Young Scientists Impress

I have always been impressed with the work on display at our annual Science Expo, and this year was no exception. In addition creating informative and attractive visual presentations, participating students also did a great job of verbally explaining the questions they asked, the process they followed to answer them, and the results they obtained. They learned a lot about how to think and work like scientists, and visitors learned a lot about a huge variety of things, from electrical conductors and dry ice to electromagnets and the growth of various types of crystals.

Thanks go out to Ms. Troup for her fine job of coordinating the expo; to the big events committee for their help with logistics; to our parents who acted as guest scientists and provided feedback to participants; to KidsCo for once again providing shuttle bus service; and to the many young scientists and the families who supported them. Be sure to check out the Science Expo video on our home page.

Party Planning

Valentine’s Day will be upon us soon, bringing with it the traditional class parties. Due to our large enrollment this year and our very limited parking, we must limit parent participation in these parties to our volunteer room parents, just as we did for our Fall Fun Day. Please see the letters they send home for additional details.

Bullying Presentation

Parents often have questions about bullying -- what it is; what it’s not; and how they can help their children respond to unwanted behaviors. To help answer these questions, our counselor, Mrs. Spoales, will make a presentation at the February meeting on this significant topic. She will connect to the anti-bullying assembly we had this past fall, model classroom lessons on bullying, and share parent resources. I hope you can join us next Tuesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center for this important discussion.

Souper Bowl Returns

Souper Bowl for the Needy, a canned food drive that connects to and builds on the excitement surrounding the NFL’s Super Bowl, will be played this year on February 2. Here’s how it works:

- Large pictures representing the helmets worn by competing teams, the Seattle Seahawks and the Denver Broncos, are displayed on the bulletin board in our main lobby.
- Students, parents, staff members, and others “vote” for the team that they want to win the Super Bowl by placing non-perishable food donations under that team’s helmet.
- After the Super Bowl is played, all food collected will be donated to Damascus HELP. Donations will be collected through Friday, January 31. There appears to be a tie between the teams at this point. I look forward to seeing the piles of donated food grow and grow as we have fun and help a good cause.
Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart Return

Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart time is here again! Our 2014 event will be held during your child’s P.E. class the week of Feb. 10-14th. Grades K-5 are welcome to participate. Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart is a national event that schools all over the country can choose to participate in each year. The event is sponsored by the American Heart Association and all proceeds go to help in the fight and cure for heart disease. If students choose to help, we ask for flat donations, and we encourage students NOT to go door-to-door soliciting. If you have more than one child participating in the event, please put the money collected by each child in its OWN envelope. This way we can assure that each child will receive the appropriate thank you gift from the American Heart Association.

Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart is not a competition. We emphasize that the purpose is not only to help others in their fight against heart disease, but also for your child to start his/her own fight against heart disease by exercising and making healthy choices. Even though we encourage donations for this worthwhile event, we do not require them. The most important thing is that your children understand that exercising will help them fight heart disease in the future, and that they have fun doing it.

In good Health,
Mr. Jansson
Ms. Mandel
Physical Education Teachers

Study Skills Workshop for Parents

Does your child need help with getting organized, finishing assignments, and studying for tests? Rocky Hill MS will be holding a Parent Academy workshop on Thursday, January 30, where parents can learn ways to support their children at home and obtain strategies for academic success from an MCPS educator.

The workshop will be held in the Media Center from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. The workshop is free for parents and child care and interpretation services are provided. No RSVP is needed.

Student Transfer Application Season Begins Feb. 3

Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season, which starts on February 3. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than April 1, 2014. The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents/guardians may request the Change of School Assignment Information Booklet that contains the COSA form, describes the process and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February, the COSA booklet will be available in schools and online. The booklet will be available in English and Spanish.

Dates to Remember

1/30 Report Card distribution
2/4 PTA Meeting /Bullying Presentation
   7:00 p.m in Media Center
2/6 5th/6th Grade Band Concert
    7:00 p.m. @ CHS
2/12 Twin Day
2/14 Class Valentine Parties