

*Mechanicsville Elementary School
School-to-Home Connection
3838 Sykesville Road, Sykesville, MD 21784
Phone: 410-751-3510 / Fax: 410-751-3516
<http://www.carrollk12.org/mes/>
10/8/09*

Principal: Nicholas Shockney

Assistant Principal: Natalie Crist

Dear MES Families,

This week our Kindergarten students visited the Gamber and Community Fire Company as part of Fire Prevention Week. Our students learned about fire prevention and safety while experiencing a vital service in our community. We would like to thank all of the members of the Gamber and Community Fire Department for their dedication to our students and our community. This was a great experience for our Kindergarten students!

The administration of the Seasonal Flu Mist vaccine has concluded. CCPS sent out information this week via Alert Now about the upcoming H1N1 Flu Mist Vaccination Program. More information about this program will be coming home soon. Just as with the Seasonal Flu Mist vaccine, the H1N1 Flu Mist vaccine will only be administered to students with parent/guardian permission. The H1N1 Flu Mist vaccine is scheduled to be administered in November. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at school. Families can reduce the chance of spreading the flu by:

Encourage your children to wash their hands. Soap and water work fine or you can also use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Encourage your children not to share personal items. Drinks, food or unwashed utensils should not be shared. They should cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or use the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.

Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.

We will be conducting our Fall bus evacuation drills during the mornings of Monday, October 12th and Wednesday, October 14th. We will be using the parking lot behind the Gamber and Community Fire Company to complete the drills. Students participate in bus evacuation drills two times each year. The schedule for the drills is as follows:

Buses 33, 55, 70, 115, 122, 132: **Monday, October 12**

Rain date: **Monday, October 19**

Buses 17, 58, 71, 175, 361, 393: **Wednesday, October 14**

Rain date: **Tuesday, October 20**

Students will participate in 3 types of drills: front evacuation, rear evacuation, and split door evacuation. Please make sure that your child wears appropriate clothing for the drill. Since they will need to evacuate from the rear of the bus, sneakers and pants are the best choices for clothing. Drivers will be reviewing the procedures with the children prior to the practice drill. Should you have any questions about the bus evacuation drill, please do not hesitate to call.

Thanks,

Nick Shockney and Natalie Crist

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs, or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, 410-751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, MD 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

CHACTACTER STARS FOR SEPTEMBER

We would like to congratulate our first **Character Stars** for the 2009-10 school year. The following students did an exceptional job showing **respect** to their classmates. Please look for their character star on the bulletin board by the media center.

Matthew Jaret
Julianna Maira
Gabe Dorsey
Sarah White
Sydney White
Kayla Sherfey
Kayla Wilson
Chloe Roth

Lydia Houle
Evan Park
Michelle Boone
Jay Boggs
Avery Houle
Ashlee Edwards
Emma Cierlitsky
Nikki Clatterbuck

PROJECT ACES – OCTOBER 5 – 18TH

Mechanicsville is participating in the 11th annual Project ACES. Project ACES (Active Children Excel in School) is a physical activity challenge held each fall in Carroll County elementary schools. The Carroll County Children's Heart Health Action Team, a coalition of community partners including CCPS, sponsors Project ACES. For two weeks students (grades K-5) and staff are asked to track at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. All activity counts: at school (PE class and active recess), at home (bike riding, brisk walking, yard work), and in recreation programs. Students will be bringing home Project ACES orange calendars this week to track their physical activity. So let's get moving Mechanicsville and take the Project ACES challenge!!!!

FALL FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you, thank you, and thank you! Your generous support allowed us to exceed our fall fundraiser goal! The monetary donations sent in by families far exceeded last years totals, and our Wolfgang orders came in strong the last day of the event as well as early this week! The MES PTA truly appreciates your generosity - our students and staff will benefit from the money brought in from this year's fundraiser. If anyone forgot to send in their orders, please do so a.s.a.p. in order to have your order arrive with the Book Fair week delivery. Otherwise, feel free to place your order on-line using the MES account code located on your order form (MES will still receive 50% profit on any on-line orders placed throughout the school year). Your Wolfgang orders will be available for pick up on Family Night on October 26th. You will receive a reminder to pick up your order. Thank you MES families!

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Level II Volunteers (classroom helpers, tutors, chaperones, mentors, etc) are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering. School Days are defined as days when schools are open for students. Many schools include volunteer training sessions with other school activities/events, so look for dates and times in school newsletters and e-school updates. Volunteer training obtained during the 2008-2009 school year is valid through September 30, 2009. Plan to attend a volunteer training session before October 1, 2009 to avoid a break in your volunteer service. Listed below are the training dates/times for Mechanicsville:

October 8th @ 6:30 p.m. October 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.
November 5th @ 9:30 a.m. November 18th @ 6:30 p.m.

Thanks in advance for supporting student achievement by volunteering in our schools. Additional information about the school system's volunteer program can be obtained by contacting Jane Farver, CCPS Volunteer Program Coordinator at ejfarve@carrollk12.org or 410-386-1536.

CAFETERIA NEWS

Please remember to return any borrowed lunch money the **NEXT SCHOOL DAY**.

Starting Monday, October 5th, the cafeteria will serve breakfast. The cost is \$1.25 and will be served from 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Both breakfast and lunch menus for the month of October are included with this week's newsletter.

Cafeteria Lunch Menu: 10/8 – 10/16

Thurs. 10/8 – chicken tenders, roll, cheesy mashed potatoes, peaches & fruit juice bar

Fri. 10/9 – pepperoni or cheese pizza, hot vegetable, fruit & cookie

Mon. 10/12 – grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, peaches & fudge bar

Tues. 10/13 – chicken quesadilla or corn dog, vegetable, rainbow apples & cookie

Wed. 10/14 – chicken patty on roll, green beans, mixed fruit & pudding

Thurs. 10/15 – cheese pizza, tossed salad, fruit & cookie

Fri. 10/16 – NO SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES

10/8: Volunteer training at MES @ 6:30 p.m.

10/13 -26: Scholastic Book Fair

10/16: NO SCHOOL

10/22: Volunteer training at MES @ 6:30 p.m.

10/26: Book Fair Family Night 4 – 7 p.m.

OCT. 5 – 9TH IS A RED WEEK FOR SPECIALS

OCT. 12 -16TH IS A BLUE WEEK FOR SPECIALS

REQUEST FROM SCHOOL NURSE

When sending in absent notes, please be sure to provide us the detailed information regarding the illness (i.e.: fever, sore throat, stomach ache, cough, etc). Sending a note telling us your child "did not feel well" is not enough information. Thank you for your cooperation.

LOST AND FOUND IS OVER-FLOWING

The Lost and Found container located in the cafeteria is over-flowing with jackets and lunch boxes. If your child is missing a jacket or lunch box, please check the Lost and Found container. Thank you.

RE-TAKE PICTURE DAY

Picture re-takes will be November 16th from 9 – 11 a.m.



The Scholastic Book Fair will be held Tuesday, October 16th through Monday, October 26th. The students will be browsing the book fair during their regularly scheduled media time and will be completing their "wish list". Family Night is scheduled for Monday, October 26th, which is the same day as the fall fundraiser pick-up. You can visit our Book Fair Homepage at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/mespta> here; you can see the book fair schedule, review featured books and much more! You can also access the Home page through the MES PTA website.

Your child should have brought home a volunteer form, if not and you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact either Jessica Davis at jbdavis65@comcast.net or Chrissie Heimer at nursechrissie1@verizon.net.

Shhhh! Secret bookfair buying available.

Buying presents while kids are with you? Well, secret submission box and order forms available in media room Oct 13-26, 2009. Any Question please call Lori Lafferty 410-857-5995.