



PTA TIMES

Takoma Park Elementary School

School address 7511 Holly Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
Phone 301.650.6414
School Hours 8:45 am - 3:30 pm
School website: <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkes/>
PTA website <http://www.tpespta.org>
Join the PTA listserv Send an email to TPES-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
Join the PTA Visit our website, mail the form to our school, or send it in the Dolphin folder.

School Principal: Zadia T. Gadsden, Zadia_T_Gadsden@mcpsmd.org
PTA President: Shruti Bhatnagar, shruti_bhatnagar@yahoo.com, 301.949.8006

December 15, 2010



Message from PTA President, Shruti Bhatnagar



Dear TPES Families,

1. TPES to start a Pre-K class in Jan 2011:

Starting Jan 2011, TPES will start a pre-K class. The hours of the class will be from 9 am to 11:30 am. Please stay tuned for more information from the school on this topic.

2. Proposed Resolution on Edible Gardens on School Grounds:

Montgomery County Public Schools currently does not permit the growing of edible plants on school property because of concerns about children's potential allergic reactions to plants, maintenance of gardens, and rodent control.

A resolution was introduced to delegates on November 23, 2010 and will be voted on at the January 25, 2011 Delegates Assembly. **More details on page 3 of this newsletter.**

3. Launch of website to facilitate BOE Superintendent:

On December 11th the Montgomery County Board of Education announced the launch of a Superintendent Search website that will serve as a clearinghouse of information for the community and potential candidates. **Find more details about the new website on page 3 of this newsletter.**

The Montgomery County Civic Federation held a panel discussion on December 13th, "Choosing a New Superintendent. This was the first open community-wide discussion to on this process. The panelists were:

- Lyda Astrove, Special Education Advocate
- Emily Barton, Executive Director, Teach for America, DC Region
- Phil Kauffman, Board of Education, member of the BOE ad hoc group, Superintendent Search Process
- Neal McLuskey, Associate Director, Center for

Educational Freedom, Cato Institute
- Fred Stichnoth, President, Montgomery County Gifted and Talented Association

4. Invitation to all from the Superintendent Dr. Jerry D. Weast:

Dr. Jerry D. Weast invites everyone to the public presentation of the Fiscal Year 2012 Operating Budget recommendations for Montgomery County Public Schools. The formal presentation will be held on **Wednesday, December 15, 2010**, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, in Rockville. **Find more details in this newsletter, starting on page 3.**

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. Hope you all have a wonderful time with your family.



December 2010/January 2011 Events

Please mark your calendars for upcoming events!

Dec. 24	NO SCHOOL	Winter break begins
Jan. 3		School resumes
Jan. 4	7:00-8:30 pm	PTA meeting
Jan. 11	10:00 am	Incoming Parent Tour
Jan. 17	NO SCHOOL	MLK, Jr. Day holiday
Jan. 21	8:45 am	Principal's coffee
	7:00 pm	Movie night
Jan. 24	NO SCHOOL	Professional day



Absence from School:

If your child will not attend school, please ensure that you inform the classroom teacher and the main office staff. The school is required to know, and if they are not informed then they are required to call parents or guardians to check the reason for a child's absence.

Please call the school office at 301.650.6414 or email Mrs. Egan and Ms. Paz at

Sandra Egan
Johanna Paz

Sandra_L_Egan@mcpsmd.org
Johanna_A_Paz@mcpsmd.org



This season, give the gift of Dolphin Gear!

Special offer only for this holiday season: TPES Sweatshirts – Quantities limited.

Order a TPES sweatshirt or t-shirt now and give your child a wonderful holiday gift. Not only will your child enjoy a new TPES t-shirt, water bottle or magnet, but your school will benefit from the proceeds! Order forms can be found on the PTA website, www.tpespta.org under "Support Our School."

You may also contact the committee chair:
Christina Speranza cspera02@earthlink.net

Volunteer request

1. Parent Helpers in the cafeteria: The PTA is looking for volunteers to help cut fruit for children in the cafeteria, during lunch, starting Jan 2011. If you are willing to help with this effort, please contact the committee chairs:

Charlotte Schoeneman cs@earthclot.com
A.J. Campbell aj@cosynergy.com

2. Parent Coordinators for after school programs:

After School Program and Clubs committee chairs are looking for parents to help coordinate the following programs for the winter session:

Lego Club
Chinese Program
Spanish Program
Art Program

We will be unable to offer these classes if we do not get volunteers to help coordinate these programs.

The role of a parent coordinator is to:

- Work with the class instructor/provider to work out payment and logistics;
- Work with the TPES Afterschool Class committee to develop enrollment and registration;
- Attend at least part of two classes - the first class to make sure all the logistics, etc are in order and another class of your choosing to make certain all is progressing well; and

- Work with the TPES front office as needed to ensure class logistics are in order.

The role of a parent volunteer for Lego club (the single club we are offering) is to:

- Work with the TPES Afterschool Class committee to develop enrollment;
- Attend all/most sessions and oversee the club activities; and
- Work with the Club Lead Coordinator and other club volunteers to sort out general logistics for the club

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email directly to Sara Hisel-McCoy and Anu Gupta, the TPES Afterschool Class/Club committee co-chairs, as soon as you can.

Sara Hisel McCoy: hiselmccoy@yahoo.com
Anu Gupta anu@successfulscientist.com



Acknowledgements for PTA Events and Activities Held in November and December

Thanks to After School Programs & Club

Committee Sara Hisel McCoy, Committee chair for after school programs and clubs, who contributed immense amounts of time and effort in working with parent coordinators to offer the fall session of after school programs.

Parent coordinators, who helped co-ordinate the programs and clubs that were offered in the Oct-Nov session, were instrumental to its success. Thanks to Megan Donohue, Karine Bouis, Lynda Landtz, Debbie Spielberg, Anu Gupta, Kristin Dill, Christina Speranza and Esther Schwartz-McKinzie.

Thanks to Cultural Arts Committee Chairs & Mixers Committee Chair

Crystal Polis, Eva Chao and Lichelle Lawson for helping coordinate the winter holiday event and evening cultural assembly for families of TPES. It was a very successful event and much appreciated by everyone who attended. We are thankful to the community for the support and encouragement of this new concept of an evening assembly. Thanks to all community members who contribute to the PTA by supporting various fundraisers that help fund these assemblies.

Proposed Resolution on Edible Gardens on School Grounds – Con't from page 1:

The following resolution was introduced to delegates on November 23, 2010 and will be voted on at the January 25, 2011 Delegates Assembly.

Whereas:

1. Montgomery County Public Schools currently does not permit the planting of edible plants on school property because of concerns due to children's potential for allergic reactions to plants, maintenance of gardens, and rodent control.
2. Successful models of school districts around the country (i.e. Cincinnati and DC) have built vegetable gardens on school grounds and implemented models of teaching that incorporate the garden with the school curriculum.
3. School edible gardens provide a rich, hands-on environment for students to learn skills and content knowledge across the curriculum from math to art, engage in positive social and communal skills, and practice healthy physical activity.
4. Engaging students in building edible school gardens teaches them about their food source and healthy eating when the U.S. has seen a rise in the childhood obesity rates.
5. Student engagement in planting edible gardens creates a relationship with the land and cultivates environmental stewardship.
6. First Lady Michelle Obama is creating a national movement of healthy eating with her garden on the White House grounds and hands-on work with students at DC Public Schools.

Be it resolved that:

1. MCCPTA supports the establishment of edible gardens on school grounds by students, teachers and parents,
2. MCCPTA requests that the Board of Education and MCPS administration eliminate the current policies of not permitting the planting of edible gardens on school grounds and establish a policy providing for their safe implementation, and
3. MCCPTA urges school communities desiring to plant edible gardens to provide detailed plans for their implementation and upkeep to MCPS.

Launch of website to facilitate BOE Superintendent – Con't from page 1:

The Montgomery County Board of Education announced the launch of a Superintendent Search website on December 11th that will serve as a clearinghouse of information for the community and potential candidates.

Copy & paste the link below on your Internet browser to view the MCPS Superintendent Search Website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/superintendent-search/>

"We are committed to conducting the search for a new Superintendent in a manner that fully engages our staff, students, parents and community," said Christopher Barclay, board president. "This website is one way we will keep the public informed and provide information about our system to those who may be interested in the position."

On Dec. 7, the Board of Education entered a contract with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates to assist in the search for a new Superintendent of schools.

Current Superintendent, Jerry D. Weast, announced in August he would retire at the end of his current contract, on June 30, 2011, after 12 years leading Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

Barclay said he expects the job to attract an excellent pool of candidates from across the nation.

"MCPS has very strong community support, an outstanding staff and our students achieve at the highest levels," Barclay said. "We are looking for a superintendent that will help us continue-and build upon-that success."

Montgomery County Public Schools is the 16th largest school system in the nation, with more than 144,000 students and about 22,000 employees. MCPS was a recipient of the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for performance excellence through innovation, improvement and visionary leadership.

MCPS was also a finalist for the 2010 Broad Prize for Urban Education, which honors large school districts that have improved student performance while narrowing racial, ethnic and socioeconomic achievement gaps.

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Eleven years of academic reforms have produced dramatic improvements in student achievement from early childhood through high school. Our challenge now is to ensure that financial support is in place to continue this momentum and to push forward to achieve even greater gains in academic performance by all students.

Please plan to arrive at Richard Montgomery High School by 7:00 p.m. Child care will be provided free of charge to parents of children ages 4 through 12. Interpreters will be available to assist parents and community members with translation services in Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language. Parking will be available at the school.

Your participation is an important element of the operating budget process as we seek financial support to keep our reform efforts moving forward. I look forward to seeing you at Richard Montgomery High School on December 15.

