

GARRISON GAZETTE



Attach: Attendance; Thanksgiving

November 17, 2022

Good morning Garrison families,

After a short holiday week last week, we're making the most of this rare full November school week, with field trips, Native American heritage learning, last night's amazing DC SCORES **Poetry Slam** performance, and tomorrow's first in-person all-**School Family Assembly** in the Commons since March 6, 2020, a week before the pandemic (little did we know!). There have been a lot of cold and flu bugs going around school this month. Please get your child's flu shot and covid booster and make sure you're all getting good sleep so we can stay healthy for school and the upcoming holiday season. If your child has a cold, please have them mask up at school. Note: all students and staff must submit a negative rapid **covid test to return to school after Thanksgiving** and winter break – details below. Wishing you and your family a happy Thanksgiving holiday!

UPDATES:

- **Garrison Greet the Week:** This week's Greet the Week video (and previous editions) can be found in the [GtW video archive!](#)
- **Holiday Program opportunity – RSVP now!** Garrison ES was invited to participate in a holiday program called "Santa's House." The program is being hosted by Order of the Eastern Star on December 3, 2022 from 12:00- 3:00pm at the Masonic Temple, which is located at 1000 U Street NW. Program organizers have 35 openings for Garrison students to participate in the celebration where students will receive lunch and gifts. If you are interested in your student(s) attending the event, please complete the [form](#) ASAP. **The participants will be identified based on the first 35 responses that are received. Ms. Anthony will send you a permission form if your student is selected to participate.** Thank you!!
- **ICYMI – Wildcats in the news (again!):** Ms. Douyon's fourth grade class, the Terriers, were featured as [KidsPost's November class!](#)
- **A fond farewell:** Our wonderful STEM instructional coach **Kaila Ramsey** has been tapped as the new Director of Elementary Math and Science for DCPS, and transitioned to that central office role this week. We'll miss her dearly, but will cheer her on as she brings her bold vision for STEM instruction – which has led to our team's and school's record growth – to impact schools across DC. We've begun the hiring process for an excellent new STEM coach, and will keep you posted. (DCPS has also tried to take our amazing ELA coach Kate Noonan – which tends to happen with top talent – but she promises she's not going anywhere, and will continue to lead DCPS literacy instruction through her coaching work and lab sites here!
- **Lockdown drill:** This morning we did our first of two DCPS-required lockdown drills of the school year, which is used in the case of an active security threat on campus. Teachers previewed the drill with classes in advance, and students practiced hiding out of view of locked and covered doors and windows.

We all wish this were not part of modern America's school experience, but our children's safety is the most important thing in the entire world, so we do all we can to prepare for and ensure that every day.

- **Now, on a more joyful note:** [November Specials Team Newsletter](#)
- **No after-school Tuesday:** As staff and families prepare for Thanksgiving break, there will be **no after-school program this Tues, Nov 21**. All students must be picked up by 3:15pm.
- **Test to Return from Thanksgiving:** All DCPS students and staff must negative rapid covid test to return on Monday, Nov 28. Rapid test kits will be available in the lobby until 6pm on Friday and Monday, and will be sent home in student backpacks on Monday. [Upload your child's result here](#) on Sunday, Nov 27 before 9pm, and bring a photo of it to arrival just in case.

REMINDERS:

- **Attendance reminders from Ms. Sanchez:** Attendance matters! Missing school = missing out. *Did you know that missing just 2 days of school every month over the course of a school year can make it harder to learn to read? Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves.* Please review the attached DCPS Attendance Flyer outlining the important parts of the attendance policy (which is mostly unchanged from the previous school year). A few points to highlight:
- As the holiday season begins, we ask that you **please** plan travel around the **many** dates students have off school ([calendar here](#)). Please also try to plan medical appointments on these off days. If this is not possible, try to plan appointments late in the afternoon or early in the morning so students can at least be present for a part of the school day.
- Please continue to notify classroom teachers **AND** the Attendance POC (Ms. Sanchez: isabella.sanchez-pimienta2@k12.dc.gov; 786-853-1305) **every time a student will miss school**. (PK, Ms. Castro has transitioned to another assignment in DCPS so you no longer need to copy her; we miss her and wish her well!)
- Be sure to request a medical note for any medical appointment and submit it to the Attendance POC or the office so that we can excuse those absences.
- *Update: DCPS is piloting with [EveryDay Labs](#) to send notifications to families with updates about students' absences. **Please note that these notifications include both excused and unexcused absences.** See the attached FAQ for more information.*

Upcoming events:

- **November 18 (tomorrow):** Term 1 School Family Assembly (students only this time due to full capacity in the Commons, contrary to the plug in the Greet the Week video; we'll share highlights with you after, and appreciate your understanding as we grow!); **please ensure your Wildcat gets to school on time at 8:15 tomorrow for breakfast before the 8:45 SFA!**
- **November 22:** NO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM! All students must be picked up by 3:15pm
- **November 23-25:** School closed Wed-Fri for Thanksgiving Break – we wish you happy, healthy holiday!
- **December 2:** *Café con Padres* coffee chat for our Spanish-speaking families
- **December 10:** Virtual MySchoolDC EdFest 10-1 ([details here](#)); Fifth grade families, attend to get MS info!
- **December 21:** Wildcats Winter Program (details in next *Gazette*!)
- **December 23-January 2:** Winter Break – school closed

Love,

Principal Kip

Spanish version: