A Message From Gayle Starr, Principal

Happy 2015. The students and staff came back far healthier than when we left for winter break and all ready to learn. I hope that you had a great winter break.

Students, staff and parent feedback is important to all MCPS school staff to let us know as a school and a county how we are doing in meeting the needs of our stakeholders. For that reason, MCPS contracted with Gallup to survey these stakeholders, analyze the data, and assist the schools in interpreting its meaning and to set goals for continued improvement.

The data that I am sharing with you today is based upon our current 5th graders who were surveyed by Gallup in the fall. This Gallup survey measures three different categories for students: student engagement, student well-being and student hope. Below you will find the category and the questions the students were asked, as well as, the results we obtained from our current 5th graders. As you read these questions, think about how you think your student (s) might respond.

**Student engagement**, which is defined by Gallup as "the involvement and the enthusiasm for school, reflects how well students are known and how often they get to do what they do best." Sixty fifth grade students were given the questions listed below. Their responses could range for strongly disagree (1%) to strongly agree (5%).

1. I have a best friend at school. 87% of the 5th graders responded in the strongly agree or agree category.
2. I feel safe in school. 87% of the 5th graders responded in the strongly agree or agree category.
3. My teachers make me feel my schoolwork is important. 88% of the 5th graders responded in the strongly agree or agree category. 60% strongly agreed. 7% strongly disagreed.
4. At this school, I have the opportunity to do best every day. 32% strongly agreed and 42% agreed.
5. In the last seven days, I have received recognition or praise for doing good schoolwork. 72% of the students agreed or strongly agreed while 42% fell in the agree category. This was our lowest 'Strongly agree "item response in this category'
6. My school is committed to building the strengths of each student. 55% of the students strongly agree and another 37 agree.
7. I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future. 67% strongly agreed while 20 % agreed.

Another category measured as student well-being. It was defined by Gallup as being "How we think about and experience our lives, tells us how students are doing today and predicts their success in the future.

1. Were you treated with respect all day yesterday? 56% of the 5th graders responded yes
2. Did you smile or laugh a lot yesterday? 83% responded yes
3. Did you learn or do something interesting yesterday? 81% responded yes
4. Did you have enough energy to get things done yesterday? 89% responded yes
5. Do you have health problems that keep you from doing any of the things other people your age normally do? 15% said yes
6. If you are in trouble, do you have family or friends you can count on to help whenever you need them?
96% of the 5th grade students responded yes.

Another category was student hope. It was defined by Gallup as being the "Ideas and energy we have for the future drives effort, academic achievement, credits earned and retention." These were the questions that Gallup presented to measure hope.
1. I know I will graduate from high school. 72% strongly agree and 27% agree
2. There is an adult in my life who cares about my future. 85% strongly agree and 13% agree
3. I can think of many ways to get good grades. 42% strongly agree; 45% agree and 12% were neutral with a 3 rating
4. I energetically pursue my goals. 52% strongly agree; 40% agree; and 8% were neutral with a 3 rating
5. I can find lots of way around my problem. 23% strongly agree; 50% agree and 25% were neutral with a 3 rating
6. I know I will find a good job when I graduate. 73% strongly agree and 25% agree.

While these only represent the thoughts and feelings of our 5th graders, it shows us that many of our students feel highly engaged, hopeful and feel a strong sense of well-being. This is great. However, we cannot forget those students who are not seen as actively engaged in school and where school makes them feel discouraged or stuck. This survey is totally anonymous and our scores look good overall. Remember that our school vision and applied efforts are for ALL of our students to have a strong sense of well-being, hope and to be totally engaged in their learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this student data further.

PARCC

In order to measure mastery of new Common Core Standards, the state of Maryland will implement new tests for our students in Grades 3-5. The PARCC- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers will take the place of the MSA- Maryland State Assessment. During the month of March our students will spend multiple days taking the new assessments that "look at different content and use an entirely new grading system." (MSDE). It is imperative that ALL students are in attendance during the testing sessions for their grade level. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the dates listed below. Students will take the tests in the morning, but may need to be moved to the afternoon if there are circumstances beyond our control. Therefore, please make sure your child attends school for full days during their testing week.

Grade 5- March 2-6
Grade 4- March 9, 10, 18, 19, 20
Grade 3- March 11, 12, 13, 16, 17
Make-up Testing can continue March 23-26
( Please make sure that your child is at school and on time when he or she is scheduled for testing.)

Make-up testing can be given for any unit after it is missed. We will try to administer the make-up testing as soon as possible after the missed unit.

Testing will occur again in April and May. Those dates will follow soon.
Please visit the MCPS website at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/parcc/ for more information about the PARCC. Also, please check your child's folder frequently for more information, as we approach the testing window.
Our staff is dedicated to implementing the MCPS 2.0 curriculum, which is aligned to the Common Core and new PARCC assessments. Please let us know if you have any questions!

**Damascus Library – Reading Therapy Dog**

Certified reading-therapy dog Zachy will be at the Damascus Library on Tuesday afternoons, January 20 through May 19, 2015, from 4:00-4:45 p.m., lending his ear to children who would benefit from practicing their read-aloud skills in semi-private sessions. Zachy is a patient, non-judgmental listener. Children who read to him can gain confidence, build self-esteem, and improve their reading skills. Plus, reading aloud to Zachy is fun! Dixie, another reading-therapy dog, is at Damascus Library from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

**READ TO A DOG!**

**Who:** School-age children, especially beginners learning to read, English-learners, and all those who just want to improve their confidence in reading skills  
**What:** Practice reading aloud in semi-private sessions with a calm and patient Wags For Hope certified therapy dog, like rescued greyhound Zachy, or cocker spaniel Dixie.  
**Why:** Improve reading skills, gain confidence, and discover that reading is fun!  
**When:** Every Tuesday from 4:00-4:45 pm, January 20-May 19, 2015. (Zachy)  
**When:** Third Saturday of each month from 2:00-3:00 p.m., 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16/2015. (Dixie)  
**Where:** Damascus Library, 9701 Main Street, Damascus MD, 20872.  
**How:** First-come, first-served. No registration required; no younger siblings, please.  
**FREE.** Call 240-773-9444 for more information.

Amy K Alapati  
Head of Children's Services, Damascus Library  
9701 Main Street, Damascus MD 20872  
240-773-9444  
Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries  
Children's Steering Committee Member  
amelia.alapati@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Baker Band Cluster Concert**  
**Thursday, January 29 @7:00 p.m.**  
**Damascus HS Auditorium**

Our annual Baker Band cluster concert is right around the corner. This concert will involve the advanced band students from Woodfield ES, Clearspring ES, Rockwell ES, and Damascus ES, as well as the Baker MS 6th grade band. It is a great opportunity for your son or daughter to perform with other students in the cluster. This is always one of our favorite concerts among students.

The concert begins at **7:00 p.m.** We ask that students report to the HS auditorium by **6:15 p.m.** so we have time to rehearse and organize with the other groups. Concert dress is black pants or skirt and a white top. We hope you can all attend and look forward to seeing you **Thursday, January 29!**

Mr. Gillenwater  
Instrumental Music Teacher
Damascus String Cluster Concert
Wednesday, February 4 @7:00 p.m.
Damascus HS Auditorium

Our annual Damascus string cluster concert is right around the corner. This concert will involve the advanced string students from Woodfield ES, Clearspring ES, Rockwell ES, and Damascus ES, as well as the Baker MS Orchestra and Damascus HS Orchestra. It is a great opportunity for your son or daughter to perform with other students in the cluster. This is always one of our favorite concerts among students.

The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. We ask that students report to the High School auditorium by 6:15 p.m. so we have time to rehearse and organize with the other groups. Concert dress is black pants or skirt and a white top. We hope you can all attend and look forward to seeing you Wednesday, February 4!

Mr. Gillenwater
Instrumental Music Teacher

ES/MS/HS Choral Cluster Concert at DHS
Thursday, February 12 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, February 12, the Woodfield Chorus will join together with the choruses of Damascus High School, Baker Middle School, Damascus Elementary School, Clearspring Elementary School, and Rockwell Elementary School to present a Cluster Concert. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear other choruses perform, to perform in front of a large audience, and to perform in combination with other schools with other conductors. We have already begun preparing music for this special concert. This concert will be held at Damascus High School on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Students will need to arrive at the DHS auditorium at 6:00 p.m. to rehearse for this performance with the other schools. Chorus members should wear their uniform (white shirts or blouses, black pants or skirts, black shoes). This is the only opportunity that we have to rehearse as a whole, and it is very important that all students arrive on time. The doors will open for parents and families at 6:45 p.m.

“Due to the evening rehearsal and concert, there will be NO after school rehearsal on that day.”

Mrs. Vinson

WITH WINTER WEATHER APPROACHING, PLEASE NOTE THE DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE LISTED BELOW.

Delayed Opening Lunch Schedule (No recess for students) (No Breakfast)
School begins at 10:50 a.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lunch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K and Grade 1st</td>
<td>11:55-12:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th and 5th</td>
<td>12:25-12:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd and 3rd</td>
<td>12:55-1:25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
January 22, 2015
Counselor’s Corner

Woodfield Eagles are respectful, responsible, and ready to learn.
I pledge to make good choices, try my best, and take ownership of my actions today. We are soaring on the path to success!

It’s No Name Calling Week! And by the time our next Woodfield EAGLE newsletter is published it will be National School Counseling Week and Random Acts of Kindness Week too! To help us celebrate these events we have planned fun, educational activities. Our morning announcements, Bullying Basics, will focus on teasing and name calling. Victims of bullying and name-calling commonly do poorly in school and suffer from high rates of absenteeism due to this harassment. “No Name-calling Week” takes aim at insults of all kinds - whether based on a child’s appearance, background or behavior. As I mentioned in the earlier issue of the Woodfield Eagle, this month we are focusing on bullying in classroom guidance. As a way to help students become more aware of how their behavior has an effect on themselves and others we will also focus on empathy and kindness. Empathy helps to increase tolerance. Empathy also helps us to THINK about our words and actions! T-Is it True? H-Is it helpful? I-Is it inspiring? N-Is it necessary? K-Is it kind? If we ask ourselves these questions about our words and actions it may help us to slow down and think. What we say and do can leave a mark on others. Let’s help our children make and keep positive relationships with peers. All students deserve to grow up in a safe, caring environment. More information will be coming home for National School Counseling Week.

PBIS Update
Last Friday, January 16th, Woodfield Eagles celebrated by having our first PBIS Pep Rally of the year! Students, teachers, and staff members celebrated with music, trivia, and prizes all related to our PBIS program here at Woodfield! We recognized the classes who have earned the most “High Fives.” Individual students from each class showed their positive spirit by earning prizes after answering trivia questions about how we SOAR at Woodfield. Staff members even earned prizes. We ended our Pep Rally by singing our Woodfield song!!! Thank you to all of our PBIS supporters out there! Our program would not be as successful without your help! Thank you to all students for continuing to show your positive behaviors! We are the Woodfield Eagles, and we SOAR!
Bell Times

The Montgomery County Board of Education will host two public hearings next week on options for adjusting school starting and ending times—also known as bell times. The hearings will be held on Thursday, **January 22, 2015**, in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive in Rockville.

The hearings will run from **3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** Those wishing to provide testimony at the hearings should call 301-279-3617 during business hours to reserve a slot. All speakers will be given 3 minutes.

Feedback can also be submitted in writing to belltimes@mcpsmd.org. Please submit written comments by February 2, 2015.

The Board is considering several options for changing bell times so that high school students could begin classes later in the day. The options fall into five general categories:

- Shift all start times 20 or 35 minutes later;
- Start elementary school first;
- Modify a previously considered proposal from October 2013;
- Split the high school day; and
- Make no changes to bell times and explore other options to provide flexibility for high school students.

The Board heard a presentation on these options at its January 13, 2015 meeting and approved an additional option that modifies the proposal to shift all start times 20 or 35 minutes later. The Board’s option would shift start times for middle and high school students 20 or 35 minutes later and start times for elementary school students 10 or 25 minutes later.
**School Calendar for 2015–2016**

**Plan Ahead for the 2015–2016 School Year**
The Board of Education has set the calendar for the 2015-2016 school year. Classes will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015, and are scheduled to end on Friday, June 17, 2016. Spring Break will run from March 25 to April 1. The calendar is available in seven languages—Amharic, Chinese, English, French, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese—and can be printed or downloaded to a computer or mobile device. To see the calendar, visit [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/future/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/future/).

**Winter Weather**

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 AlertMCPS at [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx)
- **MCPS homepage**
  [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)
- **QuickNotes email news service**
- **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](http://twitter.com/mcps)
- **Local radio and TV stations**

**Distinguished Service Awards**

**Coming Soon: 18th Annual Distinguished Service to Public Education Awards**
Do you know any individuals (including students), groups, and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to public education in Montgomery County? If so, consider nominating them for a Distinguished Service to Public Education Award! The Montgomery County Board of Education established the awards, now in it’s 18th year, to recognize and show appreciation for exemplary contributions to public education and to MCPS. Nomination forms will be available online at [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/). Completed nomination forms will be due in February.
Every Friday is School Spirit Day – Wear your Woodfield clothing or blue and white.

Soar High Woodfield!!

Monday, February 16  Holiday – Presidents’ Day

Friday, February 27  Early release – Planning/grading 12:35 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, January 5 – Friday, Feb. 27</td>
<td><strong>Collection for PTA Student Book Exchange</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 26 – Friday, Feb. 13</strong></td>
<td>Baker Parent Meeting for 5th Gr. @ Baker 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 27</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show Auditions @ Woodfield 3:15 – 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 28</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show Auditions @ Woodfield 3:15 – 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 29</td>
<td>Report cards distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 29</td>
<td>Flyer distribution day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 29</td>
<td>5th and 6th Grade Cluster Band Concert @ DHS 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 2</td>
<td>Snow date for Baker Parent Meeting for 5th Gr. 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 4</td>
<td>ES/MS/HS Strings Concert @ DHS 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 11</td>
<td>5th Grade Family Life Information Night  6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed., February 11 – Thursday, Feb. 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>PTA Student Book Exchange – Students choose books</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 12</td>
<td>ES/MS/HS Choral Cluster Concert at DHS  7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 13</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day - Parties @ 2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 16</td>
<td>Holiday – Presidents’ Day Offices &amp; schools closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 17 – Friday, Feb. 27</td>
<td>ACCESS for ELLS (make-up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 18</td>
<td>Snow date for 5th Grade Family Life Information Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 23</td>
<td>Cluster Concert Snow date #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 24</td>
<td>Cluster Concert Snow date#2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 27</td>
<td>Early release – Planning/grading 12:35 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 2</td>
<td>Read Across America – Dr. Seuss Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 2 – Fri., March 27</td>
<td>PARCC  PBA ELA/Literacy, Math Testing Gr. 3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 4</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show Rehearsal at Woodfield 3:15 – 8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 4</td>
<td>2nd Grade Field Trip – Kraushaar Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 8</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 13</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show Rehearsal at Baker 3:30 – 10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 14</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show – Baker MS  7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 26</td>
<td>3rd marking period ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 27</td>
<td>Professional day for teachers – No school for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 27</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show Rehearsal Snow Date @ Baker 3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 28</td>
<td>PTA Talent Show snow date @ Baker 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 31</td>
<td>Lifetouch Spring portraits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., April 3 - Monday, April 6</td>
<td>Holidays – Easter Offices &amp; schools closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring break – No school for students and teachers
MSA – Science Online  Grade 5
Flyer distribution day
Report cards distributed
4th Grade Field Trip – Living Classrooms
PARCC EOY ELA/Literacy, Math Testing Gr. 3-5
MSA Science Paper Grade 5
2015 MCPS Elementary and Middle School Arts Fair
@ Lakeforest Mall
Earth Day
Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
Kindergarten Orientation – No School for Kindergarten
Hearing and Vision Screening
Donuts with Dad
Woodfield Art Show
Spring PTA Family Fun Night 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
PTA Staff Appreciation Week
5th grade picture – 1:45 p.m.
1st Grade Field Trip – Rose Hill Manor
Muffins for Mom A – M  8 a.m.
Muffins for Mom N – Z  8 a.m.
Patrol Picnic 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Hearing and Vision Re-Screening
Woodfield ES Choral and Instrumental Concert
@ Baker MS  7:00 p.m.
Holiday – Memorial Day  Offices and School closed
K Field Trip – Maryland Zoo
Career Day
Volunteer Luncheon – Media Center  11:30 – 1:30
Last day of school for students – Early release 12:35 p.m.
Professional day for teachers
Report cards mailed

Note: Dates that have been added this week are in bold