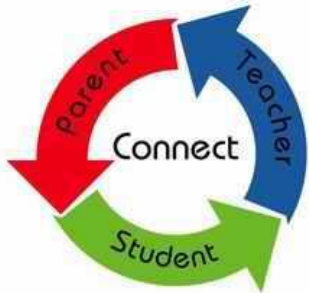




WOW Newsletter

Watch Out Weekly | Marion P. Thomas Charter School Newsletter
November 2, 2009 | Volume 9, Issue 8



CONNECTING TO SUCCESS: COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

MRS. DAVIS | PARENT LIAISON

Important Dates

- 11/2 ◦ 2010-2011 Enrollment Applications available through 12/16
- 11/3 ◦ Don't Forget Your Civic Duty - VOTE!
- 11/6◦ 1st Marking Period Ends
- 11/9 ◦ Picture Day at the Elementary School
- 11/13 ◦ School Closed (Staff Professional Development Day)
- 11/13 ◦ Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/16 ◦ Picture Day at the Middle School
- 11/25-27 ◦ Thanksgiving Break
- 12/16 ◦ Open House and Winter Concert
- 12/23 - 1/1 ◦ Winter Break - No School
- 1/4 ◦ School Reopens
- 1/18 ◦ Martin Luther King Day - School Closed
- 1/20 ◦ MPTCS Lottery

Contents

Message to the Village	1
Important Dates	1
Upcoming events	2
Third Grade News	3
Birthday Greetings	3
Applications Available	4
School Contact Info	4

Author John Powell wisely stated, "Communication works for those who work at it." As a Village we must all diligently work together to effectively communicate our concerns, challenges and triumphs to each other.

Good communication between parents and teachers has many benefits. When parents and teachers share, information our children's learning experiences are enhanced and the parent teacher relationship flourishes. However, communicating effectively can be a daunting task to some. A parent who had a bad experience in school when they were a child, or someone who is not fluent in English may not feel comfortable addressing concerns or relaying necessary information. As the parent liaison, it is my goal to bridge the gap between parents and teachers. I have outlined a few suggestions on how we can create an environment that leads to improved communication and understanding:

- Parents should make it a priority to attend parent teacher conferences or other meetings at the school
- Allow students to witness parents and teachers talking and resolving issues
- Teachers when communicating a problem involving a student, should include some positive elements about the child

- Parents can volunteer for a school activity or program at the school
- Become a classroom parent or talk to other parents and share ideas on how you can contribute to the school
- Spend time watching your child in the school

Additionally, please do not hesitate to involve the parent liaison in your quest to resolve any conflicts; champion for change or recognize achievements. Contact me first, if you have any concerns you'd like addressed. I am your advocate to the administration and, while we may not all agree on the outcome, know that you will be respected and your child(ren)'s best interest is always our main concern.

To further assist us in our goal to become better communicators, I will address your concerns in future issues of WOW in a monthly column, *Parents Q&A*. Please submit your questions to mptcspl@yahoo.com. Additionally, we will also present workshops designed to help you become a more informed parent. Workshop details will be featured in WOW. You can always contact me at 973.621.0060, ext. 18 or 973L.380.6990 and via email at mptcspl@yahoo.com.

I look forward to meeting and working with all parents, as we strive to make a difference in the lives of our children.

School Board

The NJASK test scores were reviewed at the Board meeting on October 26. MPTCS received the highest test scores ever recorded for NJASK 8. Congratulations to Ms. Harris, Ms. Smellie and Ms. Stinvil for their hard work.

However, we must continue to work hard to bring all students to proficiency and advanced proficiency. We can reach our goals if we collectively work together to ensure our children's success.



- ❖ All candy money is due this Friday, November 6.
- ❖ The PTO will sponsor a bus ride to Atlantic City's Showboat Casino on Friday, November 27. Departure will be 6:00 p.m. from the South 7th St. building. Tickets are \$35 and you will receive \$30 to spend at the casino.
- ❖ Remember, the PTO's fundraising goal is \$50,000 this year. All monies will help to offset the cost of various activities and programs for the children.



Picture Day

Next Monday, November 9, the elementary school will be taking their school pictures. Additionally, all elementary staff members will be taking their photos for the school IDs.

The Middle School pictures will be taken on Monday, November 16, along with photos for staff IDs.

Employees who work in both buildings, can take their photo on either day. Please note, the cost for school IDs are \$2.95.

All staff, as well as PTO and parent volunteers, will receive a free picture package for themselves.

For additional information about Picture Day, email mptcspto@yahoo.com



The next Girl Scouts meeting will take place on November 9 at 4:15 p.m. at the elementary school in the conference room on the lower level.

Girl Scouts is open to all girl students. However, if you are enrolled in enrichment classes you will be prohibited from participating.

Third Grade News

In October, the third grade attended an assembly about anti-bullying. The children learned that bullying can be physical or verbal. They also discovered that people who are by-standers while bullying is going on are also responsible for their actions. By-standers have a responsibility to tell an adult if someone is being bullied. Please encourage your child to speak up immediately if a situation ever arises at school or home in which they or anyone they know is being bullied. We are very proud of our students who are making right choices by being kind to others and respecting everyone's differences! ☺

In November, the current schedule of alternating science and social studies on a daily basis will be changed to 2 week intervals to allow for more continuity and in-depth studies. We will be exploring the topic of habitats in Science. We have some exciting hands-on activities planned to spark curiosity in our young scientists!

In Social Studies, students will be learning about economics by working on a project to develop their own imaginary business plan. We may have some future entrepreneurs!

We are excited to provide the tools of *engrade.com* to be a resource for parents. This program allows each family to receive weekly updates of their child's academic performance in their class as well as a forum for parents and teachers to connect and discuss the student's achievements and needed improvements. If you have not received your username and password as of this date, please be on the look-out for it. This should help us bridge the gap of the school and home.

Please remind your children that as we begin the new marking period they have a fresh start to make positive changes. Thanks for supporting us in our efforts to make this year the best one yet! ☺

The Third Grade Team,
Ms. Myers, Ms. Allevi, Ms. Widener, Ms.



Happy Birthday!!!

Mayama Bamba - 11/11

Arijah Andrews - 11/20

Happy Belated Birthday to:

Tyion Bloodworth - 10/4

Brianna Berryman - 10/13



NEW ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- Applications for 2010-2011 Enrollment are available
- Our next Open House will take place on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:00 P.M.
- 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.
CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARDEN MUST BE 5yrs OLD BY OCTOBER 1,

THE WOW NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN!

In an effort to be more environmentally-friendly the WOW newsletter will be emailed to all parents and staff. Please return this form with your name and email address (please print legibly).

Yes, I would like to receive WOW via email.

Please forward your email address to: WOWmptcs@yahoo.com

I prefer to receive a hard copy of WOW. Please continue to send a copy home with my child.

Name of Child: _____

Child's Grade/Teacher: _____

Teachers please return forms to main office

WOW



"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