

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to school year 2023-2024! We are so happy to have your children in the school building and focus on their academic success, and their social emotional learning!

Our first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5th. We introduce our new board members, approve the budget, and discuss upcoming events. We want to thank our generous PTA for the delicious welcome back staff luncheon that was served on August 23rd!

I would like to introduce you to our new NAACP Representative, Zoporah Benson-Cassell! Her email is zoporah.cassell@gmail.com, should you want to reach out to her. We look forward to NAACP information she will share out with our school community over the course of the school year.

I want to share that Mrs. Etheridge, our administrative secretary in our main office, has accepted a position at Resnick ES. We want to thank Mrs. Etheridge for all of her care and work for our school community, and we wish her the best in her new position!

Ms. Patricia Grande, our Assistant Principal, had her baby on August 11th! She and Dominic are doing just fine! Ms. Grande will be on leave through November 3rd. Our Acting Assistant Principal is Mr. Andrew Glaspie. He has been a huge assist this first week of school and we are so thankful for his support!

We begin Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15th! The theme for 2023 is Prosperity, Power, and Progress, recognizing the significant achievements of the Hispanic community in the economic and political industries. As we plan activities, we will keep you posted.

We love our parent volunteers! In the coming weeks, we will share out information regarding volunteering requirements and opportunities. Stay tuned!

We have a few reminders regarding toys and personal devices. Toys should remain at home. This includes gadgets and trading cards. Toys can be a great distraction to the classroom and can create conflict among students. Thank you!

On May 2, 2022, the Board of Education signed into regulation COG-RA, which is the personal devices policy. Elementary students who bring phones to school must have them turned off and in backpacks, in lockers, throughout the student day. Our lockers do not have locks, so we really prefer that personal cell phones stay at home, unless there is an imminent safety reason why a student would need one when in school. We follow the MCPS Code of Conduct. Students at Gibbs do not need cell phones for instructional reasons. If a cell phone is visible, the student will be asked to put it in their backpack. If it is visible a second time, we will hold on to the phone until the end of the day, contact the parents, and send it home with the student. If it is visible a third time, the parent will be asked to come to school to pick up the phone. If it is visible a fourth time, the student's privilege to have the phone in school may be revoked for a period of time. There are also watches/wristbands that receive and send calls, and some do provide alarms, track steps, and buzz, etc. These

can be disruptive and interrupt the teaching and learning during the school day. If these items are disruptive, parents will be contacted and we ask that you leave such items at home.

Please see the important dates below! Thank you so much for all of your support and have a super September!

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal

Andrew Glaspie, Acting Asst. Principal

Kimberly_B_Bosnic@mcpsmd.org

Andrew_P_Glaspie@mcpsmd.org

Important September Dates!

8/28/23: First Day of School for Grades Kindergarten through Fifth

8/28/23-9/1/23: PEP and PreKindergarten Conferences; No PEP and PreK student classes this week

8/31/23: Seneca Valley High School Back To School Night

9/1/23: Fire Drill at 2:30 p.m.

9/4/23: Labor Day—Schools and Offices Closed

9/5/23-9/6/23: Staggered Start for Prekindergarten Students

9/5/23: First Day of School for PEP Students

9/5/23: Gibbs PTA in Media Center at 6:00 p.m.; Global Children's Center provides free child care for school age children.

9/6/23: Neelsville Middle School Back To School Night

9/7/23: Clarksburg High School Back To School Night

9/12/23: Hallie Wells Middle School Back To School Night

9/14/23: Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and Rocky Hill Middle School Back To School Nights

9/20/23: Gibbs PEP/PreK Back To School Night 5:00-6:00 p.m.

9/20/23: Gibbs Kindergarten through Third Grades Back To School Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.

9/21/23: Gibbs Fourth and Fifth Grades Back To School Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.

9/21/23: Fathers Take Your Child To School Day

9/22/23: Early Release Day for Kindergarten-Fifth Grade Students at 1:20 p.m.; No PEP/PreK Classes

9/25/23: No School for Students and Teachers

9/27/23: Fall Individual Picture Day

9/28/23: Seneca Valley High School Cluster Resource Fair

9/29/23: Gibbs Safety Day (Emergency Drills Practice)

