

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

January 5, 2023



OUR VISION

“All staff, students, parents and community of New Midway/Woodsboro Elementary School collaborate to foster lifelong learning and honorable character in the 21st century. We nurture diverse learners in a safe, happy and engaging environment which promotes academic excellence and encourages students to be their best and nothing less.”

Welcome Back

We would like to extend a warm ‘welcome back’ from winter break to our students, staff and community! A new year is always a great time to establish renewed commitments to what we value and hold dear to our hearts. For those of us at New Midway/Woodsboro, that includes you and your children! We look forward to a positive, healthy and productive 2023.

Holiday Literacy Night

We were so happy that so many of our families were able to join us for our ‘Polar Express’ Holiday Literacy Night last month! Students and staff alike enjoyed the evening and all of the fun stations that were planned. We would like to extend a special thank you to our Literacy Specialist, Michelle Torres, for organizing such a memorable experience for our community.



Staffing Updates

We are pleased to share that Mrs. Alexis Jameson completed her teaching program with Mount St. Mary’s University and she has officially joined our staff. Ms. Jameson will continue in her role as one of our fourth grade teachers.

School Attendance

Now is the time of year that schools traditionally see an increase in absences. We hope that we can continue to maintain exemplary levels of attendance that we have celebrated for the beginning of the school year. Below are some facts and reminders regarding school attendance.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor overall attendance.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves.
- Start building this habit in PreK/Kindergarten so students learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and in their future careers.

Help Your Child Succeed in School:

- Build the habit of good attendance early
- School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Let us know if your child is frequently complaining of stomach aches or headaches which can be a sign of anxiety. We are here to support your child and would love to help create a plan to support his/her needs.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

There are certainly times when your child needs to stay home, and we appreciate when families ensure their child does not attend school with a fever or other symptoms that indicate they could be contagious. When your child is absent due to illness or another reason that is excused by Maryland State Department guidelines, within two days please 1) email a note to Oneida Eaves at Oneida.Eaves@fcps.org if your child is enrolled in PK through grade 2, or Gwen Kuster at Gwen.Kuster@fcps.org if your child is enrolled in grades 3-5, in addition to your child's classroom teacher OR 2) send in a note with your child with the reason for absence upon their return to school. Monitoring attendance is mandated by state law and absences are automatically coded as unexcused/unlawful after two days pass without receiving a note with an excused reason for the absence.

Coca-Cola School Rewards

Did you know that every purchase of your favorite Coca-Cola beverage is an opportunity to make a difference for our school? Coke products have codes printed on the inside caps of bottles and on the inside of the cardboard box for cans. If you 1) visit www.Coke.com/give 2) enter and select our school name and 3) enter or scan the code

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from the Coke product, our school will receive a check from Coca-Cola on a quarterly basis based on the amount of product codes entered by our community. If you prefer, you may simply send the lids of Coke product bottles, or the part of the

cardboard box with the product code to school with your child and we will even enter it for you!

Would you like to know how much each product code is worth? Visit the following resource:

<https://us.coca-cola.com/give/code-value>

Virtual Coffee Chat

If you are available, please join us for a virtual coffee chat on Friday, January 13 at 9:30 AM. Our Literacy and Math Specialists will share our school improvement goals associated with their content areas. We look forward to collaborating with our community!

To join the Google Meet video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/jdd-tdsw-bdi>
 Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 815-900-2290 and enter this PIN: 909 742 771#

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Frederick County Public Schools’ students and staff will celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in early January.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, January 5 (Snow date: Thursday, Jan. 19)
 Where: Gov. Thomas Johnson High, 1501 N. Market St., 21701
 What to Expect: During the presentation, students will be recognized with King Awards, presented to one outstanding student from each of the county’s public schools. To earn the award, the student must have demonstrated positive leadership qualities characteristic of Dr. King and exhibited traits of responsibility, caring, fairness, trustworthiness, citizenship and respect.

Congratulations again to Eliana Lester who was selected to represent our school for the county’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration!

Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation Reminder

Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation is not tolerated and it is important that these behaviors are addressed. Please review our school system’s regulation linked here on this topic: [Regulation 400-48](#). It explains steps that will be taken if these behaviors occur, in addition to the process for making a formal report. Please don’t hesitate to contact our School Counselor (Mrs. Susan Cox at 240-236-1436 or susan.cox@fcps.org) for additional information.

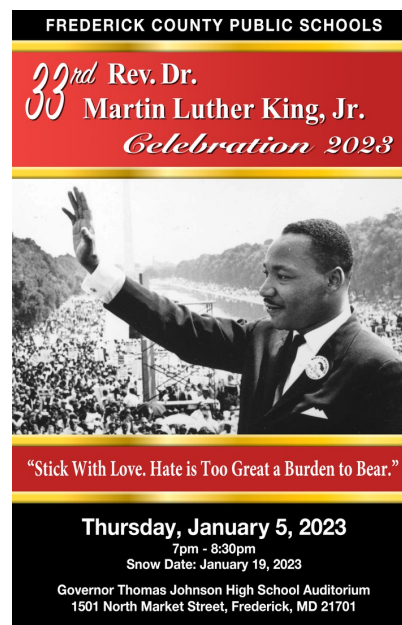
Security Reminder

“See Something, Say Something™” and “Don’t repost it. Report it™”. Parents and students are encouraged to report security concerns to a trusted adult (parent, school staff member, school administrator, SRO, or a local law enforcement agency). Students may also anonymously report concerns using the Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line at 833-MD-B-SAFE or <https://www.safeschoolsmd.org/>. In an emergency, call 911. Additional resources can be found on our school’s website and the FCPS website.

Dates to Remember

Please note that any dates scheduled for the year will be released with each Principal Newsletter for your planning purposes. Additional dates will be added to the calendar on a regular basis by staff members, thus we will update the list of dates with each newsletter. It is important to note that all dates are tentative and subject to change.

Date	Event
January	
Thursday, Jan. 5	FCPS Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration (snow date: Jan. 19)
Wednesday, Jan. 11	Schools Closed for Students
Thursday, Jan. 12	Grade 5 Field Trip, ESSL
Friday, Jan. 13	Virtual Coffee Chat, 9:30 AM
Monday, Jan. 16	Schools Closed



Wednesday, Jan. 18	Grades K and 1, Field Trip, Weinberg Center Cultural Arts Assembly (funded by our PTA) PreK: Classroom visit from GoTeam Therapy Dogs sponsored by the PTA
Thursday, Jan. 19	FCPS Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Snow Date Spelling Bee (snow date: Jan. 26)
Monday, Jan. 23	Band and Orchestra Concert for Students (snow date: Jan. 31)
Tuesday, Jan. 24	Winter Feeder Band Concert at Walkersville High School
Wednesday, Jan. 25	Winter Feeder Orchestra Concert at Walkersville High School
Thursday, Jan. 26	Spelling Bee Snow Date
Tuesday, Jan. 31	Band and Orchestra Concert for Students Snow Date
February	
Tuesday, Feb. 7	PTA Meeting, 6:30 PM
Thursday, Feb. 9	Grade 2 Field Trip, ESSL
Tuesday, Feb. 14	Valentine's Day Classroom Parties
Wednesday, Feb. 15	2 Hour Early Dismissal Hearing and Vision Screening at Woodsboro
Thursday, Feb. 16	Hearing and Vision Screening at Woodsboro
Monday, Feb. 20	Schools Closed
March	
Tuesday, March 7	PTA Meeting, 6:30 PM
Friday, March 10	Hearing and Vision Re-Screening at Woodsboro
Saturday, March 11	Scripps National Spelling Bee Regional Competition at Hood College
Wednesday, March 22	Schools Closed for Students
April	
Tuesday, April 4	PTA Meeting, 6:30 PM
Friday, April 7-14	Spring Break
Friday, April 28	2 Hour Early Dismissal
May	
Tuesday, May 2	PTA Meeting, 6:30 PM
Thursday, May 11	Grade 3 Field Trip, ESSL
Monday, May 15	Grade 4 and 5 Field Trip, Annapolis
Friday, May 19	Grade 1 Field Trip, ESSL

Monday, May 29	Schools Closed
June	
Thursday, June 1	*2 Hour Early Dismissal *Last Day of School for Students

**Subject to change if emergency closures are needed throughout the school year.*