



Montgomery Child Care Association Kensington Home Connection

A Center News Source

Volume 8, Issue 5

January 2012

Important Dates

- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance; Kensington Closed
- 17 Coins for College Fundraiser Ends
- 18 Parent Council Mtg, Dinner at 6:00; mtg @ 6:30
- 23 MCPS Closed; Kensington Open

Parent Workshop Postponed

We felt it prudent to postpone the parent workshop scheduled for January 20 on Curriculum. The teachers have been focused on planning for family conferences, which are held in January and attending teacher workshops geared toward the updated curriculum. This has kept us really busy, along with adjusting to the transitional process of our larger organization. We hope you understand. We will let you know when we have set a new date.

Coins for College

Our staff scholarship fundraiser—Coins for College began November 1, 2011 and has been extended through January 17, 2012. One staff member attending college during any semester in 2012 will receive the funds collected. Funds will go toward a class, books or any other related needs. Any parents interested in being a part of the selection committee can contact Kimberly for more details. My staff and I thank you in advance for all your support with this fundraiser.

A Heartfelt Appreciation

The parents raised just under \$6,000 in donations this past holiday season as a gift for Kensington staff. Understanding that your kind gift is not something that you had to do but a gesture of generosity, all staff received their gift with heartfelt appreciation.

Beauty in Nature

Natural beauty can be seen everywhere. White fluffy clouds float above the playground, a spider's web flutters in a gentle wind, the moon sometimes graces the day sky, and flowers shoot up in a nearby garden. Short nature walks give children a chance to observe the wonders of our natural world.

At Kensington, teachers plan nature walks to listen for environmental sounds or to look for insects. We also take advantage of everyday opportunities such as exploring puddles after a rain shower, capturing snowflakes during the first snowfall or playing with streamers outside during a strong wind. Catching fireflies, smelling honeysuckle or tossing stones into a creek can be aesthetic, relaxing experiences for kids and adults alike.

Noticing nature's wonders helps children become more observant and respectful of the world around them, helps build their vocabulary as they hear adults describe what they see, and encourages drawing and painting to document their observations.

From time to time, draw children's attention to things they may not notice. Point out different rocks. Collect leaves of various kinds. Discuss the similarities and differences in flowers. (Children may be tempted to pick flowers, but be careful that they take only common ones—not rare species.) Talk about what the squirrel eats or where the robin lives. Enjoy the changes of the seasons together.

Parents can further stimulate a child's interest—say, in stars or snakes through library visits. Field guides are available on a wide range of subjects (insects, wildflowers, mammals, trees, and so forth). Keep specimens, drawings, magazine pictures, photos, stickers, and summaries of your child's special experience in a scrapbook. A theme may be carried throughout the book but young naturalists should be allowed to put in anything that strikes their fancy. One discovery leads to another. We adults have much to learn from the natural curiosity of children.

Words of Wisdom for the New Year

*When you are right you cannot be too radical;
when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative.*
Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Child Care**
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Kimberly Boozer, Director

Hrs.: Mon. - Fri. from 10-6

Michelle Bronson, Prof. Development

Hrs.: Mon. - Fri. from 10-3:30

Susanna Feder, Environment Coordinator

Hrs.: Mon. - Fri. from 9-3

Amy Goyne, Office Manager

Hrs.: Mon. - Fri. from 10 - 2:15 & 4:30-6

Please designate Montgomery Child Care



#13880



#8447

We're on the web!
www.mccaedu.org

Automatic Billing is Here!

You asked for it and you got it. MCCA will pilot automatic bill payment services with Kensington. Look for details in your February bill.

Resources

Children of the Earth United— Environmental Education for Kids, Families and Teachers. It is a great site to learn about animals, plants, ecology, nature, environmental issues, native wisdom, nature centers, activities, books and much more. The website is http://www.childrenoftheearth.org/home_activities.htm.

Children in Nature is a web site for parents that offers ideas to involve children in the outdoors. If you search www.dnr.state.md.us/education/children_nature/forparents.asp, you will find news, community resources, articles and activities for preschool and school age children alike.

Planning Ahead

Now is the time of year for preschool parents of children who are entering kindergarten in fall 2012 to think about what school your child will be attending next year. On the MCPS web site at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/, you can find information on how to enroll your child in school.

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a change in school assignment for their children from their home school may begin the process during transfer season, which is held from February 1 through April. Check out the site for more details.

Let's Celebrate Kensington Staff

Staff Birthdays *Date*

Reggie Hawkins (G)	1/5
Jiri Malek (H)	1/8
Jackie Argerakas (B)	1/9

Staff Anniversaries *Date*

Wahida Haidarzada (E)	1/25
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Choose Your Adventure

Extreme cold is a sure sign we are deep in the winter season, and yet we're thinking summer. Summer Adventures registration will begin January 24, 2012. We have theme weeks—choose one week or choose them all.

Be sure to sign up your school age (G & H) child as early as possible. Pricing increases as time grows closer to the start of camp and spaces fill quickly. See Amy for details.



- KFG will be closed Monday, January 16 in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.
- MCPS is closed and Kensington is open on Monday, January 23.
- Summer Adventures Day for school age children is on Monday, January 23.

Danger Zone

The parking lot is a dangerous place for children. We are pleading with you. Please do not park or walk your children through the parking lot!

The Coins for College Fundraiser is extended to January 17, 2012

TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER NEW YEAR

Practice Safety On Wheels

Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up for every ride, with children in the back seat and in age-appropriate child safety seats. All bicyclists, skaters and skateboarders should wear helmets.

Do A Child Proofing Survey Of Your Home

Do a child's-eye view home survey, going systematically from room to room. Remove hazards that await the curious toddler or preschooler. Think of poisons, small objects, sharp edges, knives and firearms and places to fall.

Monitor Your Children's Media Intake

Monitor what your children see and hear on television, in movies, and in music. Children are affected by what they see and hear, particularly in these times of violent images.

Pay Attention to Nutrition

Nutrition makes a big difference in how kids grow, develop and learn. Good nutrition is a matter of balance. Provide foods from several food groups at each meal. Emphasize foods that are less processed such as whole grain breads and cereals and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Help Your Children Feel Loved And Important

Kids develop a sense of self-worth early in life. Listen to what your children have to say. Assure them they are loved and safe. Celebrate their individuality and tell them what makes them special and what you admire about them.

Reduce Junk Mail

By Veronica, Age 9 and Dana, Age 8, South Setauket, New York

Americans get more than 2 million tons of junk mail a year. That adds up to a lot of trees. If you want to help make a difference just send a letter to the Mail Preference Service asking them to remove your name.

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 282
Carmel, NY 10512

- Write: "Please remove my name from any junk mail lists."
- Include all of the different ways your name is spelled when you get junk mail. (Ex. Jane Doe, J. Doe, etc.)
- You'll need to include a check or money order for \$1.

Another way to get your name off of the junk mail lists (without it costing any money) is to do it online at the following address: https://www.dmchoice.org/MPS/mps_consumer_description.php

This will stop your name from being sold to most large mailing list companies. Your request will last for 3 years. It won't stop the one's that already have your name but it can reduce your junk mail by 75%. To stop the ones that have your name contact them directly.

Volunteer to Chair May Fair.

Contact Kimberly Boozer for details at kfg@mccaedu.org