



Contact Us

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From the Principal's Desk

Welcome Back!

I want to welcome everyone back for the second semester of the school year. December was such a busy and exciting month, so I hope you had a very happy, restful, and a peaceful holiday season with your family and friends.

I am looking forward to the New Year, wishing for progress, health, and prosperity for all, and I hope that GDMS will continue to grow, thrive, and be healthy and strong. With everyone working towards this goal, I am sure it will be achieved.

The vigorous marketing efforts commenced in December will continue, with special weekend open houses being added to augment our regularly scheduled Tuesday morning open houses. We will also be sharing information about our dynamic Montessori curriculum with community organizations in the Bowie, Glenn Dale, and Greenbelt communities in the months to come.

Additionally, starting the first Monday in February, we will revive our "Special Chats" with Miss Renee, our program director; the teachers; and myself. These chats will provide us all an opportunity to share ideas about GDMS's future growth plans, and provide each of you the chance to give suggestions for increasing our current enrollment. We have this beautiful building to provide children between the ages of 2 and 12 with top-notch educational experiences. So, I hope we will all work together to fill all the classrooms with eager little boys and girls whose parents want the best education for them.

Know What's Happening at GDMS

Please take note of and print out the important dates provided below. This information is provided to keep you abreast of all key dates for this month, so you will definitely want to keep it where it can be consulted easily.

<i>Important Dates:</i>	1/1	New Year's Day GDMS Closed	1/13	Vision and Hearing Screenings
	1/5	Classes Resume for the 2nd Term	1/16	End of 2nd Grading Period (Elementary Class)
	1/9	Tuition Installment Due	1/19	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day GDMS Closed
	1/10	Parent Participation Day (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)	1/20	Report Cards Due (Elementary Class)
		Mama Sisterhood of P. G. County c/o Kendra McCarthy (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)		Tuition Installment Due
	1/12	GDMS Closes at 3:00 pm Staff Meeting; No Aftercare Provided	1/24	Special Open House/Montessori Workshop (10:00 am - 1:00 pm)

From the Principal's Desk continued

GDMS Correspondence Delivery and Feedback Collection

We will no longer be distributing hard copies of GDMS correspondence, so please let us know if you have not been receiving GDMS administrative emails or if you are unable to receive emails.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via phone, email, or GDMS's onsite suggestion box if you have any suggestions, questions, or comments.

Parent Participation Reminder

December was a very busy month with lots of opportunities for parent participation: the Barnes & Noble Book Fair and gift wrapping events, the holiday bazaar, and winter performance. I extend a warm *thank you* to everyone who participated in our December events, and I remind you all to, if you have not done so, complete a Parent Participation Report form and turn it in to your child's teacher to receive credit for your hard work.

Please be reminded as well that parent participation is a very important part of the GDMS program, and that each family is *contractually required* to contribute a minimum of *3 hours per month* in participatory time.



Classroom News

Orioles Room: Ms. Adams

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a joyful and peaceful holiday season. It was a wonderful and long winter break.

There are lots of expectations for the New Year in the Orioles class. We will continue working on developing independence, coordination, order, and concentration, by working with materials in the sensorial, practical life, and daily living areas. The children enjoy doing rug work.

It helps them to concentrate and focus. I am happy to report that they have settled down and are ready to continue working. Thanks to all the parents who helped to make the Christmas program and luncheon a success.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go out to all my parents for the wonderful gifts and support during this festive season.

Eagles Room: Ms. Erma

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope everyone enjoyed the nice winter break, and I wish you all good health and prosperity for this New Year!

I am so happy to see all of our children back to school. I know they had a wonderful time during the yuletide season. I'm sure you are all excited and ready to learn new lessons! January tends to be the busiest work month. It is a busy, busy, busy time!

Language Area: For the younger students, we will be working on the moveable alphabet, by reading and spelling three letter words. Please continue to encourage your child to study at home for reinforcement. For the older students, we will continue to read and write daily. Reading books appropriate for your child will help him/her read better.

Mathematics Area: For the younger ones, we will be working on short chains, by 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s. Parents please teach your children skip counting by 2s and 5s up to 20. For the older ones, we will continue working on basic addition and subtraction. Soon they will learn multiplication.

Tour of Asia: We will be taking a tour of Asian countries this month. China, Japan, Singapore, Korea, and the Philippines are a few of the countries we will be exploring. We are going to talk about their culture, food, and clothing, as well as complete different activities specific to these countries.

Cooking Club: For our cooking class, we will explore Asian cuisine. We will cook Chinese noodles using chopsticks, prepare Japanese sushi, and make the Philippines' famous chicken adobo.

Thank You, thank You, thank you to all who helped make our Christmas program a success. Thank you also to all the parents who sent cards and gifts for the holidays.

Hummingbird Room: Ms. Sarwat

Happy New Year 2015! We hope that all of our GDMS families had a warm and relaxing holiday. We ended 2014 with a very busy December. A big THANK YOU to all the parent volunteers who assisted throughout the year with school events and field trips.

In January, we will focus on re-centering our young ones and will follow up with classroom rules and routines. We will also celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and discuss how his hard work made the world a better place for us all. Parents, please help your children prepare to present their thoughts about Dr. King's life and work during circle time.

Additionally, the children will learn about the Chinese New Year and the continent of Asia.

Classroom News continued

In The New Year

In the New Year,
we wish you the best year you've ever had,
and that each New Year
will be better than the last.
May you realize your fondest dreams
and take time to recognize and enjoy
each and every blessing.

Happy New Year,
And many more!

by Joanna Fuchs

- The start of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- President Washington's 1783 farewell to his officers
- President Gerald Ford's 1974 assumption of the U.S. presidency
- The 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor
- The death of the great Lakota chief and statesman, Red Cloud
- The ratification of Pennsylvania as America's second state
- The Louisiana Purchase
- The USA's expansion under President Thomas Jefferson
- Ronald Amundsen's exploration of the South Pole
- The Boston Tea Party
- The Wright brothers' first airplane flight

Flamingo Room: Ms. Lenora

The children have been very enthusiastic about school since the Thanksgiving break. They have been enjoying a general knowledge book on history. We have learned about a number of notable historical events that all took place in the month of December:

We also discussed the importance of hard work and working together. Through their collective experiences, the students have begun demonstrating a firm appreciation of how teamwork enhances their lives and potential for success.

GDMS Highlights



GDMS's Inclement Weather Policy

Winter is upon us, and inclement weather is a normal part of the school year. The GDMS inclement weather policy was emailed to everyone in December. Please contact the office if you did not receive it.



On-Campus Vision and Hearing Screenings

Our annual vision and hearing screenings are scheduled for **Tuesday, January 13**. This service is being provided by the Maryland Vision and Hearing Testing, Inc. For a nominal fee, children ages 3 years and up will be screened. Please consult the flyer sent home on Monday, January 5, for additional information on these services.



January Birthday Wishes to ...

Students

Dhirendr Kuzmenchuk - 1/6
Jaden Davis - 1/8
Lourize Valenzuela - 1/17
Courtney Daley - 1/23

Taylor Gaston-Love - 1/31
Tyler Gaston-Love - 1/31
Aliyana McCarthy - 1/31

GDMS Staff

Ms. Gina McClain-Prather 1/22

GDMS Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes

GDMS PTO
Monthly Meeting
December 10, 2014

Attendees; Henry, Sofia, Lauren, Corey, Kendra, Kandis, Dora, Kelly, Ms. Harvey

Old Business;
Financial Report
The balance remains unchanged from November.

Communications:
The Communications Sub-committee held four meetings over the past month;
Two meetings with GDMS Principal
One meeting with GDMS Parents
One meeting with GDMS Staff/Teachers

As a result, the following updates have been made:
The room liaison parent program has been re-established. The PTO moved, seconded and approved to re-establishment of the room liaison parent program.
A conference call number will be provided at every meeting to allow parents/teacher/staff to participate.

Ms. Harvey provided the following updates;
Volunteers are needed for the bazaar; distribute flyers, serve refreshments, make signs, participate in raffles, and serve as judges. Please contact admin@glenndalemontessori.org if you would like to volunteer.
The school closing policy was distributed to PTO members.
Parents are encouraged to participate in open houses to provide personal experiences and to provide tours of the facility.
The GDMS facility is available for rental. Information about renting the facility has been distributed via Craig's List.

Passive Fundraising efforts include asking family and friends to support Amazon Smile, Target, Home Depot, and Lowes.
Suggestion: send information via the admin email to parents.
Honey Baked Ham: GDMS PTO will receive 15% from purchases.
It was moved, seconded, and approved to apply for the Lowes grant.
GDMS PTO is encouraged to re-submit their county grant to Todd Turner
Suggestion: Kendra and Sofia will investigate creating a Zumba class at GDMS to generate funds.

Announcements: Suggestion: Investigate the possibility of allowing volunteer hours in excess of 3 hours per month to be rolled over to the next month.

The meeting ended at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Kandis Y. Wyatt