

# NEWS FOR STUDENTS

September-October 2007

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*Tutors: Please pass along this informative supplement to your students*

## Back to School

It's that time of year again! The weather is cooler. Days are shorter. Children go back to school. Buses pick up children in the morning. Children come home in the afternoon.

All day at school, teachers want children to work hard to learn their lessons. Teachers and schools want parents to help their children do well at school. How can you help your child with school? Here are some ideas:

- Ask your child about his homework each night. Look at his homework pages with him. Ask him to explain his work to you. It's OK to help if he needs it, but make sure your child does all the work himself!
- Give your child a quiet place to do homework, away from the TV, phone, and noisy brothers and sisters. Make homework a daily routine.
- Children need lots of sleep to do well at school. Send them to bed early enough on school nights. Read with young children before they go to sleep.
- Children must go to school everyday, except if they are sick. They can't do well at school if they aren't there! Call the school in the morning if your child is sick and can't go to school.
- Go to the school's fall Open House and monthly PTA meetings. You will learn all about the school and meet other parents there.

- Go to the parent-teacher meeting, or *conference* (KON- fruhns). You will have a *conference* at least once a year with teachers of children in Grade 5 and below. Even if there is no problem with school, it's important to go to the *conference*. *Conferences* with the teacher are before or after school on weekdays. Weekend and evening times are not possible.
- No matter what grade your child is in, talk to your child's teacher any time there is a problem. Call the school to explain the problem and ask for a *conference*. If you need a *conference* in a language other than English, you may ask for an *interpreter* (in-TER-pruh-ter) from the school. It can take a few days to get an *interpreter* at the school, maybe even longer if it's a busy time for *conferences*.
- If speaking English is hard, but you can write OK in English, send a letter or note to school with your child, or bring it to the school office, instead of calling.
- You may go to your child's classroom to see what her class is like, but ask the teacher first! Come on the day and at the time the teacher tells you it's OK. The teacher may have rules for parents visiting the classroom. Ask what they are ahead of time.
- Call the school if you must miss your *conference*!!
- MCPS (Montgomery County Public Schools) has a parent's guide to schools, called "Navigating the System". Ask for it in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, or French.
- For more information call:

MCPS: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, 301-279-3000.

MCPS Parent Information: Chinese 301-230-5428; French 301-230-5429; Korean 301-230-5430; Spanish 301-230-5403; Vietnamese 301-230-5432. Leave a message and your phone number. Someone will call you back.