



Waters Landing
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Dolphin News

September 2015 Issue

www.waterslandingpta.com

A Publication of the Waters Landing Elementary School PTA

Srelyne Harris, Principal
Christine Troffkin, Assistant Principal
13100 Waters Landing Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone (301) 353-0915

**2015-2016
PTA Contact
Information**

PTA President
Danielle Deaver
wlesptaprez@gmail.com
PTA Vice President
Chantal Falade
wlescommunication@gmail.com

PTA Treasurer
Sheri Schully
sherschully@gmail.com
PTA Secretary
Lauren Higgins
wlesptasecretary@gmail.com

Dear Waters Landing Families:

Welcome to the Waters Landing Elementary School! My name is Ms. Srelyne Harris and I am excited to join the Waters Landing as the new principal. Our new assistant principal, Mrs. Christine Troffkin will join me this year in serving students, staff, and families. It was great to see so many families at our Sneak Peek on Friday, August 28th. We would like to thank the PTA for providing staff with a pizza lunch on Thursday during pre-service week. It was a great treat!

We hope all of your children are off to a great start for the year. We were fortunate receive new backpacks with school supplies from the MCPS Back Pack Drive. If your child needs a new backpack and supplies, please contact Mrs. Lauren, School Counselor.

MCPS Safety and Security procedures require identification from all visitors. Please enter the building through the entrance on Waters Landing Drive. You will need to use the call button on the wall next to the front doors. Once you press the button, one of the secretaries will greet you over the intercom and then buzz you into the building. Please remain in view of the camera so we can see who we are permitting into the building. The buzzer unlocks the door with a clicking sound. Once you have come in, please enter the main office through the office door and sign in at the main desk. When visiting the school, please ensure you bring your license.

Our Instructional Leadership Team met over the summer to analyze our data and determine next steps in our School Improvement Process. We are continuing our focus on effective first instruction in small group settings with a focus on providing students daily opportunities to apply comprehension strategies. Our reading program continues this year with a 2 Million Minute Challenge and theme "Read to Succeed". Encourage your child to practice, reading, writing, and math!

We hope you will be able to join us in our gym on **Tuesday, September 8th for our Back-to-School Night for grades Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd and on Wednesday, September 9th for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.** Back-to-School Night will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be a short general meeting in the gym followed by classroom visits. We will hold two classroom sessions in case you need to visit more than one classroom. During the classroom session, you will hear about the curriculum for your child's grade level and about different events coming up throughout the school year. You will also be signing up for Parent/Teacher conferences which will be held on November 11th and 12th this school year. Don't forget to join the PTA!

On Friday, September 4th, the PTA will hold our annual Back to School Picnic starting at 6:30 pm. The picnic will be held on the field behind the school. Bring your own picnic dinner, a blanket and your family. The PTA will provide dessert. This is a great time to get to know the other families in your child's class.

We look forward to working with you, your children and the staff as we focus on ensuring our students have a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Srelyne A. Harris, Principal
Mrs. Christine Troffkin, Assistant Principal

From the PTA President ...

Welcome back to school, Waters Landing Families!



The Waters Landing Elementary School PTA is excited to welcome students and their families back to school. We're looking forward to an exciting year!

Some of you may be wondering what the Parent Teacher Association, or PTA, is and what it does. The PTA is a group of parents and teachers who work together to make the students' experience at Waters Landing more educational and more fun. We sponsor and run various activities and events throughout the year such as:

- ◆ The school assemblies that children enjoy throughout the year.
- ◆ We run the book fair, which comes to school twice a year, and donate the proceeds to the school.
- ◆ We are responsible for the school carnival, Dolphinmania.
- ◆ We coordinate activities such as the Winter Dance, the Back to School picnic, and we produce the yearbook.
- ◆ We hold several fundraisers throughout the year to support these activities, and to support scholarships for field trips and other events for students.

We hope that all parents and teachers will join us as we work to make the school better for students through these and other activities. To join, all you need to do is fill out a membership form. You can find it in your child's back to school folder, in the office, on our PTA website (www.waterslandingpta.com) under join, or in this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10, which is used to fund some of the activities that we do for the children. Joining is a way of showing you care about your child's education. Members do not have to volunteer or attend meetings, although all parents are encouraged to do both. Volunteering in the school and attending PTA meetings and events are great ways to get to know your child's teachers, classmates and other families in the school!

I hope you have a fabulous year! I hope to see you all at our meetings on the first Tuesday of every month in the WLES library. Please contact me with any concerns or questions at wlesptaprez@gmail.com. Thank you!

Danielle Deaver

Follow us on Twitter: @WatersLanding

Join us for Back-to-school picnic

September 4th, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Bring your dinner & a blanket...we'll provide dessert!
Meet on the field to the left of the school.



WLES First Spirit Night

Chick-fil-a Germantown on Sept. 17!

5:00PM - 8:00PM

Come celebrate the start of the new school year with WLES Spirit Night at Chick-fil-a in Germantown on Sept. 17! Stop in anytime between **5:00PM - 8:00PM** that day and **make sure to mention Waters Landing BEFORE you place your order**. Be sure to write you teacher's name and grade on a piece of paper and place it in the box on the condiment stand so that your class gets credit.

Information Announcement

In the 2013-2014 School year, the Waters Landing Elementary School (WLES) Parent Teacher Association (PTA) raised \$4702.15 towards purchasing laptop carts for the school. However, the WLES leadership was able to purchase the carts using funds from the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system. Therefore the \$4702.15 will no longer be used to purchase the laptop carts. In June, the PTA voted by quorum to reallocate the funds towards School Programs and Administrative costs. Any questions may be directed to wlestreasurer@gmail.com

COUNSELOR'S CORNER – MS. LAURENO

WELCOME BACK! AND WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW FAMILIES JOINING US AT WATERS LANDING FOR THE FIRST TIME!

We are proud to announce that our school is the recipient for the 2014-2015 Gold Award for our acclaimed Dolphin Pride program. This award signifies that we have achieved excellence in reinforcing positive behavior throughout our building. Look for the banner hanging in the main hallway. We have won this award two years in a row. Now our challenge is to make it a triple crown! We can do it!

The PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) initiative extends throughout the nation. Many elementary, middle and high schools in MCPS are PBIS participants.

At WLES we have named our PBIS program “Dolphin Pride.” We reward our students with Dolphin Dollars and class Splashes for demonstrating our core values. Students can then exchange these coupons for rewards on our Dolphin Dollar Cart. If you would like to contribute to our reward cart, we are always accepting donations. Just drop them off in the office. These rewards may include books, toys, school supplies, “fun stuff”, as long as they are in good condition. We appreciate your support!

Should you want to know more about PBIS generally, please check-out the following website: www.pbis.org/md or contact me or Kelli Riley and Raakhee Mallick, our Dolphin Pride Team Leaders this year.

Our three core values at WLES still remain respect, responsibility and safety. Every month we focus on a different theme, aligning with our core values. We want to insure that our students are instilled with strong ethics which will serve them well throughout their lives. Please speak with your children whenever possible about the importance of honesty, fairness, kindness, good manners, healthy choices to keep them well, good citizenship etc. We are all role models for our youngsters. They are learning from us!

Monthly Town Hall meetings will include creative presentations from each class based on our character education themes. This is a special time when we all gather and learn, Celebrating each other.

In my role as counselor, I see individual students who have special needs or challenging situations, e.g. splitting up of families, illness or death of a loved one, unexpected events, Anxiety producing situations etc.. If you believe your child needs personal counseling, please contact me at any time.

I also provide social skills groups for selected students.

I can refer families to outside agencies for counseling, when so desired. These opportunities exist for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

For anyone in need of school supplies, clothing or other social services, just let me know. We were pleased we were able to distribute back-packs at the Open House.

I will again be sending home information about Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday Baskets for those families who would like this assistance.

Please know that I am here every day to serve you and your family in any way I can. I have many sources and agencies I can tap into to provide support.

This is going to be a fabulous year. We have such a dedicated new administration and staff. Everyone has been working diligently to prepare for the best year ever.

Here's to a great school year! This is going to be the best one ever!

Karen Lauren, Counselor

Karen_j_lauren@mcpsmd.org

301-353-0915

COUNSELOR'S CORNER – MS. LAURENO

A message from Montgomery County Public Schools Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

Creating an environment that is free of bullying, harassment, or intimidation so that schools are safe places in which to learn

Safe Schools promote Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

MCPS is committed to ensuring student safety while also developing students' social and emotional competencies.

The five essential social and emotional competencies are:

- ◆ Self-awareness
- ◆ Self-management
- ◆ Social awareness
- ◆ Relationship skills and
- ◆ Responsible decision making

Students who develop these competencies are less likely to bully others and will have skills necessary to effectively handle bullying.

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

www.stopbullyingnow.com

www.bullying.org

www.safeyouth.com

www.cyberbullying.com

www.safeyouth.org

www.inthemix.org/bullying

www.kidshealth.org

www.pta.org/bullying.asp

www.stopbullyingworld.com

<http://www.netsmartkids.org/indexFL.htm>

August 2015

Welcome Back To The Media Center From Mrs. Zygmunt and Mr. Edwards!

Do you love stories? Does your mind thirst for information? Come to the media center to find answers to questions and enjoy a good tale! Your child will visit the library for a regular book exchange at least two times a month. Books can be checked out for up to 2 weeks, however, each student can exchange their books as often as they wish using a media pass issued by their homeroom teacher. We ask that a safe place for books is designated in your homes for safe keeping and that you remind your child to bring their library materials back to school on their class media day and each student can exchange books as often as needed using a media center pass. Kindergarten students keep their library books in the classroom. In addition to the wonderful new titles added to our collection, Montgomery County Public Schools has purchased several online services available to your child from home using an Internet connection.

This year our school has purchased subscriptions to BrainPop, BookFlix, ScienceFlix and TrueFlix. These are online databases of informational videos and books for you and your family to enjoy. In addition, we have expanded our collection of E-Books. E-Books are read online using a device that can access the internet, such as an Ipad. All of these wonderful resources can be accessed at any time by logging on the Waters Landing Elementary School website and opening the Media page. There you will see the link to Destiny, our book catalog where you will find access links to online services. Media Center policies and procedures are more fully explained on the Waters Landing website. Please see the website and password list below. MCPS asks that passwords be given to families connected with our school system only. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Finally, I encourage all families to take advantage of the public library. It is in walking distance of our school and a link to services provided at the public library is on the Media Page of the WLES website. A library card is free and you will have access to even more books, materials, and online services. Think of the public library as your own 'wrap around' program for reading and exploration.

I look forward to teaching your child about how to find information and encourage reading for enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Mary Zygmunt, Media Specialist and Barry Edwards, Media Assistant

Centrally Purchased Online Subscription Services- and E-Book Passwords for Waters Landing ES

None of these require a username or password in MCPS schools. We have included access information for home use.
Some individual schools have opted to purchase additional products.

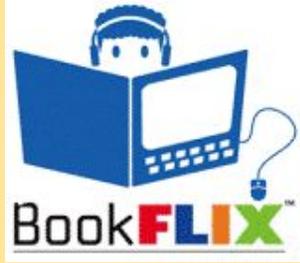
Resource and website URL	Username/Password (for Home Use)	Description
 http://school.eb.com	mcps, search	Britannica School is an encyclopedia where you can search for articles on a variety of topics.
 http://quest.eb.com	mcps, search	Image Quest has a collection of images that you can download and use in your school projects.
 http://www.america.eb.com	mcps, search	Annals of American History has speeches, historical accounts, memoirs, poems, images and multimedia all about American History.
 http://escolar.eb.com/	mcps, search	Escolar Online is the Britannica School encyclopedia in Spanish. Find articles on a variety of topics written in Spanish.
 http://moderna.eb.com/	mcps, search	Enciclopedia Moderna is a Spanish language encyclopedia that has many articles plus timelines, an atlas, and a dictionary.

 <p>http://global.eb.com/</p>	<p>mcps, search</p>	<p>Global Reference Center is a database where you can find information from around the globe written in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French and Spanish.</p>
 <p>http://world.eb.com/</p>	<p>mcps, search</p>	<p>World Data Analyst is a database in which you can compare data on different countries.</p>
 <p>http://online.culturegrams.com</p>	<p>mcps, mcps</p>	<p>Culturegrams has information on 182 countries and cultures, including history, land and climate, religion, personal appearance, gestures, language, government, and family life.</p>
 <p>http://noodletools.com</p>	<p>Individual Accounts Set Up By Classroom Teachers</p>	<p>Use Noodletools to create citations, notecards, outlines and papers for your research projects.</p>
 <p>http://decades.sirs.com</p>	<p>mcps, mcps</p>	<p>SIRS Decades is a database of primary and secondary source documents organized around the decades of the 20th century.</p>
 <p>http://discoverer.sirs.com</p>	<p>mcps, mcps</p>	<p>SIRS Discoverer is a database of articles and images from newspapers, magazines, government documents, and websites.</p>

 <p>http://sks.sirs.com</p>	<p>mcps, mcps</p>	<p>SIRS Knowledge Source has several databases to help middle and high school students with research on current issues, government topics, arts and history.</p>
 <p>http://teachingbooks.net/home/</p>	<p>mcps, mcps</p>	<p>Teaching books has author interviews, book summaries and other information about books and authors.</p>

Resource and Website URL	Username/Password (for Home Use)	Description
 <p>http://search.ebscohost.com</p>	<p>s9612143/password</p>	<p>Explora Primary School includes a dictionary, encyclopedia and images and videos. It also has teacher resources.</p>
 <p>http://www.pebblego.com</p>	<p>waterslanding/school</p>	<p>PebbleGo has Animals, Biographies, Dinosaurs, Social Studies and Science articles to help you with your research projects.</p>
 <p>http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/auto_login.asp?U=mcpsmd&P=books</p>	<p>None needed for home access</p>	<p>TumbleBook Library has animated “talking” books. You can read a book on your own or have it read to you.</p>

Resource and Website URL	Username/Password (for Home Use)	Description
 <p>http://askusnow.info/</p>	None needed	<p><i>Ask Us Now!</i> let's you ask an online librarian questions about research and get help in using websites and online resources.</p>
 <p>http://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/az.php</p>	You will need your library card to login to the databases	<p><i>MCPL A-Z Databases</i> has magazine articles, encyclopedias and eBooks to support your research needs.</p>
 <p>brainpop.com</p>	wles/brainpop	<p><i>Brainpop</i> is a group of educational websites with over 1,000 short animated movies for students in grades K-12 (ages 6 to 17), together with quizzes and related materials, covering the subjects of science, social studies, English, mathematics, engineering and technology, health , art and music.</p>
 <p>http://scienceflix.scholastic.com</p>	waterslanding/flix	<p><i>ScienceFlix</i> combines curriculum- driven leveled content, interactive features, and intuitive navigation into a single, highly engaging science resource.</p>



<http://bkflix.grolier.com>

waterslanding/flix

BookFlix is a new online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks from Weston Woods with related nonfiction eBooks from Scholastic to build a love of reading and learning.



<http://trueflix.scholastic.com>

waterslanding/flix

TrueFlix is the online resource that allows students to master content-area knowledge in science and social studies while honing their literacy skills.



www.MyCapstoneLibrary.com

waterlandinges/books

Capstone E-Books Books to read online!



<http://www.rourkebooks.com>

waterslandinges/ebooks74

Rourke E-Books Books to read online!



<http://www.epointplus.com/login>

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Rosen EPoint Plus Books to read online!

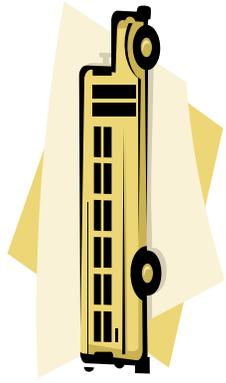


<https://www.mackinvia.com>

waterslanding/mackin

MackinVIA

Books to read online!



September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 PTA Meeting 7:00PM	2	3	4 Back to School Pic- nic 6:30PM	5
6	7 Labor Day School & Office Closed	8 7:00PM Back-to- School Night for grades Kindergarten- ten, 1 st and 2 nd 7:00PM	9 Back-to-School Night for grades 3rd, 4th and 5th 7:00PM	10	11	12
13	14 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			