



DRAGON TALES

DUFIEF ELEMENTARY'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

REMEMBRANCE AND RECONCILIATION LESSONS



During the month of November, students will be recognizing **Remembrance and Reconciliation Month** in alignment with Emancipation Day which is celebrated in Maryland annually on November 1. Students will be engaging in

lessons that are part of a larger program organized by the Montgomery County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission who has called for November to be a month of remembrance and reconciliation. The goal is to help residents grow their understanding of the full history of Montgomery County. The Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation was established by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights in 2019 to promote a better understanding of its history.

Students will learn about landmarks around Montgomery County that have ties to African American history. All teachers leading these sessions have received professional learning to ensure lessons humanize African American history and are delivered with cultural competence, care, and compassion. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) partnered with community members, Sandy Spring Slave Museum, Montgomery Planning, and Heritage Montgomery to create the historically accurate lessons. The content does not include graphic images of violence or derogatory language.

MCPS encourages parents and caregivers to talk with their students about the learning. Below is a link to help support conversations about race and racism.

[Parent/Caregiver Resources](#)

Grades 3, 4 and 5 students and their parents or caregivers are invited to participate in the elementary changemakers workshop, during which community and student activists will help participants learn how to effectively challenge problems and inequities within their communities on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. [Register](#) to attend.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PIE DRIVE



With the Thanksgiving holiday coming soon, we are looking forward to recognizing our dedicated DuFief Dragon staff with one of their favorite traditions-our annual DuFief Thanksgiving Pie Giveaway. We are hoping to collect enough pies to send every staff member home with a sweet treat for Thanksgiving. Pies will be given away to DuFief staff on Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st, and you can drop off a pie in our front office beginning the morning of Monday, November 20th. Thanks in advance for your recognition and support of our staff!

NOVEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER 1 Professional Day/No School for Students
NOVEMBER 7 Marking Period 2 Student Town Hall Meetings
NOVEMBER 7 PTA Meeting and Guest Speaker/Media Center
NOVEMBER 9 MP2 Report Cards Available
NOVEMBER 10 Parent Visitation Day/9:15-10:15am and 2:15-3:15pm
NOVEMBER 17 2nd Grade Field Trip/Strathmore Music Center
NOVEMBER 20 Early Release Day/Student Dismissal at 12:55pm
NOVEMBER 21 Early Release Day/Student Dismissal at 12:55pm
NOVEMBER 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday/Schools & Offices Closed
NOVEMBER 29 Fall Portrait Makeup Day
NOVEMBER 30 1st Grade Field Trip/Imagination Stage

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Like many schools and school districts, we have seen an increase in the number of students that are chronically absent (missing more than 10% of school with either excused OR unexcused absences). While our attendance data is outperforming the MCPS averages, we need your help in ensuring that your child is attending school regularly.

Level	2021-2022 Percentage of Students Chronically Absent	2022-2023 Percentage of Students Chronically Absent
Elementary School	18.76%	19.99%
DuFief Elementary School	9.2%	11.4%

Sick Kids:

When to Stay Home from School:

FEVER A temperature of 100.4° or higher	COUGHING THAT WON'T STOP Or other problems with breathing	DIARRHEA OR VOMITING Within the past 24 hours	RASH Body rash with itching and/or fever	HEAD LICE Itchy head, active head lice	EYE INFECTION Eye is red and oozing a yellow or green discharge
When to Return to School:					
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen	Cough is mild and infrequent and evaluated by doctor if needed	Free from diarrhea and/or vomiting for at least 24 hours and evaluated by doctor if needed	Free from rash, itching or fever and evaluated by doctor if needed	After first head lice treatment	24 hours after starting antibiotic eye drops or ointment

Please note that any absences due to travel are considered unexcused. As we enter cold and flu season, please see the guidance from Montgomery County DHHS on when students should be staying home due to an illness and when they are healthy enough to attend school.

COVID Test Kits

We know many of our families will spend time over the upcoming break traveling and visiting with friends and family. As travel and crowded indoor gatherings can increase the risk of respiratory infections including COVID-19, MCPS is making at-home rapid test kits available to students and staff prior to the break.

Testing is not mandatory. We are depending on our staff and families to [consider their exposure risk](#), and test and report positive results accordingly. Please note that the IntelliSwab test takes 30 minutes for results and has an extended expiration

date. Test kits should be used for staff and students. For other family members, free rapid test kits are also available at most [public library locations](#) and [by mail](#).

What do I do if the rapid test is positive?

Staff and students positive for COVID-19 should notify their school or program directly if absent due to COVID-19. Individuals who have a positive COVID-19 test will need to follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](#). Please remember that respiratory infections like influenza and RSV are also circulating in our community. Healthy habits including isolating when sick, good handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes help prevent illness.

MCPS CONNECTIONS

We Want to Hear from You! Join Us for the Upcoming Operating Virtual Budget Forum on Nov. 14

Your voice matters, and we're eager to hear your insights! Join us for a special virtual Operating Budget Forum, a collaborative initiative brought to you by Board of Education Member Julie Yang and MCPS leadership.

Save the Date: Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, live [Online via Zoom Webinar](#). Meeting Link (share your email and join)

This forum is your chance to dive deep into the 2024-2025 operating budget process and be an active part of the conversation. It's an opportunity to engage with MCPS leadership, ask questions, and share your perspectives. We believe that together, we can create a brighter future for our schools and students.

What to Expect:

- Insights from MCPS Leadership
- Breakout Sessions for Deeper Engagement
- Interactive Q&A with Board Member Julie Yang and MCPS Leaders

Your Opportunity to Shape the Future. Please let us know if you'll be attending — [RSVP Now](#)

American Sign Language and Spanish Interpretation will be Available.

Changemaker Workshops

Grades 3 - 12 students and families are invited to attend this year's changemaker workshop to learn how to take action to improve their communities. Middle and High School English: November 14, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM; Middle and High School Spanish: November 15, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM; Grades 3 - 5: November 16, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Middle and high school students will earn 2 SSL hours for attending. [Please the linked Flier for more information.](#)