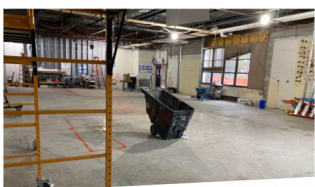




DRAGON TALES

DUFIEF ELEMENTARY'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DUFIEF CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



Phase Two of our construction project is well underway and moving along nicely. The goals of Phase Two of the project include converting the existing art room and one kindergarten classroom to accommodate the new front office suite and health suite and building a limited access security vestibule. The photos to the left show the main office/reception area conversion including the new front desk. The current time frame has front office staff moving into the new spaces shortly after the school year ends. Once moved over, work will then begin on building the security vestibule.



As you may have seen the notices posted around the building, this latest phase of the projection involves some asbestos abatement with old flooring tile being removed.

Because of the construction work being completed to the front of our building, there will be very limited access to the building during the summer. We will continue to be accessible via our phone line, 240-740-1600, and via email for any questions you may have.



CROWN HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARY STUDY

We have heard from some families who have been asking for more information regarding plans for the proposed Crown High School. To address spacing needs in the mid-county region, planning and construction has been approved for the new Crown High School which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2027. The new high school is expected to reduce populations at Gaithersburg, Northwest, Quince Orchard, Richard Montgomery, and Thomas S. Wootton high schools. The process will begin with a boundary study. Please see the proposed timeline of the process which was approved in the March 19th, 2024 MCPS Board of Education (BoE) meeting. Because elementary schools do not articulate directly to Wootton High School, the Board of Education resolution states "no elementary schools be included in the boundary study."

MAY 2024

MAY 3 Kindergarten Field Trip/Croydon Creek
MAY 4 PTA Dragon Fest
MAY 6-10 Staff Appreciation Week
MAY 6 Safety Patrol Picnic
MAY 7 PTA Meeting/DuFief Media Center
MAY 14 Election Day/Schools & Offices Closed
MAY 20 Chorus and Instructional Music Spring Concert
MAY 23 Third Grade/In-House Field Trip
MAY 27 Memorial Day Holiday/Schools & Offices Closed

Anticipated Crown High School Boundary Timeline

Spring 2024-Request for Proposal is Released

Summer 2024-BoE approves consultant

Early 2025-Fall 2025-Boundary Study process including community engagement, option development and feedback sessions

Early 2026-Boundary study report is released

Winter 2026-Superintendent's recommendation on boundary study is released

Winter 2026-BoE work sessions, public hearings, and action on the superintendent's recommendation

MEDIA MINUTE

This month, all grade levels are honing their research skills! Students across various grades are developing essential research skills such as note-taking, learning the differences between databases and websites, and evaluating research sources. Students are exploring different aspects of history and how they relate to us today.

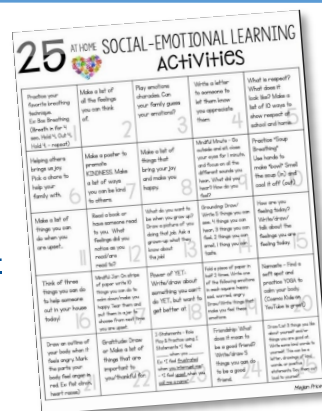
- Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Students are exploring holidays and American symbols.
- 2nd Grade: Students are delving into dinosaurs, comparing them to contemporary animals.
- 3rd Grade: This group is studying world landmarks, creating Google Slide presentations, and sharing their findings with the class.
- 4th Grade: Students are investigating key figures and events of the Westward Expansion and presenting their research to their class.
- 5th Grade: Students are researching various countries and crafting presentations to persuade their classmates to visit these nations!



A special thank you to the grandmother of Amelia Cohen in Ms. Ryals class for making this wonderful Pete the Cat and friend for our Media Center!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mental Health Awareness Month is a national campaign that raises awareness of the importance of mental health. May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month across the nation and is the perfect time to open up a conversation about mental health. The goal is to inspire action to promote positive mental health in our school and community, as we come to the end of this school year. With our school engaging in assessments and end-of-year activities activities, it is an excellent time for students, staff, and families to engage in self-care activities. We will be making special wellness announcements in the mornings throughout this month. In addition, we are sharing [25 SEL home activities for you and your children](#). We will also be sharing a resource bank of wellness lessons/activities with all teachers to use with their students. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Pape, school counselor, if you have any concerns about your child's social emotional well-being.



MCPS CONNECTIONS

Parent Academy TO GO Spring Workshop Schedule

Families can stay engaged throughout the school year with Parent Academy TO GO, a series of virtual workshops with valuable resources supporting children's academic and emotional well-being.

May and June webinars are on the [Parent Academy website](#). Registration is available [here](#).

Free Summer Coding Camp for Middle School Students

Montgomery Can Code's FREE, weeklong summer camp is open to rising sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students. Kids will learn how to code with a programming language that creates world-class apps!

In-person camps start during the weeks of July 15–19 or July 22–26. A third week, available from July 29–Aug. 2, will be offered virtually.

[Registration information](#)

Gaithersburg Book Festival on May 18

Families should mark their calendars for the [Gaithersburg Book Festival](#), a free celebration of books, writers and literary excellence on **Saturday, May 18**, at Bohrer Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More than 100 authors and illustrators will appear, with activities for children of all ages. Learn [more](#)