



Educating Students For A Changing World

Mark Your Calendar

December 21 Interims Reports Go Home
December 23-January 1 Winter Break

January 2 Return to School
January 16 Holiday-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear George Mason Family,

During the holiday season it is a wonderful opportunity to take time to pause and give thanks for the gifts in our lives. We truly have much to be grateful for at George Mason.

We are very proud of the hard work and dedication our students are putting forth in their academics and this is paying great dividends in their growth and learning. The staff's pursuit of excellence has been exceptional as they have been implementing a new curriculum. Their commitment to the success and well being for every student makes George Mason school stand apart from the rest. Our PTA continues to show strong leadership making many great contributions to our school while strengthening our community.

This past month has highlighted what a strong community George Mason is. There has been a tremendous display of caring and generosity. Our first ever, 'Dragons Helping Dragons' Thanksgiving food drive provided over 150 meals for families. Our holiday 'Giving Tree' continues to grow and is providing hundreds of gifts for children. We literally have no where to store all these gifts!!! Thank you everyone for your contributions and kind spirit.

This winter season as you enjoy spending time with your family, do not forget that the joy of cooking and playing games as a family can reap many rewards including stronger critical/ logical thinking, math skills and stronger family bonding. Children should continue to read over the holidays to keep the learning momentum going.

Please be sure to extend your gratitude to each of those whose contributions make George Mason extraordinary. On behalf of our entire staff, we wish all our families a joyous and wonderful holiday season filled with magnificent memories. May your New Year be filled with good health and prosperity!

Happy Holidays!
Kevin West

After School Programs: Fall 2011 & Winter/Spring 2012

With the exception of Hip Hop and French, all after school programs ends this week. A few programs (Choir, Jump Rope Club and KidSpanish A and B) will end this week but resume meeting immediately after the winter break.*

The last day for each program is listed below:

- Tuesday, Dec. 13: Beginner Chess, Art Club, Journalism, KidSpanish A* and Yoga B
- Wednesday, Dec. 14: Chinese, German, Italian, Intermediate Chess, Boys' Running, Science Club, Choir* and Fitness Club
- Thursday, Dec. 15: Yoga A, KidSpanish B* and Math Club
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 : French
- Thursday, Dec. 22 : Hip Hop A and B will meet as regularly scheduled this week. The last class for both Hip Hop A and B will be a parent show on Thursday, December 22 2:45 in the gym.

*The following programs will resume meeting immediately after winter break:

- Jump Rope Club will begin on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.
- KidSpanish A will resume class on Tuesday, January 3, 2012
- KidSpanish B will resume class on Thursday, January 5, 2012.
- Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

Choir will end with the Winter concert on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Students that wish to continue with choir after the Winter concert must sign up for Choir on the Winter/Spring 2012 registration form.

The 2012 Winter/Spring After School Program packet will be coming home in the Thursday folders this week. The Winter/Spring 2012 After School program packet/forms will also be available on the GM PTA website:
<http://www.georgemasonpta.org/>

Please fill out ONE registration form (and bus form, if necessary) per child. **Registration forms for the 2012 Winter/Spring session must be completed and turned in by 3:00 PM on Monday, January 9, 2012.**

Please email *Melissa Harrington* at mharrington33@hotmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Spiritwear Items!

Spiritwear orders were delivered on Tuesday. By now you should have found your students' Spiritwear items in their backpack. We have a very small quantity of clothing items left in size Youth-Small and Youth-Medium only. We also purchased a surplus of car magnets. If you are interested in purchasing one of these items, please contact maureen.waters@one.verizon.com. Thanks for the great show of George Mason school spirit!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

School closing announcements, due to inclement weather, are made in the following order:

ACPS Hotline: [703-866-5300](tel:703-866-5300)

ACPS Web Site: www.acps.k12.va.us

ACPS Emergency E-news: e-mail announcement

ACPS-TV, Channel 71 in the City of Alexandria

Local television and radio stations

Winter Break

December 23 – January 1

Classes resume

January 2, 2012!

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

