



WOW Newsletter

Watch Out Weekly | Marion P. Thomas Charter School Newsletter
November 16, 2009 | Volume 9, Issue 10



Getting help for the hardest job you'll ever have: Parenting

Important Dates

2010-2011 Enrollment Applications available

Today ◦ MPTCS' Skating Party, hosted by the Student Council, Branch Brook Park - 6 to 8 PM

11/18 ◦ Parent Workshop, "Strategies to Help Your Child Succeed in School and at Home," 6-8 PM

11/19 ◦ Thanksgiving lunch for students and staff at the Elementary School

11/25-27 ◦ Thanksgiving Break - School Closed

11/27 ◦ PTO sponsored trip to Atlantic City

12/10 ◦ FireFly Foundation Holiday Literacy Event at the Elementary School

12/16 ◦ Open House and Winter Concert , 5 PM

12/23 - 1/1 ◦ Winter Break - School Closed

1/4 ◦ School Reopens

1/18 ◦ Martin Luther King Day - School Closed

1/20 ◦ MPTCS Mandatory Lottery, 6 PM

1/29 ◦ 2nd marking period ends

2/5 ◦ Parent/Teacher Conferences

2/15 ◦ President's Day - School Closed

Has anyone ever felt that being a parent is the hardest job that there is? I know I have. It is especially hard if you are a working mom and then add to that being a single mom. How does one juggle the responsibilities? How does one stay calm? How does one make all the meals, take care of the kids, stop them from fighting and then help them study and do their homework? I am exhausted just thinking about this daily routine!!!!

Well, that takes care of the routine issues, but what about the emotional ones? What do you do with the guilt of not having enough time to spend with the kids? What happens if your child has a problem? What happens if your child has a learning or focusing problem? Where do you turn to for help? How do you not blame yourself or be embarrassed? How do you come to terms with all of this for yourself so that you can then refocus your energies on helping your child become the best learner and great citizen?

As the Coordinator of Special Education and Counseling, I would like to personally tell you of the wonderful Support Team at our Village. Well, of course we have me, Mrs. Halpern, we have Mrs. Bradley, our Social Worker, we have Mr. Jackson, our Dean of Students, we have our Nurse, Ms. Alemzohu and as our leader of the team, Assistant Principal, Mr. Lawrence. Needless to say, our Principals, Ms. Clinton and Mr. Pringle, are always available too.

We are also offering additional help this week! I am happy to announce that on Wednesday night, November 18, from 6-8 pm, MPTCS will present the workshop, "Strategies To Help Your Child Succeed In School and At Home," in addition to a light dinner and childcare.

The session will be led by Dr. Diane Sotille, who will discuss the following points:

- Strategies to help your child focus
- How to help your child do their homework
- Tips on helping you understand your child better
- How to determine if your child has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

We are in no way saying that this lecture is for parents of children with ADHD only! We can all use pointers in helping our children succeed. Please REACH OUT to any and all of us! We are here for you! And, please plan to attend the lecture this Wednesday.

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Halpern

Mrs. Halpern, MA, ED.M
Coordinator of Special Education and Counseling



New Enrollment Applications

- Applications for 2010-2011 Enrollment are available
- Our next Open House will take place on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:00 P.M. at the elementary school campus
- **Mandatory Lottery** is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

NOTE: Applications for SIBLINGS ONLY will be kept in the main office at 370 So. 7th Street.

Please call Mrs. Taylor for more information at 973-621-0060, ext. 10.
CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN MUST BE 5yrs OLD BY OCTOBER 1, 2010.

2nd Grade Openings

Spread The Word: Space is still available for 2nd grade students

If you have a family member, neighbor or friend who would like to become a part of the MPTCS Village, please inform them that 2nd grade slots are available. Please contact Ms. Taylor, in the main office for an application and other details. She can be reached by phone at 973.621.0060, ext. 10 or via email at mptcs10@yahoo.com.



Important Reminder NO BEFORE CARE PROGRAM

School Operating Hours

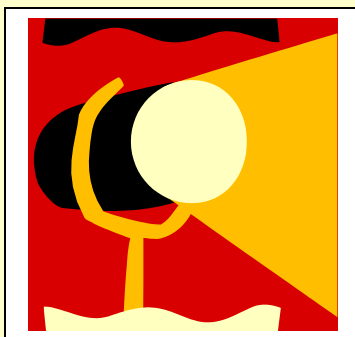


**SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENS
7:55 A.M.
(FOR THOSE CHILDREN NOT
ENROLLED IN THE
BREAKFAST PROGRAM)**

Parents, please be aware: our breakfast program is from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. Students who are not in the breakfast program will not be allowed in the school until 7:55 a.m. Unfortunately, we do not have a before-care program. Therefore, unless your child is a part of the breakfast program and you arrive to the school early, please be prepared to wait with your child until the school officially opens.

Also, we are seeking parent volunteers for our breakfast program at the elementary school. Please sign up with Mrs. Davis at mptcspl@yahoo.com or you can give her a call at (973) 380-6990.

Spotlight on Ms. Dabney, Asst. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment



Ms. Dabney is a relatively new addition to the MPTCS Village; she became a part of our community in 2008. Prior to joining the MPTCS, she worked for the Plainfield Public School District as the Literacy Coordinator. She also taught for seven years, primarily working with Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. In her current role as the Assistant Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, her primary role is to work with the teaching staff, "I like that I am dealing with the professional development of teachers and can see the positive effects it has on our students regarding their academic success," explained Ms. Dabney.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Ms. Dabney initially contemplated a career in the entertainment industry. She worked as an intern for BMG record label and the Apollo Theatre, "It just wasn't the right fit for me, so I decided to go back to school," commented Ms. Dabney. She always knew she wanted to be a teacher and enrolled in graduate school to prepare for her destiny. She received her Master's degree from St. Peter's University.

An avid learner, Ms. Dabney is currently pursuing her Ed.D at Kean University. Her ultimate goal is to become New Jersey's Commissioner of Education. She credits her accomplished family - her grandmother, (the first African-American woman pediatrician at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield) and her grandfather (the first African-American to own a funeral home business in the city) -- for instilling in her the importance of education and for giving her the confidence to make her dreams a reality.

The PTO is hosting a trip to Atlantic City. Tickets are available through Nov. 24 and can be purchased from PTO President Mrs. Jackson. Please email her at mptcspto@yahoo.com or call 973.930.3997



Where: Showboat Casino & Hotel,
Atlantic City, NJ

When: November 27, 2009

Departure: Elementary School
370 South 7th St.

Time: 6:00 PM

Donation: \$35; Return \$30 Slot Cash

Basketball Game Staff vs Parents

When: December 19, 2009

Where: Middle School
308 S. 9th St.

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Refreshments will be sold. All proceeds from the event will support the cheerleaders.

Advance Tickets are \$5 (adult); \$3 (students).

To register, please see:
Ms. Kema Roberts, Ms. Mary Dinkins-Allen or Mr. Khalil Carter at the Elementary School or Mr. Henderson at the Middle School.

Fourth Grade News

For the month of October and November in Language Arts Literacy we have been reading a very exciting novel entitled, "The Indian in the Cupboard." This novel is about a young man named Omri, whose plastic toy Indian suddenly comes to life. He is faced with situations and decisions to make in order to keep his Indian happy and hidden from everyone else. Please ask your child to describe some of the challenges that Omri is currently facing.

In Science we are studying the Crawfish. Each fourth grade classroom has its own live crawfish. The students have been observing, analyzing, caring for, and organizing lots of information about the crawfish. Each day they get a chance to observe his movement, habits and any changes that may have taken place in his tank.

In Math we are solving problems daily that involve extensive knowledge of the multiplication facts. Please take every opportunity to quiz your child about these facts. It is imperative that all fourth graders have a solid multiplication fact foundation. In the months to come the Math assignments will involve division and other problems that require this knowledge.

In Social Studies we are studying the Southwest region of the United States. We are also discussing the Native Americans who lived in these areas.

There is currently a Drug-Free campaign, folder contest that is only for fourth graders. The theme is "Fun Things To Do Instead Of Doing Drugs". Students are asked to design a 8 x 11 size sheet of white paper with a picture and slogan that persuades others to be drug free. The winning artwork will be the new design for a folder for next year. The submissions are due on December 4th.



Come kick it with MPTCS tonight!



MPTCS' Student Council is sponsoring a Skating Party at Branch Brook Park Skating Center on **Monday, November 16**, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 per person, which will include skates rental and food. All MPTCS students, their parents and staff are invited to attend. Proceeds will benefit the MPTCS Student Council fund.



"It takes a whole village to raise a child"

www.mptcs.org

School Hours of Operation

Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.

Homeroom: 8:00 a.m.

Dismissals:

Middle School - 3:30 p.m.

Elementary School - 3:40-3:50 p.m.

Karen Thomas, CEO

Ms. Clinton, Elementary School Principal, Ms. Phyllis (asst)
370 S. 7th St. | 973.621.0060

Mr. Pringle, Middle School Principal, Ms. Gallman (asst)
308 S. 9th St. | 973.792.0060

Mr. Lawrence, Assistant Principal | Ms. Davis, Parent Liaison
Mrs. Taylor, Office Manager | Michele Griffin, WOW Editor