA ESTUDIANTES DEL NOVENO GRADO 2009- 2010***

Academias

Teatro

HSA

Deportes

Oportunidades Profesionales

Clubes Banda

Música & Arte

Plan de 4 años

## **BIENVENIDOS, PADRES DE ESTUDIANTES DEL GRADO 8**

*Comparta con nosotros y aprende sobre nuestros programas*

**¿Dónde? :** Biblioteca de la Watkins Mills High School

**¿Cuándo? :** Miércoles, 14 de enero de 2009

**Hora:** 6:30 p.m.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form, attach your payment (only one check is necessary; payable to Neelsville PTSA) and 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dirección \_\_\_\_\_  
 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!

## MCPS Parent Satisfaction Survey Deadline Approaching- December 31, 2008

Flyer with information:

[http://mccpta.net/MCCPTA\\_news/0765\\_09OSApostcardE.pdf](http://mccpta.net/MCCPTA_news/0765_09OSApostcardE.pdf)

Survey website:

<http://parentsurvey.mcpsmd.org>

MCPS Parent Satisfaction Survey:2008-09

Frequently Asked Questions

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) wants to know what parents think about their child's school.

Parents/guardians of students attending schools in MCPS will be asked to participate in the online 2008–2009 Parent Satisfaction Survey. The survey collects information that will be used to help MCPS improve its services to students and their families. All answers are completely confidential.

When will the survey be available?

- ◆ November 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

- How will parents/guardians of students know how to complete the survey?

- ◆ Parents of all students will receive a postcard with instructions on how to access and complete the online parent survey

- ◆ The directions on the postcard will include:

- o Logging on to the survey web site at <http://parentsurvey.mcpsmd.org/>

- o Entering the code number printed on the card (which identifies the school)

- o How to access the survey in other languages—Spanish, Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean and Vietnamese

- ◆ Families with children attending more than one MCPS school should complete a separate online survey for each school

- ◆ Parents without access to a computer can visit their child's school and ask to use a computer, or visit the local library

Why is this survey important?

- ◆ The survey collects valuable information about parents' experiences with their child's school

- ◆ Results will be compiled and released as a collective summary. These data will be made available to School Improvement Teams, principals, and central office staff to help guide strategic plans and school improvement initiatives

Questions?

- ◆ Please contact Mrs. Cynthia Loeb, logistics support specialist, Office of Shared Accountability at 301-279-3848, or by e-mail at: [Cynthia\\_Loeb@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Cynthia_Loeb@mcpsmd.org)

