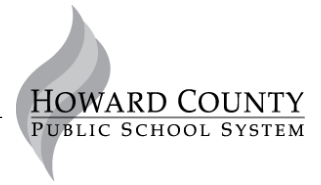


# LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5470 Hesperus Drive • Columbia, MD 21044 • 410-313-6879 • (F) 410-313-7106 • www.hcpss.org/lfes



August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Longfellow Parents:

It is hard to believe that the 2011-12 school year will be beginning in just a few weeks! As your new Principal at Longfellow, I'm thrilled to be joining the Longfellow school community and look forward to working closely together with staff and parents in assisting our school in moving forward. **The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** The school hours will remain the same this school year. Doors open for students at 8:45 a.m. and dismissal begins at 3:20 p.m. **On Friday August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00 p.m.,** all families are invited to visit Longfellow to meet teachers and to drop off school supplies. At this time class lists will be posted so your child may meet his/her homeroom teacher for the 2011-12 school year. **New students and parents to Longfellow are invited to come at 1:15 p.m. for a brief orientation prior to the open house.**

One of the most important decisions I make as Principal is the hiring of staff. I have high expectations for the selection of individuals to work with our precious children. I'm very excited about the talented individuals that were hired over the summer and will be joining our Longfellow staff for the 2011-12 school year.

Please join me in welcoming:

**Michelle Bennett/Principal's Secretary-** Michelle was able to work with Pat Dutch this summer to ensure a smooth transition in this important position as Pat begins her retirement. Michelle is friendly and service oriented and will be an asset to the front office staff.

**Danielle Gwinn/First Grade Teacher-** Danielle is an experienced educator who has taught in New Jersey, Michigan, and Hawaii! Danielle is very excited about joining our First Grade Team at Longfellow.

**Malerie Rubnitz/Special Education Teacher-** Malerie is an experienced special education teacher that has been teaching in Virginia Beach for the past three years after graduating from Towson University. This position was created as a result of the transfer of Deborah Glaze to Running Brook Elementary.

**Lisa Plotkin/Grade 2 Teacher-** Lisa is an experienced teacher who most recently taught second grade at Pointers Run Elementary. Lisa has also taught in both Richmond, VA and Pittsburgh, PA.

**Sarah Croushler/Student Support-** Sarah is joining our staff in the area of student services supporting our Alternative Education program. Sarah was the Alternative Education Teacher at Deep Run last school year.

**Julia Diamond/ESOL Teacher-** We have been allocated an additional 0.5 ESOL position in addition to Maxine Drazenovic our current 1.0 ESOL Teacher. Julie is currently working 0.5 as an ESOL teacher at Deep Run and becomes a full-time employee as she begins as a part-time ESOL teacher at LFES. Julia speaks both French and Spanish!

One of my goals as Principal is to develop multiple systems for frequent, open and transparent communication. Therefore, several systems of communication have been planned:

- Information on upcoming school events will be communicated throughout the year using a variety of sources including our on-line newsletter, fliers home, and/or may be accessed through our Longfellow Website ([loes.hcpss.org](http://loes.hcpss.org)). To be reminded of upcoming school activities, school closing/delays and important school information, all families are encouraged to sign up for HCPSS News ([hcpssnews.com](http://hcpssnews.com)).
- In addition, to facilitate two-way communication, *Listen and Learn Dialogue Meetings* with the Principal will be held periodically throughout the school year. The purpose of these meetings will be to develop relationships and facilitate two-way communication as we collaborate and partner to move Longfellow forward. Dates for these meetings will be advertised on our website, through HCPSS News, and via our school newsletter. Please feel free to e-mail me at [pamela\\_akers@hcpss.org](mailto:pamela_akers@hcpss.org) if you have questions/topic requests for these informal meetings.
- *New Parent Dessert*- The PTA, in partnership with the school administration invites all new parents to Longfellow to the New Parent Dessert, prior to our PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 p.m. Not new to Longfellow, but interested in how you can be more involved in the PTA? Please join us!

As parents, you are an important part of the home/school team. We encourage all parents, both mom and dad, to join the PTA and become an active member. Information on joining the PTA will be available at the Longfellow Open House. Our Longfellow PTA meets on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information on opportunities available through the PTA, please contact Laura Shulgold <[lshulgold@adnetaccountnet.com](mailto:lshulgold@adnetaccountnet.com)>

Mark your calendar for our Back to School Nights:

Tuesday, September 20 <sup>th</sup> -	RECC, Pre. K, and Grades 1 & 2	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> -	Grades 3, 4, & 5	6:30 p.m.

We invite ALL parents to attend this evening when teachers will share essential information that will be needed for the 2011-'12 school year regarding grade level report cards, curriculum, and classroom expectations.

At Longfellow Elementary we are committed to the attitude of *continuous improvement*. As Principal, I welcome your feedback and comments concerning any phase of operation at Longfellow.

I hope the remaining days of summer are enjoyable ones for you and your family. I look forward to seeing many Longfellow students and families at our open house at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Akers  
Principal, Longfellow Elementary