Principally Speaking:  Thoughts on “Happy New Year!”

We’re off to a great start once again after winter break! It did not take long before we were all back into the swing of things! Students can use the new year to get a fresh start. This is an excellent opportunity to identify an area needing improvement and then work towards accomplishing that goal. Whether the goal is to develop organizational skills; practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division facts; increase reading skills, arrive to school on time; or to improve academic or learning skills, there is no time like the present. Please work with your child to establish goals, collaborate with his or her teacher, and assist with an a plan for improvement. This new year will be a productive one for each and every student and the hard work will pay off!

Winter Assessments
Children in grades K-2 are in process of taking the mClass assessments. These are done on an individual basis with the teacher to determine the reading level of each student. Students in grades 3-5 are taking the MAP-R assessment which also assesses students reading skills. Teachers use these assessments along with daily performance to plan for student instruction. Students in grades K-5 will also take the MAP-P or MAP-M math assessment on a computer. If you have specific questions about these assessments or how your child is performing, please talk to the teacher directly.

Reading Homework
Please continue to stress reading every night with your children. They should read, or be read to for a minimum of 30 minutes each night. This is their homework!! You can practice mathematical fluency at home by using the online resources on the school website. Please contact the media center if you need passwords for any sites.

Emergency Dismissal
With the possibility of snow in the next few months, please review emergency closing procedures with your child. It is not possible for the office to handle large numbers of students trying to call home or a parent’s office in an emergency. Please make sure that your child knows what to do in case of an emergency closing. Also, please ensure that your emergency form in the school office is updated and that the information is the same as you have told your child. The next page includes different ways to receive information about inclement weather. Galway Elementary will not contact parents for school closings or delayed openings. Those decisions are made by the superintendent of schools. Early school dismissal will be announced by MCPS by 11:30 am.

“ A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.”

Colin Powell
EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Winter weather is here. MCPS offers numerous ways for parents to learn about school closures, delayed openings, and early dismissals due to inclement weather.

♦ AlertMCPS
Receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Parents can also sign up to receive alerts specific to their child’s school. Subscribe to Alert MCPS at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx

♦ MCPS homepage www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

♦ QuickNotes email news service Subscribe at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/subscribe/

♦ MCPS cable channel (Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RCN 89) Recorded information (English and Spanish) 301-279-3673

♦ Ask MCPS 301-309-6277. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish.

♦ Twitter http://twitter.com/mcps

♦ Local radio and TV stations Visit http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/

♦ AlertMCPS
Recibida mensajes de texto de correo electrónico de MCPS durante emergencias relacionadas con tiempo inclemente y otros sucesos importantes que afectan las operaciones del sistema escolar. Los padres pueden anotarse también para recibir alertas que tienen que ver específicamente con la escuela de sus hijos. http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx

♦ Portal de MCPS www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

♦ Servicio electrónico de noticias QuickNotes Subscribase en http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/subscribe/

♦ Canales de MCPS por cable Comcast 34, Verizon 36, o RCN 89 Información grabada 301-279-3673

♦ Pregunte a MCPS (Ask MCPS) 301-309-6277. El personal atiende llamadas de inglés y en español, de lunes a viernes, de 7:30 a.m. a 5:30 p.m.

♦ Twitter http://twitter.com/mcps

HEARING AND VISION SCREENING

January 11, 12, & 13 2017

In accordance with the Maryland State Law students in Montgomery County Public Schools are screened for possible vision and hearing problems. Trained hearing and vision screeners will be screening students new to MCPS, students in Kindergarten and First grade (Eight grade) and students referred by teachers because of possible signs of hearing or vision problems.

You will receive a referral form to take to your child’s doctor if your child fails the screening. If your child is already under care for a hearing or vision problem, or you do not wish your child to be screened at school, please notify the school nurse in writing. If your child wears glasses or contacts they should wear them everyday and bring them to the screening.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MCPS:

All volunteers and visitors to classrooms MUST complete the Child Abuse and Neglect Training located on the MCPS main page. No adults will be allowed to visit or volunteer in classrooms if they have not completed the training (this includes attending class parties). A certificate of completion should be given to the secretaries in the main office once this has been completed.

CLOTHING FOR CASH

Time to clean out those closets and donate to Clothes for Cash. We would like to challenge the community to become one of the top three schools to donate in the area. If we become a top three school, we receive a bonus check that goes to classrooms. This is the time to clean out those closets. You can donate clothing and shoes in any shape.
Spotlight on the Arts!

ART

Kindergarten is working on size relationships exploring through color, line shapes and textures.

1st grade: is continuing their study of the coral reef through 3-d forms, looking at sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor

2nd grade: is working on creating depth in a picture plane with simple overlapping as we look at different artists, for example Matisse.

3rd grade: will be creating fantasy compositions using warm or cool colors, shapes, lines and emphasis.

4th grade: is starting with anthropomorphism and how artist use this idea to create amazing compositions, as they create their own version.

5th grade: will continue their architecture studies with delving into 3-d form for gargoyles.

MUSIC

Pre-K and Kindergarten students learn more songs to get more comfortable with singing and learning to sing longer songs with movement.

In 1st Grade students will read and create eighth and quarter note patterns by writing them on the board, playing rhythm games and testing each other.

2nd Graders will make several connections between music and their general class studies. They will also read pitches from the staff and perform different dances from various cultures.

3rd Grade students will read and perform more difficult rhythm patterns such as dotted rhythms and flagged eighth notes.

4th graders will read and perform notes from the softege system (do, re, mi, etc.) and the A, B, C system of definite pitches.

5th graders will continue to read a sample melody on the staff using the softege system and the A, B, C system of definite pitches. They will also perform simple chordal accompaniments to accompany each other during the singing of new music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In grades K-2, will identify and demonstrate the effects of physical activity on how the heart and blood vessels respond to exercise. In addition, students will identify the function and location of muscles.

In grades 3-5, students will refine skills needed in striking with body parts as they participate in the volleyball unit.

MEDIA CENTER

In grades K-2, students will select books using attributes of print, make literature-to-self connections, formulate research questions, and use text features to record information.

In grades 3-5, students will work collaboratively to use online and print resources to complete research through note-taking. Students will work together to produce a video presentation in order to showcase what they have learned.

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**First Grade News**

Mrs. Cordova  Mrs. Lusby  Ms. Palmer  
Mr. Jackson  Ms. Mattern  Ms. Pritchard  
Mrs. Jenkins  Mrs. Kozen  Mrs. Jones  

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**Reminders:**

- Please be sure to check your child’s folder every day for important information from their teacher.
- Don’t forget to check and sign the behavior calendar in your child’s homework folder every night.
- Please make sure you complete your child’s reading log each night.

**Thanks for your support!**

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**Contact Information**

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**Spotlight on Academics**

**Reading:** This month we will be reading informational texts. Students will be reading to find the main topic and retell key details. First graders will also be using illustrations and details from the text to describe key ideas. Some helpful questions to ask your child are: What do you see? Which details from the text are important? How do all of these important details fit together?

**Writing:** This month we will begin writing narratives. As part of our narrative, students will learn how to choose a topic, recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened and organize their ideas.

**Math:** This month we are learning strategies to solve 1 and 2 digit addition and subtraction problems. We are working on using those strategies to solve different types of word problems. Check out our website for different online games your child can use to practice their math fluency.

**Social Studies:** This month we will continue learning about the differences between the past and present, people and objects. We will also focus on important events from the present and long ago.

**Science:** This month we are learning all about magnets! We will be conducting several experiments with magnets and testing magnetic and nonmagnetic materials. Students will also predict, test and describe the effects of objects on magnets.
Second Grade Newsletter
2017
Ms. Akindana • Ms. McKnew • Ms. Amaya • Ms. Kunk • Mr. Aaronson
Mr. Samson • Ms. Ogden • Ms. Schaefer • Mr. Morina

Reminders
- Students should read 20 minutes every night and fill out reading in their Reading Log.

Important Dates
- January 3: School resumes
- January 6: Family Food Market
- January 24: Math Night

Requests
We are already running low on some crucial supplies. Donations are always appreciated! Thank you for your generosity.
- Pencils
- Tissue boxes
- Clorox Wipes

Spotlight on Academics
Reading: Students will read informational text and ask and answer questions before, during, and after reading to monitor their understanding. Students will identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph informational text, focus on specific information or paragraphs in a text, and identify reasons that support specific points in a text. Students will determine the point of view of characters in the story.

Writing: Students will draw on their knowledge of places to select a traditional story (e.g., folktale, fairytale, fable) and alter the time and place (i.e., setting) to write a new version of the story. Students will use a clear structure of events to organize their story (i.e., beginning, middle, and end). In order to clearly communicate the revised narrative, students must use reflexive pronouns, irregular verbs, temporal words, and simple sentences. Students revise and edit using beginning dictionaries to check spelling.

Math: Students will continue to work with one-step problem situations (within 100) with unknowns in all positions. Students will apply their understandings of numbers (e.g., skip-counting) and the value of coins (i.e., quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies) to determine collections of bills and/or coins with target values within $100. Students will determine the value of a collection of bills and/or coins within $100.

Science: Students will identify and describe minute objects such as salt crystals, sand particles, and seeds. Students will identify and describe the minute features of objects such as paper, fabrics, coins, and crystals using magnification.

Social Studies: Students will explore how geographic characteristics influence choices about food, clothing, and shelter. Students will develop understandings about how people share, borrow, and develop customs and traditions. Students will explore ways people can respect and value diversity and differences by sharing and passing on traditions.

Home Connection
Website: http://galway2nd.weebly.com
Blog: http://galway2nd.weebly.com/2nd-grade-bloggers
Twitter: @galway2nd
THIRD GRADE NEWS
January 2017

REMINDERS:

Thursday, December 24th - January 2nd
- Winter break - no school

Monday, January 16th
- MLK day - no school

Friday, January 20th
- No school

Thursday, January 26th
- 2nd quarter ends

Friday, January 27th
- No school - Professional day

CELEBRATIONS:
3rd grade students researched a topic in order to become an expert. They were able to gather facts, make claims, and support them with reasons while drafting their own informational book.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS

Our Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS) for Marking Period 2 (MP2) are Metacognition and Evaluation

READING: Students have been working on analyzing author’s craft to identify the central message. This month, the focus will shift to finding the main idea in a non-fiction text.

WRITING: Students completed an informational writing text on a topic for which they are an expert. They will now use what they have learned to create an informational presentation on the wonders of Africa.

SCIENCE: Students will conduct experiments to determine how heating and cooling changes the observable properties of items.

MATH: By the end of the quarter, students should know their facts with 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 from memory. We will begin working on partitioning shapes into equal areas as the basis of representing fractions.

SOCIAL STUDIES: We will compare human made and natural/physical features of regions around the world.

HOME EXTENSIONS: Tumblebook Library has hundreds of digital texts for students to read. Books are available as e-books, animated stories, and audio books. The variety of formats allows students of all ability levels to access rigorous texts.
http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/galways/
FOURTH GRADE NEWS
January 2017

REMINDERS:
- 1/3 Classes resume
- 1/16 MLK Day- No School
- 1/20 No School
- 1/26 2nd Marking Period Ends
- 1/27 Professional Day
- 1/30 3rd Marking Period Begins

CELEBRATIONS: Fourth graders continue to reflect on their goals they have set when it comes to academics. Soon grades 3-5 will be taking the second MAP-R assessment. The county uses this to determine student growth in reading. We’re excited to show what we know!

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- Ms. Thompson: Erinn_E_Thompson@mcpsmd.org
- Ms. Daffan: Jessica_M_Daffan@mcpsmd.org

HOME EXTENSIONS:

After the holidays, have your child write thank you notes to friends and relatives. They can make their own stationery, decorated with crayons, markers, or stickers.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS

Our Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS) for Marking Period 2 are ELABORATION and PERSISTENCE/MOTIVATION/EFFORT

READING: Students continue to deepen understanding in social studies by reading informational texts on the topic of European exploration, including firsthand accounts and paraphrase key details to summarize. Students will analyze the cause and effect text structure to understand the concepts and ideas associated with the Columbian Exchange. They will identify evidence a speaker provides to support a claim about Columbus’ contributions.

WRITING: Students will continue to synthesize information gathered to write an opinion. In addition, we will be focusing on writing a strong conclusion. Students will also write a character analysis which they are familiar with from marking period 1.

SCIENCE: Students will investigate how human activity can impact an organism’s habitat within an ecosystem and focus specifically on human events that both negatively and positively impact the environment.

MATH: Students extend understandings about the operation of division and the relationship between multiplication and division developed in Grade 3 to find whole number quotients (up to 4-digit dividends and 1-digit divisors). Students use the terms dividend, divisor, quotient, and remainder, and how remainders are interpreted based on the contexts of problems.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Students explore a variety of media to gather and record information about destinations, goals, and actions of explorers during the age of European exploration. They will examine results of interactions between North American native societies and European explorers. Students explore Columbian Exchange; animals, plants, culture, human populations, communicable disease, and ideas following the voyage to the Americas by Christopher Columbus in 1492.
Fifth Grade

Spotlight on Academics

Happy New Year! The Fifth Grade team is so excited for what is in store for our students in 2017!

In reading, students are finding multiple main ideas of an informational text. They are using key details to support their main ideas. As always, students will be learning reading strategies that will support them when reading a variety of texts.

Students are finishing up their informational texts about the American Revolution in writing. Afterwards, students will be writing original myths.

In math, we are finishing up addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators and are going to begin studying multiplication with fractions. As we work toward using an algorithm, the students will construct models and use number lines to demonstrate conceptual understanding of the process.

*Please continue to support students in studying multiplication and division facts at home!

We are continuing our study of electricity and magnetism in science. We will be building electromagnets this month! In the next marking period we will study astronomy, various celestial bodies and cycles that occur in the solar system.

In social studies, we have been studying the U.S. Constitution and the three branches of government. In marking period 3, we will examine how geography impacted settlement patterns as the country grew in the 1800s.

Home Extensions

Please make sure students are reading for at least 30 minutes each evening. Afterwards, please sign their at-home reading log. We check reading logs weekly to ensure students are reading at home.

Students can practice fraction concepts taught in class by visiting the following website:

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm

Students can explore different myths to inspire their original myths by exploring the following website:

http://greekmyths4kids.com/

Reminders

We need tissues, PLEASE! As the weather gets colder, our children catch the weather “bug”. Also, please make sure students are coming to school with jackets and warm clothing because unless it is extremely cold outside, there is outdoor recess. Please help us support our children in staying comfortable this winter!

Keep in mind that the marking period ends on January 26th!

Emails

The Fifth Grade teachers’ emails are:

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