important Dates

November 7
5-8 pm
Parent Volunteer
Training and Planning
Meeting

November 8
Medal Day
Step Dance
Report Cards go home

November 9 8:30-11:30 Fall Clean Up Day

November 14 Twin Day

November 15 No School

November 18-22
American Education
Week

November 20 9:30-11:00 am Open House for Parent Visitation

November 21
Picture Make up Day
Math Night
PTA Meeting

November 28-29 Thanksgiving Break

<u>December 6</u> PTA Sponsored Dance R. Anthony Japzon, Principal Amber Kilcoyne, Assistant Principal

Parent Newsletter

Lines of Communication

This year, one of our top priorities is providing our school community with timely communication of all of our school events and initiatives. There are several ways we disseminate information to our school community including paper flyers, parent newsletters, school-wide emails, texts and phone calls, Facebook, Twitter, our blog, and of course your child's teacher can assist you! In order to receive school emails, texts and phone calls you must be sure to turn in your email address, cell phone number and/or home phone to the main office. The school's Facebook page is called, "Medfield Heights Elementary," the Twitter account is, "Medfield Heights," the blog is "http://medfieldparent.weebly.com/," and the PTA Facebook page is, "Medfield Heights Elementary P.T.A."

The "Write" Stuff

All students at Medfield Heights Elementary are focusing on writing informational texts based on research this quarter. By the end of Quarter 2, each student will have completed a published piece of writing about a specific social studies/historical topic. You can help our quarterly writing initiative by finding books about your child's topic at your local library and doing some research at home. Let our teachers know if you can volunteer some time to help in the classroom during Writing Workshop.

Fall Cleanup Day



. Each year at Medfield, the school community comes together to spruce up particular areas of need around our school building. Saturday, November 9th from 8:30-11:30am Medfield will host our annual Fall Clean-up Day. This year our focus is the cafeteria, sensory break room, and bathrooms. Our plan is to power wash the red chairs that our students sit in during lunch and assemblies. As you know, our building is scheduled to be rebuilt with the money from the 21st Century Rebuilding Project. At this point, we are trying to maintain the furniture we have since we're getting a brand new building within the next few years. If you have a power washer and are willing to help out for a few hours, please join us! Breakfast and coffee will be provided. Please contact Ms. Kilcoyne or Chris Williams for more information.

Medfield Blog

Erin Jakowski, a proud parent of a Pre-K student, has worked very hard to create a new website/blog for parents of the Medfield Heights Elementary Community. There is a lot happening at Medfield every day and this online tool serves as a partner to the PTA Facebook page, school-wide emails, and paper newsletters that are used for communication on a daily basis. The blog and site can become a useful source for important dates, events, news, teacher and classroom spotlights, as well as a new way for parents to connect, join committees and generate ideas and energy for the school.

Stay informed and stay connected at www.medfieldparent.weebly.com



Attendance Initiative

Medfield Heights Elementary School is participating in The Annual Mayor's Attendance Competition! We want to improve perfect attendance records in every homeroom between now and Thanksgiving! The winning school with the best attendance will receive an exciting prize package and a visit from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Here is how we will do it:

Classes with most improved weekly attendance (week to week so if last week the class*had zero days of perfect attendance and this week they had 2 days of perfect attendance they get a prize?) will receive small prizes and at the end of our tracking period. The class with the best overall attendance and/or most improved attendance will receive a dance party. Even better – individual families who have made great improvements in their child's attendance rate will receive a \$10 grocery store gift card as a "Thank You" for your efforts! Let's work together to ensure each student has as much classroom time as possible.

You're invited!

Please join us for our first annual Parent Volunteer Training and Planning Meeting

When: November 7, 2013, 5:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Library

What to bring: Your appetite - drinks and sandwiches will be provided, your calendars for planning and your great ideas for Medfield Heights!

Why: To work with a team of parents and teachers with the same committee interests to plan events and initiatives for the school year.

Free Produce

Organizations & individuals can come out to receive free fruits and vegetables every Sunday! There is no ID required or no proof of need. Just sign in & bring bags! The food is of good quality. It is donated by Coastal Sunbelt Produce and many of the Baltimore City Farmer's Market Vendors. Organizations will have to sign in with organization information and how food will be used (soup kitchen, food pantry, door to door distribution).

Location: 1400 Bond Street, 21213- Oliver Neighborhood Farm Stand

Time: 1:30 pm



Medfield's PTA is sponsoring a Food and Supply Drive in partnership with a Johns Hopkins University Student group during the month of November. All items collected will go towards various homeless outreach groups such as the House of Ruth. Each homeroom will be assigned a specific item to bring to school during the month of November. At the end of the month, the student group at Hopkins will come to pick up the items and distribute them to the various shelters around Baltimore City. To conclude this drive on Friday, December 6, 2013 from 6:00-8:00pm we will host a student dance with admission being two non-perishable food items.

Students may not attend the dance without a parent or guardian. There will be crafts, music, dancing, and a snack table!

Please use the chart below to see the items each specific homeroom is collecting. This is an optional student activity and the student group will be grateful for any items we collect. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

| Homeroom Teacher | Items |
|------------------|---|
| Ms. Bickish | Chap Stick |
| Ms. Sells | Peanut Butter Crackers |
| Ms. Stokes | Granola Bars or some other non-perishable snack |
| Ms. Palmares | Cans of Tuna |
| Ms. Hoffman | Packets of hot chocolate, or Cider |
| Ms. Mandell | Small packets of tissues |
| Ms. C. O'Neill | Travel sized toiletries |
| Mr. Poknis | Socks-any sizes (not used) |
| Ms. Casey | Baby Wipes |
| Ms. Selko | Hair Brushes/Combs |
| Ms. Johes | Full sized toiletries |
| Ms. Wood | Wash cloths or towels |
| Ms. Tate | Dipers/Pull ups size 3,4,6, |
| Ms. Miciche | Tweezers/Nail Clippers |