



Welcome Back to School!

With a two-week break in our rearview mirror, it is time to help students reestablish good habits for homework and reading so that all of our students can continue to achieve personal goals. Here are some ways that you can help:

- Set aside space for your child to do his/her homework.
- Replenish school supplies and homework supplies. If you are not sure what your child needs, feel free to ask your child's teacher for guidance.
- Bedtime routines help your child get sufficient sleep for the school day.
- Read with your child, whether silently or out loud. It is important for students to see adults reading for pleasure.
- Check homework folders and agenda books daily to communicate with your child's teacher.

By taking time to help your child get back in the swing of things, you are setting him or her up for success!

STEM Fair is rapidly approaching! Does your child need help with a specific task? Would you like the opportunity to talk one on one with our STEM Fair Coordinator, Mrs. Zanin? Your chance to help your child and talk to Mrs. Zanin is coming up on Thursday, January 7, 2010. Beginning at 5:00 p.m., there will be a "Make It Take It" event, where students get individual attention from volunteer teachers and Mrs. Zanin is available to talk to parents. This is your last chance before the STEM projects are due on January 21, 2010. Remember, a parent must attend this session with each child in order for your child to attend.

On Tuesday, January 5, 2010, the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA will have a board meeting in the media center at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in the workings of the PTA executive board is welcome. No childcare will be provided at the January meeting! All parents are encouraged to attend the February PTA meeting.

On Tuesday, January 5, 2010, our Sixth Grade Team and Special Education Department would like to invite all parents to come to the Media Center at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation by Peggy Harrington of the PGCPS Testing Office. Ms. Harrington will speak about the testing timeline and how it impacts student placement in middle and high school. This is important information for all of our students and families. For more information, please contact Ms. Seidel or Mr. Weeks. See you there!

Pause with Ms. Seidel

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the Winter Break with your family. FAST testing happens this week and next week for our students in Grades 3-6. We have changed our morning arrival procedures for the winter. When it is below freezing outside, students will wait in the gym for the morning bell. Students should still arrive no earlier than 8:50 a.m. and will enter through the parking lot door to the gym. Once inside, they will wait in their grade lines with Mrs. Case. Finally, please make sure to send your child to school appropriately bundled up against the cold. Please make sure you send in the form for early dismissal procedures. Thank you. **Kimberly Seidel, Principal**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- December 16- “Dona Nobis Pacem” Winter Choral Music Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- December 18– Progress Reports issued.
- December 24– Schools closed for Winter Break.
- January 4– Schools reopen.
- January 5– PTA Meeting
- January 6-12– FAST testing
- January 7– Make It, Take It for STEM Fair, 3:45 p.m.
- January 12– Instrumental Music Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- January 14– Elementary School Choral Festival
- January 21– STEM Fair projects are due.

Books Online

Here is a great resource that has been made available to Prince George’s County students and families. It is called “Think Quest” and allows your child to read appropriate books online from home. Here is the log-in information:

Website: <http://www.thinkcentral.com>

State: Maryland

District: Prince George’s County School District
(make sure you click on the first choice!)

School: Matthew Henson Elementary School

Username: k, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

(choose your child’s grade level)

Password for all accounts is “student”

Click on login

Then, click on “**Reading/Language Arts**”, then “**Story Town**”, and have fun!



It’s beginning to look a lot like...

a **SNOW DAY!!**

So how do you find out about school
schedule changes?

- Sign up for email notifications through www.schoolsout.com. The Superintendent generally makes decision concerning early morning school closings or delayed openings prior to 5 a.m.
- An announcement is then provided to 38 radio stations and eight (8) television stations in the Washington metropolitan area. The goal is to contact the stations in time for early morning broadcasts that begin between 5 and 6 a.m.
- After 6 a.m., staff and parents can also access the school system's Voice Mail Bulletin Board by calling 301-952-6000. Wait for the opening message, and then press the number 1.

This information may also be accessed on the school system’s web page at www.pgcps.org and/or www.schools-out.com. When schools are closed early or all day, all evening activities are cancelled, and school buildings are not available for after-school activities by other private or public organizations.