



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

E-Link

Electronic Parent Newsflash

March 2010, Issue 03

SPECIAL EDITION

Parents, two important issues are included in this special edition. The information is primarily for parents of high school students, but we felt it would be good to keep everyone updated.

Daniel Freeman, Ed. D, Superintendent

PYRAMID INTERNET SCAM

Please be advised that on Tuesday, March 16th, a substitute teacher at Montgomery County High School acted inappropriately in advising students to participate in an Internet program to make extra money. She provided information, including handouts, detailing how students could log onto a site and input license plate numbers, and receive cash. The site does exist and it requires students to *enter their social security numbers*.



While it is likely that the substitute teacher was unaware of the danger of the site and genuinely thought she was helping the students, her actions were inappropriate, in violation of policies, and school officials had no knowledge of them. When the High School administration learned that the information had been provided, it was investigated, reported to the appropriate officials, and announcements were made for the next two mornings advising students not to go to the site and that it was an Internet scam.

Unfortunately, some students had already entered information into the site. Please check with your children or other family members to see if anyone else has participated. Because identities are compromised through the provision of social security numbers to the site, anyone who has entered their information is instructed to contact the Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline and the three major credit agencies to report it. The Federal Trade Commission is aware of the incident and the Attorney General's Office is conducting an investigation.

The telephone number for the Federal Trade Commission is: 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338).

Contact the Montgomery County Schools Police Department for additional contact numbers for the credit reporting agencies - 859-497-8765 or 8770 and request to speak to an officer or to be connected with extension 2320. Also, use this contact number if you have questions or need additional information.



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GRADUATION, ETC.

In anticipation of no further days being missed this school year, an amended 2009-10 calendar will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at its March 29th meeting. The calendar will recommend that the last day of school for students be Wednesday, June 2nd, 2010.

Ending school on June 2nd brings into question the date for graduation. It had been our goal to hold graduation on Friday, June 4th. Graduation has traditionally been planned for Friday to allow more convenience for out-of-town family members who may be attending. However, with the school year extending into June, and the last day of school for students as June 2nd, there is nothing to keep us from proceeding with graduation on Wednesday, June 2nd. There is also a possibility that we could have senior students participating in KHSAA state tournament softball or track activities on June 4th. This occurred last year and there were seniors who were unable to participate in graduation.

I visited senior classrooms on Thursday, March 18th to share the above information. I asked the seniors to discuss the pros and cons of holding graduation on Wednesday, June 2nd versus Friday, June 4th, and report back to me (through a count in their senior English classes) on Monday, March 22nd. **Parents of senior students, please discuss this issue with your children and let us know if you have concerns.**

If the majority preferred to proceed with graduation on Wednesday, June 2nd, the Baccalaureate ceremony could be held on Wednesday, May 26th.

And, just as a reminder, unless we have some kind of freak snowstorm, etc., school will be closed as follows:

Friday, March 19th - KEA Day

Monday, April 5th - Friday, April 9th - Spring Break

Tuesday, May 18th - Election Day

Monday, May 31st - Memorial Day

Currently the State testing window is scheduled for April 19th - 30th. The Commissioner of Education, Terry Holliday, has requested that the Kentucky Board of Education change the dates to later in the school year (likely May 3rd - 14th). If this is offered, our district will change to the later dates. The Kentucky Board of Education does not meet until April 13th, so a final decision will not be known until then.

2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

We have had a number of inquiries regarding the calendar for the 2010-11 school year. Unfortunately, we cannot complete next year's calendar until the Kentucky General Assembly concludes. Once action regarding the number of required school days, instructional hours, etc. is official, we will prepare a calendar, after giving consideration to earlier start dates, shorter breaks, etc. to better prepare for making up inclement weather days. The calendar will then be submitted for review and approval by the Montgomery County Board of Education. This will, hopefully, occur at the Board's April meeting (tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 26th).