

# The Mustang Magazine

February 3, 2012



## Darnestown Elementary School

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*"As a committed Professional Learning Community our daily goal is to provide children with opportunities to achieve in a learning environment that values, respects and challenges every child, every day.."*

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 7— SGA Mtg., 8:30AM  
PTA Board Meeting, 7:30PM
- Feb. 9—Science Expo Set Up,  
5-6 PM, Gym
- Feb. 10—Ms. Kern's class to  
Collingswood, 10:30—12:30  
Gr. 3 Author's Workshop,  
1:45—3:15  
Science Expo, 7-8PM, Gym
- Feb. 14—Valentine's celebra-  
tions, 2-3PM
- Feb. 17—Mustang Magazine  
Cultural Arts Assemblies,  
9:30 & 10:35, Gym  
Ms. Sekuler's class to Col-  
lingswood, 10:30—12:30
- Feb. 20—President's Day  
Holiday, No School
- Feb. 22—Last day for Pennies  
for Patients
- Feb. 24—Town Meeting,  
9:20AM, Gym
- March 2—Mustang Magazine  
Early Release Day for Stu-  
dents, dismissal at 1PM
- March 6—PTA Gen. Mtg.,  
7:30PM
- March 9—Fruits for Families  
(Donuts for Dads)  
Mrs. Diamond's class to Collings-  
wood
- March 12—21, Grades 3, 4 & 5  
MSA Testing

### Principal's Pen...



Science Days this week at DES were an awesome experience for our students. This week each grade level had three different presentations done by parents that were related to science topics students study. Parents shared information, investigations and experiments with our students on interesting science topics. The expertise of our community is amazing. Fifteen of our parents presented on a range of topics!! We want to inspire the scientist in all of our students!!

We currently have 95 students signed up to share their investigations, experiments and findings at our Science Expo on February 10! I am so excited to see the work of these future scientists, teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers... I am sure that many will have careers that we haven't even imagined yet!!

### MCPS Change of School Assignment Process

Students in Montgomery County are assigned to public schools based on their place of residence or in accordance with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students are expected to attend their assigned school. Paired schools are considered as one school for school assignment purposes. To attend a different school, the student must document a unique hardship or fall within certain exemptions.

Change of School Assignments (COSA) requests for the 2012-2013 school year will be accepted between February 1 and April 1, 2012. *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet 2012-2013* is available from the Main Office. This booklet contains Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Form 335-45 (Revised 12/10): *Request for Change of School Assignment*. Copies of the booklet are also available online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers>.

**Students new to the school system must be enrolled and registered in their home school prior to submitting a COSA request. COSA requests will be not processed until the student has completed the residency verification and enrollment process at the home school.**

**Parents should be informed that students must be enrolled and registered in their assigned school pending the outcome of the COSA request. Kindergarten-aged children are expected to attend kindergarten orientation at their assigned school.**

Pennies for Patients

February brings the DES Pennies for Patients campaign. Beginning Feb. 1 and through Feb. 22, we will be collecting donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. Students may donate coins, bills or checks (made out the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society) into collection boxes in their classrooms. Donating to the cause helps students realize the Character Counts pillar - Caring. The total donation amount will be announced at our Feb. 24 Town Meeting.



**Testing Schedules for Spring 2012**

Spring testing for students is right around the corner and will be here before we know it. Instruction using the MCPS curricula prepares our students well for these assessments. It is important that students are present in school on the testing dates.

Please note the dates and try not to schedule outside appointments on the days your child will be tested. Thank you for your cooperation.

Assessment	Dates	Testing Group
MSA Reading	March 12-13	Grades 3, 4
	March 14-15	Grade 5
MSA Mathematics	March 16-19	Grades 3,4
	March 20-21	Grade 5
MSA Science	April 30–May 4	Grade 5
TN/2	April 16-20	Grade 2
ACCESS for ELLs	Feb. 6–March 23	ESOL Students, Grades K- 12

Kindergarten Orientation

Please help us more accurately predict the number of students who will attend Kindergarten at Darnestown during the 2012-2013 school year and help us prepare for Kindergarten Orientation.

According to Maryland State Law, a child must be five years old by September 1st in order to enter kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this fall, please complete the attached form and return it to the school office.

DES Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2012. There will be NO SCHOOL for current Kdg. students on that day. Future Kindergarten parents will be notified of scheduled times for Orientation in April.

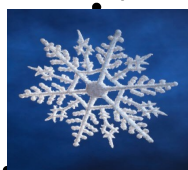
**Emergency Weather Info**

Winter weather will soon be upon us. Here are some ways to get the latest information on school closings or delays.

- \* **MCPS Homepage:** [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)
- \* **Alert MCPS:** <http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>
- \* **ASK MCPS telephone information center:** 301-309-6277 (7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday)
- \* **Recorded information:** 301-279-3673
- \* **QuickNotes e-mail news service:** Subscribe at [www.mcpsquicknotes.org](http://www.mcpsquicknotes.org)
- \* **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/mcps>
- \* **MCPS cable channels:** Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RCN 89
- \* **Local radio and TV stations**

**BE PREPARED**

With the changing weather, we ask that you send your child(ren) to school prepared to go outside for recess. This includes coats, hats, and gloves or mittens. Dressing in layers is recommended for maximum comfort throughout the day. We go outside everyday except when the temperature (or wind chill) is below 32 degrees and on those days when rain or snow keeps us indoors.



## PTA News

**Bingo Night** was a great success, by the end of the night it was one of our largest crowds ever! Thank you to Cindy Eldridge and Carla Yegher for organizing all of the food and ordering from Potomac Pizza--this is a huge job. (AND--Bingo night was on Carla's birthday!) Thanks to Mrs. Colgary and Mr. Colgary for supporting Bingo Night! Thanks to our annual Mr. & Mrs. Hill bingo team, too! Mrs. Agate was a first time caller, and she did a great job! Also--thanks to Mrs. Waechter for coming by! It was a full evening with Malissa Gularson running a WONDERFUL raffle, and Vanessa Heck selling spiritwear! Thanks to all!

Thank you to Smokey Glen who loans us their bingo equipment every year. A big thank you to Mark Eldridge for picking up and returning the bingo equipment. Thank you also to Rania Malek & Christy Adelman for helping with pizza sales, and to Susan Vafa for being a back-up bingo caller. Thank to the MANY volunteers of older DES siblings who earned SSL hours.

**The DES Science Expo is coming up next Fri., Feb. 10th!** The Expo is open to all grades and can be done as single or group projects. Last minute applications may be sent in through **Mon., Feb. 6th.**

**Still looking** for a couple of old but working Laptops for the Lego Club, if you can help please contact Scott Suess, the club Chair at 301-977-2605 or [rsuess@yahoo.com](mailto:rsuess@yahoo.com).

**"Music and Arts Night"** is Thurs., March 22, 6:30- 8:30pm at Northwest High school. Please show your support for DES and its students and plan on attending this enriching event. See exciting displays of artwork and musical talents, as provided by our very own DES students! This lively event has something for all ages. The evening's program includes:

Creative Artwork/Musical Performances

Poetry Kids/Activity Area

**Silent Auction** Food, Fun ...and much more!

Do you have an item you can **donate to the PTA for our silent Auction held in conjunction with Music and Arts Evening.** If you have any items please contact Korin Wilson.

**Volunteers needed** for K/1 and 2/3 lunches, if you can help please follow the link <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/22345633677074049>

**Volunteers also needed for 4/5 and 2/3 recess.** If you can spare 45mins around lunchtime, we are looking for volunteers to help supervise recess in the gym and blacktop. If you are interested use the following links to sign up.

For 4/5 recess <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/812345631171576072>

For 2/3 recess <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/323456346329860112>

**Dads don't schedule any meetings on the morning of Fri., March 9th—you won't want to miss the Fruits for Families/DES Donuts for Dads event!**



## **Share the Love in February**

### **Healthy Snack Food Drive for Gaithersburg Elementary**

Currently there are over 200 children from our adopted school who qualify to receive free food for the weekend but there are no funds to support it! They get some support from Manna Food Bank's Smart Snacks program but not enough for every child.

***Let's fill their shelves with healthy snacks so these children go home with food for the weekend!!***

A collection box will be outside of the office for the month of February. Below is a list of suggested snacks.

- Small Fruit Cans/Cups
- Peanut butter in 18 oz. jars or smaller
- Individual Applesauce Cups
- Juice Boxes that are 100% juice or at least contain Vitamin C
- Easy Mac or Mac and Cheese
- Microwavable Bowls of Pasta
- Canned Pasta
- Individual Cereal Boxes
- Oatmeal Packets
- Tuna Fish, especially in vacuum packages or in 3oz. sized cans
- Crackers packaged in a sleeve, like Ritz or Saltines
- Pudding Cups
- Cereal Bars or Granola Bars that contain at least a few vitamins or grams of protein
- Individual Raisin Boxes or Other Dried Fruit
- Small packages of peanuts
- Microwavable Containers of Soup, especially Chicken Noodle and Tomato
- Kid-Friendly Cans of Soup – Chicken Noodle, Tomato, etc.
- Pouches of Mashed Potatoes or Rice that require only adding water
- Individual Containers of Other Non-Perishable, Nutritious, Kid-Friendly, Easy-to-Prepare Food

**Any little bit will help!**

**Thank you for your support!**

**If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Crook, [kristencrook@msn.com](mailto:kristencrook@msn.com).**

**DARNESTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**2012-2013 KINDERGARTEN SURVEY**

Please help us more accurately predict the number of students who will attend kindergarten at Darnestown ES during the 2012-2013 school year and help us prepare for Kindergarten Orientation.

According to Maryland State Law, a child must be five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to enter kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year.

A birth certificate or birth registration form, hospital certificate, baptismal certificate, or passport may be used to verify a child's date of birth; one of these documents must be presented on the day you register. Maryland State regulations require all children in kindergarten through grade six to have primary immunizations against DPT, Polio, and Rubella (German Measles). A certificate of immunization is required for acceptance into school. To verify residency, you must bring a current property tax bill or a current rental lease.

If your child was of kindergarten age last year but was exempted from attendance, please bring the exemption form with you to Orientation.

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this fall, please complete the form below and return it to the school office. Also, if you have neighbors or friends who have children of kindergarten age for Fall 2012, please pass this information sheet to them.

**Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2012.**

As soon as possible, we will furnish you with all the forms required for registration and give you an exact time to register in April. If you do not receive enrollment forms by March 30th, please call Mrs. O'Dwyer, school secretary, at (301) 840-7157.

**EXEMPTION FORMS (MCPS Form 560-19)**

If your child was of kindergarten age last year but was exempted from attendance, bring the exemption form with you.

If the Immaturity box was checked, the child may only enroll in kindergarten. (Parent/guardian may apply for Early Entrance to First Grade.)

If either the Child Care Center or Family Day Care boxes were checked in Part II, the Part IV of this form must be completed before the first day of attendance. The child may then be enrolled in first grade. If the parent/guardian prefers kindergarten enrollment, the principal will concur with that request.

All children without a bona fide exemption must first attend kindergarten before entering first grade even if they are age eligible for first grade. (Application for Early Entrance to First Grade is permissible.)

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**FULL NAME OF CHILD**

_____		_____		_____	
<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Middle</b>			
<b>Date of Birth</b> _____	<b>Sex</b> ____	<b>Race</b> ____	<b>Social Security #</b> _____		
<b>Name of Parents</b>		_____			
<b>Home Address</b>		_____			
_____		_____			
<b>Home Phone</b> _____		<b>Work Phone</b> _____			
_____		_____			
<b>Name of Oldest Child at Darnestown Elementary</b>		<b>Teacher</b>			











