A message from GARRETT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Garrett Park Families,

We hope you find this email version 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:**

It is hard to believe December is here already! Please make sure you take a minute and label your child’s winter clothing and lunchboxes with first and last names as well as the teacher’s name. You will help increase the likelihood if anything is lost it will find its way back to your child from lost and found. We donate the items in lost and found at the end of each month, so please make sure to check it frequently. Also, we stay inside for indoor recess when conditions are not safe outside (rain) or are too cold (below 32 degrees). Please check the weather and ensure your child is properly clothed for outdoor recess on cold days. Thanks!

Our very own crossing guard Lisa Marinucci has been nominated as America's Favorite Crossing Guard! If Lisa wins, Garrett Park Elementary School could win up to $10,000!! You can vote once a day, every day through the end of November. Let's show Lisa how much she means to our community by voting for her every day!!! Feel free to forward this link. **Tomorrow is the last day to vote!**

[Voting for America's Favorite Crossing Guard Is Open](https://www.safekids.org/crossing-guard?entry_id=177618207)

Interested in supporting families for the holidays? Please see the message below from our school counselor’s…

As many of you know, it has been a tradition at Garrett Park Elementary School to help children who are in need during the winter holidays.  This year we have the opportunity to bring a smile to children if we all work together. The school counseling team would like to collect gifts for children in our school whose families are experiencing economic hardship.

This year, we will have the opportunity to select a “snowman” from the SignUp Genius below to include a child’s age, gender, size, and wish list.  We encourage you to go shopping with your child(ren) to pick the items for the child you are helping.   We will make arrangements to get the gifts to our friends before Winter Break.  You can also bring in gift certificates from area stores; i.e. Target, toy stores, Amazon, movies etc. Wrapping paper donations are also welcomed (partially used or new).

• Do not wrap gifts.

• Return gifts to Ms. Karbeling's office LABELED with your SNOWMAN number.

• Gift drop off is between Monday, December 10th and Thursday, December 13th.

• Students/parents may bring gifts to Ms. Karbeling's office anytime, or there is a late option to drop off between 4-6 pm on 12/11/18.

On behalf of the GPES staff, we would like to thank you for your generosity and wish you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season!

[*https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b48acad229-2018*](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.signupgenius.com_go_4090b48acad229-2D2018&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=qQkuvV9_IjPuJezv1qeUfe5Y4EF4eta8rv6FNxN60ZQ&m=N_c1hk1dR-xJyKnyLC5946bQCNuCaroTdXyNuY2jS9c&s=7f_1SpxrhYffyVUsg_IsaOjQlcv8aChHhMSMO6SRaFc&e=)

Interested in volunteering in the lunchroom or at recess? Please call the main office at 240-740-0700. We’d be happy to help facilitate completing the online training and outlining lunch and recess expectations. Thank you!

If at any time you plan on entering the school beyond the office, remember to bring your driver’s license with you for a secure check in process.

**Teaching and Learning:**

**We recently had a visit from our central office support staff as well as our Director of Learning and Achievement. Together, we conducted an instructional round where we visited classrooms and discussed opportunities for growth as a school. The central office team was very impressed with how well engaged students were and how well teachers were able to execute lessons. They noted we have a very high functioning school and made a few suggestions for continuing our work around school goals. We have a lot to be proud of a learning community and it was nice for central office to echo those sentiments. We couldn’t do it without all your support, so thank you to the entire community for all you do to support your child’s learning!**

**Safety and Security:**

Reminder: Please do not drop your child off at the school before 9:05. We do not provide supervision for children and we do not allow them inside until the bell rings at 9:05 in the morning. You as the parent are liable for your child prior to the start of the school day. Thank you for adhering to this important safety reminder.

**Important Dates:**

Dec. 4 Individual Portrait Make-up or Retake Day 9:30 am

Dec. 4 PTA meeting – Media Center 6:30-8 pm

Dec. 10 Winter Chorus Concert - APR 7:30-8 pm

Dec. 24 through Jan. 1 Winter Break All day

**MCPS Updates:**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has begun an initiative to implement Restorative Justice in schools in order to build the cognitive empathy of staff, students and community members.

As part of the outreach, we want to educate parents and the community about the benefits and processes of Restorative Justice through a series of community workshops. These workshops have been developed so that participants will:

* Learn about Restorative Justice in MCPS
* Learn How to Strengthen the School, Teacher, Parent and Student Community
* Learn How Self Care Works
* Learn How Conflict Resolution and Restorative Practices Work

***Workshop Schedule:***

* Time: Tuesdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
* Locations/Dates:
* Neelsville Middle School–December 4, 2018
* Julius West Middle School–February 5, 2019
* A. Mario Loiederman Middle School–April2, 2019

**Winter Coat Drive Under Way (English and Spanish)**

The Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs is seeking donations to provide students with new winter coats. They are collecting coats for boys and girls in sizes 5, 6, and 7, along with other winter wear, such as hats and gloves. Monetary donations are welcome. Donations can be sent to Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852. For more information, please contact Lisa Conlon, social services specialist, at 240-740-4530.

**Está en Marcha la Campaña de Recolección de Abrigos de Invierno**

Los programas de Prekindergarten/Head Start estan pidiendo donaciones para proporcionar nuevos abrigos de invierno a los alumnos. Estan recolectando abrigos para niños y ninas de tallas 5, 6 y 7, ademas de otras prendas de invierno, tales como sombreros/gorros y guantes. Se aceptan donaciones monetarias. Las donaciones pueden ser enviadas a Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Para mas informacion, por favor llame a Lisa Conlon, especialista en servicios sociales, telefono 240-740-4530.

**Special Education Parent Workshops Set for December 5 (English and Spanish)**

MCPS is holding special education workshops for parents and guardians to learn more about the Individualized Education Program (IEP) documents and process. The workshops will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, in three locations—

* Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard in Gaithersburg
* Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West in Silver Spring
* Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike in Burtonsville

Interpretation services are available on request. For more information, call 240-740-3884.

**Talleres de Educación Especial para los Padres Programado para el 5 de Diciembre**

MCPS esta realizando talleres de educacion especial para los padres y guardianes, para conocer mas acerca de los documentos y el proceso del Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program–IEP). Los talleres se realizaran de 7:00 a 8:30 p.m., el dia miercoles, 5 de diciembre, en tres lugares–

* Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, en Gaithersburg
* Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West, en Silver Spring
* Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, en Burtonsville

Habra servicios de interpretacion de idiomas disponibles a peticion. Para mas informacion, llame al 240-740-3884.

Thanks!

Dan Tucci