

William A. Diggs Elementary School

Hawks Herald

www.ccboe.com/diggs

September 3, 2009

Principal's Message!!

Sandra Taylor, Principal

SCHOOL VISION

Our vision is to establish a solid home-school partnership to provide the support structure students need to meet academic success and develop personal responsibility to become productive members of society. We want to create an environment where all students love to learn, teachers enjoy their profession, and parents value and support education.

I'd like to officially welcome all of our students back to school. We have several new staff members and students that have joined the Diggs family.

Administration is still divided into grade-level teams. The grade-level administrator and counselor for grades Pre-K through 2 are David Hoogerheide and Justine Figner. The grade-level administrator and counselor for grades 3 through 5 are Jacqueline Couvillon and Alicia Jones. Please refer to the appropriate GLA and counselor if you have parental questions or concerns.

Open House

Open house for PK-2 is scheduled for Wed., Sept. 9th at 7 pm. Open house for grades 3-5 is Thurs., Sept. 10th at 7 pm.

Fundraiser

Parents, we are all feeling the pinch of tighter budgets these days. We, at William A. Diggs Elementary, have decided to sell \$1.00 chocolate bars instead of the giftware and wrapping paper brochure we've done in the past. The funds raised from this sale will supplement the 2009-10 budgets so that we may continue to offer the best learning opportunities for our students.

The fundraiser will run from September 11th through September 28th. We thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

Transportation Reminders

CAR RIDERS

In order for your child to be considered a car rider, he/she must be transported to and from school every day of the week.

Due to the number of car and van riders, we are graciously asking that the following procedures be followed to ensure the safety of our children.

1. Children are only to be dropped off and picked up in the red zone on the curb. Please move to the beginning of the red zone as you drop off and pick up.
2. If you plan on walking your child to the car, you must sign them out before 3:30. Do not park your car in the car rider lane and leave the vehicle to pick up your child. You will not be allowed to take your child at that time.
3. For your child's safety, please make sure that he/she leaves and enters from the passenger side only.
4. No passing around other vehicles. Please stay in the single file line in exiting the school property unless otherwise directed by a staff member!

BUS RIDERS

To ensure the safety of all students, no one will be allowed to enter the bus parking lot area during arrival and dismissal times.

According to the new "School Locator" system, students are assigned to a bus according to your **home address**. If you would like to request a permanent bus change, a *Bus Change Request Form* must be completed and submitted to the office. This form can be accessed from the school locator link from the CCPS website. Transportation Department will review all requests. Should there be a need for your child to ride a different bus temporarily, please send in a note with your child specifically stating the bus stop. The office will provide a temporary bus pass, which will ensure your child's safety.

It is very important that you notify the school well before dismissal time if you do not want your child to ride the bus home. Parents will not be allowed to pull children off the bus once buses are loaded and ready to leave the premises. So much goes into locating and pulling your child off a bus (i.e. checking ID and verifying your name against the emergency card), which can drastically change a bus's departure time. Therefore, please call the school by 3:00 p.m. to request that your child not ride the bus home. We thank you in advance for your cooperation

Counselors' Corner

Alicia Jones and Justine Figner, School Counselors

We would like to welcome all of the students returning to William A. Diggs Elementary School as we begin another year of study. We hope all of the students had a very great summer.

As your School Counselors, our role is to counsel students one on one, in small groups and also in classroom guidance lessons. Secondly, our role is to coordinate activities for students needing additional services and or guidance. And thirdly, we consult with teachers and parents on matters concerning students.

We are happy to announce that *Camp Sunshine*, of Hospice of Charles County, will once again function this year as a **healing camp for grieving children, ages 6-12**. The date for Camp Sunshine is Saturday, September 26, 2009 at the Melwood Retreat Center in Nanjemoy, Maryland.

Any questions that you may have about Camp Sunshine can be answered by contacting Lucia Hartman, Bereavement Coordinator, at 301/934-1268.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Figner, Primary Grade Level Counselor and Mrs. Jones, Intermediate Grade level Counselor with any concerns you may have at 301-753-2081.

.....From the Desk of

*Karen Robertson, secretary to the principal,
Denise Edwards, registration secretary, & Sonia Curley,
attendance secretary*

Parents, please remember to return your child's emergency card, code of conduct form, and transportation form as soon as possible.

Parents, in order to sign your child out immediately where there will be a need to call them from the classroom, you **MUST** arrive by 3:30 p.m. After 3:30 p.m., your child's name will be added to a list which will be called at 3:43 p.m.

It is also important that you make sure your child's belongings are marked clearly with his/her name. We have already experienced many misplaced lunch boxes due to no name written on them.

Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and support.

NURSE'S NOTES

Maria Hilmer, school nurse

Parents, please make sure you have informed the nurse of all health information regarding your child (i.e. severe allergies, epipens, inhaler, nebulizer treatment, etc.) Please **DO NOT** send any medication to school with your child. An adult

MUST transport all medications, as well as, complete a medication authorization form signed by the doctor. This form can be obtained from the nurse.

As I review health records, I will send notices home stating what is needed to be in compliance with Charles County Public School System. Please be mindful that students will not be able to return to school after **September 22, 2009**, unless immunizations have been updated.

Should I keep my child home or send him/her to school? Consider keeping your child home if he or she:

- Has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Has been vomiting
- Has symptoms that prevent your child from participating in school, such as: excessive tiredness, lack of appetite, productive coughing, sneezing, headache, body aches, earache, or severe sore throat

Lastly, to ensure the safety of students with food allergies, it is imperative that all snacks brought for the classroom are **STORE BOUGHT**. Homemade food will not be allowed to be distributed to any student.

Please feel free to contact the nurse with any questions or concerns at 301-753-2081.

School Calendar

September 7 – Labor Day (schools & offices closed)
September 8 – Board Meeting @ 1 pm; public forum @ 6 pm; Lady Clippers practice
September 9 – Open House for PK-2 (7 pm)
September 10 – Open House for 3-5 (7 pm)
September 11 – Fundraiser begins; Brownies & Girl scouts from 3:50-6 pm
September 14 – Boy scouts from 6-9 pm
September 15 – Volunteer Orientation @ 10 am in library; Girl Scout Membership Drive from 6:30-9 pm in café; Lady Clippers practice
September 16 - Minority Achievement Meeting @ 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. @ Starkey
September 17 - Lady Clippers practice; Davis Open House @ 6:30 pm
September 18 – FAIR DAY – Schools closed for students
September 21 – Boy scouts @ 6 – 9 pm
September 22 – Lady Clippers practice; NPHS Back to School Night @ 6:30 pm
September 24 – PTO Skate Night; Lady Clippers practice
September 25 – Brownies/Girl scouts from 3:50-6 pm
September 28 – Interims issued; Fundraiser ends (Money due); Boy scouts @ 6-9 pm
September 29 – Lady Clippers practice

The Charles County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Pat Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646. 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations, call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.