

POINTER VIEW NEWSLETTER

www2.hcpss.org/pres

February 3, 2012

Health Room Direct Dial Line 410-313-5633

Health Room Fax line 410-531-4825

School Hours: Arrival 9:10 - 9:25

Dismissal 3:45 - 3:55

Lunch Prices: Please do not send large denominations of bills for lunches

www.schoolmenus.com

Student Lunch - \$2.50

Milk - .50

Adult Lunch - \$4.00

The Master Schedule for students is on our website.
Please consult it to check your child's schedule.

DON'T FORGET To send in your box-tops!

The PRES website (www2.hcpss.org/pres) will link you to each staff member's email address (the best method of communication) and webpage (if available). Just click on the staff member's name under their team to go directly to their email. Please use this as your first line of communication when time is not of the essence. Please keep in mind that when the office staff takes phone messages they are e-mailed to the staff member.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

FEBRUARY

07 Ident-a-Kid Safety ID Program

08 School Spirit Day - Wear School Spirit wear

14 Valentine's Day Parties (see important notice below)

REMINDER ABOUT FOOD POLICY

Due to food allergy concerns, we ask that you not send any food products in your child's Valentine's cards. Valentines cards containing food products (candy, etc) will not be distributed to students and will be returned home with your child.

15 School closes 3 hours early at 12:55 for conferences
Jump Rope for Heart, 1:00 - 3:00

The PTA is collecting non-perishable food donations to support Food on the 15th during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please bring a donation to your child's classroom. For more info contact Sue Monthie at sgmonthie@verizon.net. Thank you!

16 School closes 3 hours early at 12:55 for conferences

17 School Closed - Conferences

20 School Closed - President's Day

23 4th Grade Field Trip - Baltimore Museum of Industry

27-3/2 Kindergarten Registration Week 10:00 - 2:00 (see below for information)

28 Picture Day

29 Picture Day

Interims Issued

MARCH

01 Family Reading Night

02 Dr. Seuss Day

05 3rd Grade Field Trip - In-House, Zoomobile

06 3rd Grade Field Trip - In-House, Zoomobile

22 2nd Grade Field Trip - Atholton High School Play

30 School Closes 3 Hours early - End of 3rd Marking Period

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We are still in need of parent volunteers to help cover the office during the week of New Student/Kindergarten Registration held February 27 - March 3, 2012. If you are available for a two hour time block from 10:00 - 12:00 or 12:00 - 2:00 on those dates please email Ro Pavlovsky at rpavlovsky@hcpss.org to sign up. Please include your phone number and email address when responding. We so appreciate your help and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you so much!

New Student Kindergarten Registration February 27th - March 2nd

Please make arrangements to come in to register your child. Classes will be formed in May. If we do not have an accurate number of new enrollments (because parents might wait until summer to register) it could cause us to have larger class sizes. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD THIS WEEK AND ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO REGISTER AS WELL!

Below is a list of required documents needed to register your child.

1. Custodial parent must register the student.
 2. Original **Birth Certificate or Passport** as child's proof of birth.
 3. **Parent Photo ID** (driver's license, passport, etc.)
 4. Any one of the following **utility bills** showing property address:
 - a. BG&E
 - b. Telephone (land line only)
 - c. Water Bill
 - d. Comcast Cable
 5. **Proof of residency (any ONE of the following):**
 - a. **Original Deed or Deed of Trust** if you have been in your home for more than more than 90 days (with all required signatures) or,
 - b. **Signed settlement** papers once you have settled on your home or,
 - c. Original Current **Lease** if you are leasing a house or apartment
- **If you have not yet settled on your home you must contact Marsha Miller at 410-313-6997.**
 - **If you live with another family in their home you must contact PPW Kevin Lee at 410-313-7478, to fill out a Multi-Family Disclosure Form.**
6. Proof of **Immunizations** (even if not current, with Dr.'s signature or office stamp).
 7. **Social Security Number** or card (requested, not required)
 8. Legal proof of custody (court order) *If applicable.*

Children not born in the USA will need to contact the Office of International Student Services @ 410-313-7101 or 7102.

Great News! During conferences on Wednesday February 15th and 16th we will begin registration for new students/kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year! Tell your neighbors!

From 2:30 - 6:30 on 2/15 and 2/16 you can bring your paperwork to the office to register your child for the next school year. Please see our school website <http://pres.hcpss.org/> for a list of items needed to register your child.

If you have any questions, please call the school office (410-313-7142).

PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Pointers Run Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) toddler and preschool programs will begin accepting applications for classes for the

2012-2013 school year on **February 13th**. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 and 4 years of age for the 2012-2013 school year may pick up an application package in the school office **beginning February 13, 2012**.

All applications must be returned by March 16, 2012. A limited number of openings are available for children without disabilities. Children are selected based upon screening information given on the application form and the "Ages and Stages Questionnaire," as well as observations of the child's participation in a playgroup. If necessary, a lottery process is conducted.

If you have any questions, please contact Jane Berman at (410) 313-7142 or at jane_berman@hcpss.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

We know it's cold outside right now, but the Red Cross is looking for blood donors who have warm hearts to help save lives. Winter is one of the more challenging times to schedule enough donors to meet hospital needs, but the need for trauma cases, surgical patients and people with cancer doesn't stop just because it's winter. We are hoping Clarksville Middles School PTA can count on you to donate blood at our blood drive on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 from 2 :00 - 8:00 p.m.

Please contact Vicki Harvey at vickiharvey@remax.net or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your donation!!!!

SAVE THE DATE!

Are you excited to go to middle school?

Are you looking forward to meeting new friends and teachers?

This year you have a chance to get to know Clarksville Middle School a few months early, at their first annual "Family Fun Run" on May 17th - Save the Date!

Who? PRES and CES 5th graders, current CMS 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, and their families

When? May 17th, 2012, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m,

What? A 2 mile run/walk, followed by a picnic with family & friends. There

will be a DJ to help celebrate you becoming a new member of our school!

How? Registration forms will come home in a few weeks!

Immediately after the Fun Run, you are invited to attend CMS' annual GT Enrichment fair, starting at 7 p.m. inside the school.

More details are coming soon!

CONFERENCE NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

PLEASE NOTE: If you have a child in grades 2 – 5 schedule your conference with your child's **MATH** teacher. If you have a child in grades PreK – 1 schedule your conference with your child's **LANGUAGE ARTS** teacher.

If you are scheduling sibling conferences, it is suggested that you leave a 15-minute block between conferences so that you will have time to transition from one place to another.

In order to schedule parent/teacher conferences in pickAtime, you will need to create a user account every school year. *In order to do this you MUST have your child's Student ID number. This nine-digit ID number (000-000-000) does not change from year to year and can be found printed in several places,*

1) On your child's report card that will come home on **January 30, 2012**

2) On your child's report card envelope.

3) Any Interim Report or Report Card from previous years

However, if you used pickAtime for fall conference scheduling, you **WILL NOT NEED** student ID numbers. You are already set up in the program and do not need your child's ID number. If you are new to conference scheduling you can find this **nine-digit ID number printed on your child's report card**. Unfortunately, a student ID number cannot be given over the telephone. Therefore, if you do not have your child's Student ID number, you will not be able to use the PickATime scheduling link.

To schedule your child's conference go to Howard County Public School's main website, www.hcpss.org and click on the link for pickAtime. Select the school for which you need to create an account. If you have students in different schools, you will need to go to each school's link to schedule conferences.

However, you will use the same pickAtime account for all school sites. Parents with Internet access will be able to schedule their parent/teacher conferences, print their schedule and have an email reminder of their appointments sent to them. This program is easy to use and can be accessed at your convenience beginning **January 31, 2012 at 12:01 am.** **You will be able to access this program to schedule or cancel your appointments until 11:59 pm on February 10, 2012.** You may call the school at 410-313-7142 between **January 31, 2012** and **February 10, 2012** to cancel or schedule your appointments or if you do not have Internet access.

Directions on how to use this program can be found on our school's website by downloading the file "Parent Directions for Using PickATime."

HAPPY GRAMS SALE BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH!

What a great way to show your friends, teachers, family members or a special someone that you care!! Once again, the 5th grade class will be selling Happy Grams beginning on **Wednesday, February 8th** and lasting until **Valentine's Day!** Just fill out your Happy Grams that were sent home this week, along with a "heartfelt" message, and include **\$1.00** with each Happy Gram you send in. We will then hand deliver your Happy Gram(s) along with a **NEW SPECIAL SURPRISE!** We will be collecting Happy Grams and money outside the cafeteria each morning of the sale from **9:00-9:45**. All proceeds from Happy Gram sales will go toward the end of year 5th grade activities. Feel free to send in as many as you'd like! Additional Happy Grams will be available at the sales table each morning and can also be found on the Pointers Run website www.hcpss.org/pres/. Any questions or for more information, please contact Debbie Merwitz at dmerwitz@gmail.com or Melissa Hamet at mhamet@verizon.net.

Redistricted Student Information

Pointers Run Elementary School will receive 177 students from Fulton Elementary School for the 2012-13 school year. We are planning a set of transition activities to help the families prepare to join our school community. Throughout the school year we will be sending you more information about activities planned for the Fulton families, some of which the entire PRES community will be invited.

Between January and May you will be notified about these events:

- An opportunity for entire families to attend a welcome activity at PRES
- An opportunity for new students to visit our school
- Opportunities for Fulton families to attend additional activities at PRES

We look forward to having our new students join us. We hope to provide a welcoming environment for all children at PRES. Please help us by extending your welcome to the Fulton students and families. We look forward to the activities that will be planned by PTA and the school in the spring. Thanks!

Darlene Fila



Our school is proud to partner with the American Heart Association to help kids with special hearts! Mark your family calendars NOW for our upcoming **Jump Rope For Heart** event taking place on:

Wednesday, Feb. 15th
Grades 3-5 Only

You can help the American Heart Association by helping your child sign up for the event.

More information will be coming home on January 20th from Ms. Brodka and Mr. Wallenhorst. No On-line Registrations please.

The American Heart Association's Mission: To build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Battle of the Books, April 2012: If you are coaching a BoB team this year; please send me an email to let me know. I am happy to be a point of contact for all of the 12 PRES teams....yes folks, **12 teams!!!** Please indicate if it you give permission to share your contact information with other coaches from PRES. With this many teams, you may want to be in contact with each other to share ideas and strategies that you find work for your team.

I will run a mock battle of the books sometime in the weeks preceding the actual event and would like to be sure to include all of the teams. I'm so excited for all of the participants. This is truly a wonderful event and everyone participating is a winner. Contact me at: Janet_Browning@hcpss.org

All the best and Happy Reading!!! Janet Browning, Library Media Specialist

The following students will be representing Pointers Run Elementary School at a special exhibition entitled "The Third and Sixth Grade Showcase". The exhibit will run from January 23 – March 18 at the Board of Education Gallery. An artist's reception is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25 from 5-7 pm.

Congratulations, super 3rd graders:

- ❖ Drew Kassman
- ❖ Ethan Chiang
- ❖ Enoch Graham
- ❖ Cristina Zhang

Animal Shelter Donations

Girl Scout Troop 3364 comprised of PRES 5th graders is collecting donations for Animal Advocates of Howard County. This organization is a nonprofit with no paid staff members. They count on donations to help save the lives of homeless animals. Donation boxes are located in the front of the school and in the 4th and 5th grade areas. Recommended items are dry/wet cat and dog food, soft treats and biscuit type treats, new dog and cat toys, especially Kong type indestructible toys, leashes, blankets, and towels. If you are an animal lover, please consider donating to this worthy cause. Any questions, please contact [Jo Greenberg at 410-531-0331](mailto:Jo.Greenberg@howardcountymd.gov).

The IDENT-A-KID Child Safety Program will be at our school on February 7 to photograph, fingerprint, weigh and measure children. To participate, please fill in the Application Envelope, which will come home with your child on February 3, and have your child return it to school. Applications are also available on line at www.identakid.com. It is recommended that each parent keep a card with them at all times and additional cards should be given to anyone who regularly cares for your child. Participation is at the individual parents' option. The cost per child is \$8 for one card, \$10 for two cards (includes eKid-ID) and \$13 for three cards (includes eKid-ID). An eKid ID is the electronic Ident-A-Kid card sent to your cell phone via text/picture message and is free when ordering multiple cards. Please feel free to contact your local program director, Donna Aversa-Smith at daversasmith@identakid.com or 443-275-1543 with questions.

HEALTH ROOM REQUEST:

Parents PLEASE send in clothes for health room. We are low on sizes 5 on up to small adult sizes. We also need shoes. Sweats are best because they fit most kids. Thanks!

Student Photograph/Videotape Refusal Form

Newspaper and television reporters/photographers may visit Howard County schools to report on events or stories. If your child may be photographed, videotaped or interviewed, you do not have to do anything! Note: Such photographs or videotape may be used in school system publications, local print and television news, and media websites.

If you DO NOT want your child to be interviewed, photographed or videotaped by school system, local or national media, during the 2010-2011 school year please download the form from the PRES website and submit it to your child's teacher.

PE News:

Please take a look at our PE Website <http://prespe.hcpss.wikispaces.net/>
You can find pictures and information about our New Peaceful Playground and Disc Golf Course, Turkey Trot event, Jump Rope for Heart event video, and upcoming 5K Pointers FUN RUN.

Clarksville Middle School presents

"GUYS AND DOLLS"

February 10 & 11 at 7pm

Tickets \$3 at the door

Road to Kindergarten

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO WILL BE 5 YEARS OLD BY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2012?**

YES? Please join us for an information session about

Howard County Public School Kindergarten.

**Choose the session that best fits your needs.
Registration is not required.**

Visit www.hcpss.org/schools/kindergarten.shtml or find us on



February 6, 2012 **Childcare available** Check in begins at 6:10	6:30-7:30 P.M.	Hammond Middle School 8110 Aladdin Drive Laurel, MD 20723
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These are adult information sessions; however ****childcare**** for children (ages 2 and older) will be provided at noted locations.

Sessions will begin promptly at time listed above.

If Howard County Public Schools are closed for inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

Questions? Call (410) 313-5693

Attendance Policy Reminder

Please be advised that each student is allowed 3 Local Discretionary days each school year that can be used for personal reasons (vacations, reunions, etc). Any days over and beyond the 3 LD days may be coded as Unlawful/Unexcused depending on the reason for the absence. Teachers are not required to give students missed work for Unlawful/Unexcused absences.

Furthermore, any student requesting an absence of 15 days or more (not including the 3 LD days) for Unlawful/Unexcused reasons will be withdrawn and parents will be required to re-enroll the student upon return. For further information please consult the HCPSS website to see policy [9010 - Attendance](#).

Please access the [Extended Absence/Discretionary Absence](#) and the [Religious Obligation: Request for Absence](#) forms on the HCPSS.org website to use when appropriate.

Attendance Information:

Please adhere to our school policy of sending in a **handwritten** note to school the day your child returns to school after an absence. While emailing your child's teacher is acceptable to notify them that your child will not be in school that day, that same email cannot be used to adjust the attendance from truant to an excused or unexcused absence. Please follow-up with a signed note. Thank you.

Calling All Volunteers for STEM Day 2012!

Pointers Run is still in need of parent volunteers to run activities for STEM Day on April 12, 2012. There are openings in grades K through 4 for volunteers to run four to five 45 minutes sessions in a STEM-related area. If you work in a STEM-related field or are just interested in STEM, please consider volunteering. If interested please email Jessica Brown jessica_brown@hcpss.org before February. You can either design your own activity or an activity can be assigned to you. Thank you!

ONGOING PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT OUR SCHOOL:

DON'T THROW OUT THAT INK CARTRIDGE!

Our school will continue our fundraising project of collecting empty cartridges in a zip-loc bag. Small personal printer sizes only – not office size printer cartridges. Please turn it in to the box located in the hallway in front of the main office.

Together in Education: Harris Teeter With the opening of the new Harris Teeter grocery store remember to designate PRES as your school. Go to the following link to sign up.

http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx

Box Tops: Remember to clip and send in your Box Tops (Box Tops for Education). Our school directly receives money for each box top submitted. Each one donated adds up! So far, we have submitted about \$470 worth of box tops for this year! Your child can drop these off in the box in the lobby, or in your child's pod. For more information, please contact Lisa Kim at lmkim01@verizon.net

Giant Food A+ Bonus Bucks Program: Remember to re-register Pointers Run for Giant Food A+ Bonus Bucks program. It is necessary to designate our school each year. Go to www.giantfood.com/aplus using ID 02671.

PTA NEWS

PRES PTA

2011-2012 Email Newsletter Sign Up

We are happy to continue offering the PTA Email Newsletter through Constant Contact. In the past year the e-newsletter has helped the PTA to keep members informed about activities and service projects throughout the year. **If you signed up last year you do not need to do a thing in order to continue receiving the bi-weekly newsletter.** If you are not yet on the e-newsletter distribution list you can sign up now.

Simply go to the website at <http://pointersrunpta.org/> and fill in your email address where it asks you to "Sign Up" in the upper right hand corner of the home page. Just click "GO" and follow the directions from there to complete the sign up. You will receive a confirmation email.

For questions you can contact:

Dede Matrangola	Debbie Engle
PRES VP1	Newsletter Editor
dede@matrangola.com	rockydog1@comcast.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

River Hill Family Movie Night will be on **Friday, February 10** from **7 – 9 p.m.** at Claret Hall. We will be showing "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs." Tickets are \$1 per person and are available now at Claret Hall! The cost includes movie, popcorn and a drink. Kids should wear their pjs and bring a pillow and sleeping bag or blanket. An adult must accompany all children. Please call 410-531-1749 with any questions.

Western Howard County Youth Baseball, Softball & Tee Ball (WHCYBSL)
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION comes to an end on Tuesday, January 31st.

Register for Recreational Spring Baseball, Softball & Tee Ball by [clicking here](#). Sign up by Tuesday, Jan 31st for an early bird discount and eligibility for FREE pitching and hitting clinics.

Visit www.whcsports.com for a registration flier or for more information about registration discounts & FREE clinics. Contact WHCYBSL directly by visiting the 'League Leadership' tab located at www.whcsports.com.

Special Needs Camp Fair

Tue., Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cedar Lane School, 11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton

The Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and the HCPSS Office of Special Education invite parents to explore programs offered at many local summer camps for students with special needs. For more information, contact the HCAS Resource Center at 410-290-3466 or info@howard-autism.org.

4 Easy Steps to Help Disaster Victims in Howard County

1. Dive into your closet and clean out all your old prom/party dresses, gently worn shoes, purses, jewelry and other accessories.
2. Take all the stuff to Coldwell Banker—Enchanted Forest and drop it in the *Project: Prom Dress* bin January 2 thru February 17, 2012.
3. Come to the Howard County YMCA on February 26 ready to shop. The cleaned and collected dresses will be sold at a fraction of their original price. Get there early because doors open at 9AM and the dresses go quickly!
4. Smile. You just helped raise money so the Red Cross can provide food, shelter, clothing and other help to disaster victims in Howard County.

Important details: Visit Coldwell Banker - Enchanted Forest, 10050 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, during the following times to drop off your items: Monday-Thursday 9AM- 7PM; Friday and Saturdays 9AM-5PM; Sundays 9AM-3PM.

Project: Prom Dress happens on one day only-- February 26 at the Howard County YMCA from 9AM – 5PM. 100% of the money raised through the re-sale is donated to the American Red Cross of the Chesapeake Region. For more information call 410/624-2035, email projectpromdresshoward@gmail.com or find Project: Prom Dress on Facebook.

Columbia Association's **Sister Cities Summer High School Student Exchange** offers high school teens a wonderful opportunity to experience and explore another culture first-hand in France or Spain, and to practice their Spanish or French outside the classroom. This international cultural and linguistic immersion program is a 5-week international summer "camp" for students in level three (III) and above of Spanish or French. Teens from Howard County travel to Europe at the end of June and live for two weeks with a teen their age in one of Columbia's two European Sister Cities: Cergy-Pontoise (near Paris) in France or Tres Cantos (near Madrid) in Spain. In July, they return to the US and host that same

student in his or her home here in Columbia/Howard County. Chaperones (who are fluent in French/Spanish) accompany the teens and are there to support them or solve problems if they arise. The exchange provides an unforgettable summer experience and the opportunity to make lifelong friends in France or Spain. Participants serve as "student ambassadors" from Maryland and meet teens from other Howard County high schools in the process. More information and the 2012 Application Packet can be found at www.ColumbiaAssociation.org/TeenExchange. Applications are due Feb. 17, 2012.

"Finally Understanding the Fundamentals of Algebra!" Day of Math Consulting, Tutoring, and Training

Saturday, January 7, 2012; 9am-12pm & 1-4pm

EduSerc Conference and Training Center, 1040 West St., Laurel, MD 20707

EduSerc will host a full day of math consulting, tutoring, and training assistance for adults, students, and families. Attend this one-day session to learn from a practicing engineer how to build your confidence in math, overcome barriers that are holding you back, and ultimately earn a perfect score on every test. All grade levels are welcome, and students and parents are all invited to attend. Brian K. Smith, CEO and Executive Director of EduSerc, Inc., will serve as the day's Keynote Trainer. Mr. Smith is a practicing Engineer and Academic Scholar, and is adamant about providing students and parents with the resources and tools to be successful in understanding and performing mathematics.

It's not too early to think about summer camps. Slayton House Theatre Camp of the Arts is gearing up for an outstanding summer program. Join us for a magical experience. Your child will enjoy dance, music, art and drama. Each session ends in a full production on our professional stage. Discounts are offered for registrations received before Feb 29, 2012. Contact Kathy Verheul, Camp Administrator at campadmin@columbiavillages.org or 410-730-3987 for information.

i9 Sports - Register now for the Winter Basketball Program! Convenient, organized, and safe fun for boys and girls ages 5-12. Basketball Program is on Sundays for 8 weeks 1/15/12 - 3/18/12. Registration deadline is 12/23/11- \$20 late fee added after this date. Practice and Play on Same Day! NO Fundraisers! NO Mandatory Volunteering! Register online www.i9sports.com or call 443-485-4202.

Kid Empowerment: Smashing ANTs ~ More Confidence, Better Grades, Happier Kids! - Through a variety of enlightening activities, students learn how to recognize self-limiting thoughts...how to guard against them...and even how to smash them, all in a fun-filled way so they will barely realize they are learning empowering life skills. Best of all, there's even an animated cartoon video starring Andy the ANTeater, who connects and resonates with students, making it even easier to learn each lesson. It's a great way to help kids be happier and

more successful! Grades 1-5. Flyers will be sent home in backpacks, or you can go to www.SmashingANTs.com for more information and registration. Contact Nancy Sheain at 410-707-6288 or Nancy@SmashingANTs.com.

Kid Empowerment: Leadership FUN-damentals ~ Greater Cooperation, More Teamwork, Better Problem Solving. Students discover their own leadership potential and develop skills that guide them to behave in a way that makes a difference in them and the world around them. During this hands-on program, students learn the key elements of successful leadership and learn how to be the kind of leader that others want to follow. Grades 1-5. Flyers will be sent home in backpacks, or go to www.SmashingANTs.com for more information and registration. Contact Nancy Sheain at 410-707-6288 or Nancy@SmashingANTs.com.

Capitol Debate Winter 2012 Classes/Camps - Capitol Debate, a business partner with the school system, will host after-school classes in Debate and Public Speaking starting the week of January 17 for students from 4th to 8th grade. Cost: \$200. For more details/times and to apply, go to www.capitoldebate.com. Contact: Ronald Bratt at 443-538-4992 or bratt@capitol-debate.com

School's Out Nature Programs - Need a place to bring your children when schools are closed? Bring them to The Howard County Conservancy for their School's Out Nature Programs. These educational programs are held on select days when Howard County schools are closed to students. Programs include educational games, activities, and crafts emphasizing all the wonders of the changing seasons. Children will discover and explore the variety of natural habitats as life flourishes all around them. Programs are for children ages 5-12. You must register in advance. A limited number of students will be permitted each session, so sign your child up today!

Full day Programs:

- 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; \$40/child
- Before care is available starting at 8 a.m. for an extra \$5.
- After care is available from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for an extra \$10.

2012 Dates: Jan 16, Jan 23, Feb 17, Feb 20, May 18

The Howard County Conservancy is located at 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, 21163.

For more information and registration, contact tabby.fique@hcconservancy.org.

Take an SAT Practice Test (Rescheduled) - Warm up for the SAT and find out how you would score. Get realistic practice and try your hand at the types of questions you'll face on the actual exam. You'll receive a personalized score report pinpointing your strengths and weaknesses. Reserve your seat today! 800-2Review (800-273-8439) | PrincetonReview.com. The Princeton Review is

not affiliated with Princeton University or The College Board. Please register with The Princeton Review online at www.PrincetonReview.com/events or call 800-2Review. Mail check to Jennifer Ingram at 5570 Vantage Point Road Unit 1, Columbia, MD 21044 or bring check on test day, made out to AAUW Howard County.

AAUW Practice SAT

Location: Vantage House

Saturday, February 11, 2012; 10:30am - 4:00pm

Fee: \$15 per person*

AAUW Practice SAT Scores Back Session

Vantage House

Saturday, March 3, 2012; 2-4 p.m.

*Please arrive at 10:30 a.m. so we can begin promptly at 11 a.m. To ensure enough space, one parent may attend the Scores Back Session.

Wildlife Adventures at Claret Hall on **Monday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m.** When school is closed, come enjoy an interactive nature show and learn about the Tricks that Animals Play. Many different types of animals will be displayed and available to be touched. **A picture with your favorite animal is also included!** All ages are welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited. Call 410-531-1749 or visit www.villageofriverhill.org for more information and to register.

Singing with the Scouts on **Sunday, January 29 from 2:30 — 3:30 p.m.** at Claret Hall. To entertain 55 and better residents, local Girl Scout troops will perform songs and teach a few songs too. It is sure to be an enjoyable, multigenerational afternoon. Light refreshments will be served. Call 410-531-1749 or visit www.villageofriverhill.org for more information.

KID EMPOWERMENT: LEADERSHIP FUN-DAMENTALS ~ Greater Cooperation, More Teamwork, Better Problem Solving

Looking for a powerful program to support you child toward SUCCESS?!

Registrations are still being accepted for the Kid Empowerment: Leadership Fundamentals program which ***begins January 31 at Pointers Run Elementary School.***

Kid Empowerment: Leadership Fun-damentals is a fun and enlightening program where students discover their own leadership potential and develop skills that guide them to behave in a way that makes a difference in them and the world around them. During this hands-on program, students learn the key elements of successful leadership and learn how to be the kind of leader that others want to follow.

Grades 1-5. Flyers have been sent home in backpacks. For more information visit <http://www.smashingants.com/ClassSchedules.php>. The class runs on **Tuesdays**,

starting January 31, for 7 weeks, from 4:05-5:05pm. Questions or To Register - call Howard County Recreation & Parks at 410-313-7275 or go to www.howardcountymd.gov/rap and register for course RP3312.616. Cost \$119 plus a \$20 materials fee.