

POINTER VIEW NEWSLETTER

www2.hcpss.org/pres

October 28, 2011

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

\$2.50 Student Lunch

.50 Milk

\$4.00 Adult Lunch

www.schoolmenus.com

DON'T FORGET! To send in your soup labels, box-tops and pop-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 that staff member.**

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

OCTOBER

31 Halloween Parties and Parade

NOVEMBER

04 No School for Students - Professional Development Day

07 Fall Picture Make-up Date - All Grades (pick up order form in office)

08 G/T Field Trip to Phillip Merrill Center, Annapolis

09 1st Grade Field Trip to Sharp's Farm

10 School Spirit Day - Hippy Day (wear Hippy Style Clothing)

11 Report Cards Issued

14 American Education Week (see grade schedule below)

2nd Grade Field Trip to Ho Co Conservancy

Book Fair Starts

- 17 Family Book Fair Book Night
- 21 School Closes 3 hours early at 12:55 for Conferences
Turkey Trot
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Turkey Trot
- 23 School Closed for Students - Conferences
- 24-25 School Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

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student requesting an absence of 15 days or more (not including the 3 LD days) for Unlawful/Unexcused reasons will be withdrawn and parents will be required to re-enroll the student upon return.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.

Fall Picture Re-take/Make-up Day Monday, November 7

Students wishing to have pictures taken or re-taken may pick up forms in the front office. If you are having a picture re-take, your child must bring the photo package you don't want to keep with them to give to the photographer at the time of the sitting.

American Education Week (November 14-19) Schedule

Monday 11/14	3 rd and 4 th grade
Tuesday 11/15	1 st grade
Wednesday 11/16	Kgtn and 5 th grade
Thursday 11/17	2 nd grade
Friday 11/18	RECC

CONFERENCE NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

PLEASE NOTE: The November conferences are to be scheduled 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 class 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 **November 11, 2011**
- 2) On your child's report card envelope.
- 3) On any Interim Report or Report Card from previous years

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. **BEGINNING November 4, 2011 at 12:01 am. You will be able to use this program to schedule or cancel your appointments until 11:59 pm on November 18, 2011.**

If you do not have Internet access, you may call the school to schedule your conferences between **November 11, 2011 and November 18, 2011**. After that date, you may call the school to cancel your appointment.

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

The Master Schedule is on our website. Please consult it to

check your child's schedule.

If you need additional "A Note from Home to School" pads (used for dismissal changes or absences), you may pick them up in the front office.

Reminder:

All parents and visitors must sign in at the front office before proceeding to anywhere in the school; including the playground for recess and cafeteria. Also, if you need to give your child medication during school hours, you have to come to the health room to administer it.

Korean

공지사항:

모든 부모님과 방문객은 쉬는 시간에 아이들이 노는 운동장으로 가시든, 식당으로 출입하시든, 학교 내 어느 곳으로든 가시기 전에 교무실에서 출입사항을 기입해주셔야 합니다..

또한, 학교 시간 중 자녀에게 약을 줘야할 경우, 양호실로 와서 주셔야 합니다.

Outdoor Recess Guidelines.

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, or the heat index reading is less than 95. Of course precipitation would change this decision. Please send your child to school with the appropriate clothing for outdoor recess.

October Nomination Notice

G/T Nomination - Fifth Grade Students for Middle School G/T Content Classes Next Year

Howard County Public Schools are currently in the process of accepting nominations for fifth grade students for possible inclusion in the middle school G/T content classes (English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies).

Students who are already participating in the above grade level mathematics or Language Arts classes and students who performed at the advanced level in mathematics or reading on the Maryland School Assessments have already been nominated for testing.

If you have a child in grade five whom you wish to nominate for middle school G/T testing, please submit your nomination request in writing to the G/T Resource Teacher by October 25, 2011.

FluMist vaccine is once again being offered FREE of charge by Howard County Health Department for elementary students at Pointers Run on October 25th. Forms will be coming home OCT 7th. Please return them as soon as possible and NO later than OCT 14th. Return them with a YES OR NO response. Parent volunteers are welcomed; please call the Health Room at 410-313-5633.

The Health Room is looking for donations of pants (sweat, jean, etc.) all sizes. Please drop off in health room or send to school with your child in a bag labeled "Health Room". Thanks!

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Monday, October 31, 2:30 pm

Rain: No parade or make-up date

Parents: Please wait outside on the soccer field for your child. Children will exit the building through the recess doors. Parents please line the soccer field for the best view of your children. **Parents: Please do not send masks or weapons in as part of your child's costume.**

Parade Route:

Pointer Dog will lead the parade. Each grade will attach to the end of the line.

Pointer Dog will start with the First Grade walking towards Second Grade counter-clockwise around the hallways.

Second Grade will follow 1st Grade.

Fourth Grade will follow 2nd Grade.

Fifth Grade will follow 4th Grade.

Third Grade will follow 5th Grade.

Kindergarten will follow 5th grade.

RECC is invited to follow K if they wish to participate.

Continue parade through the Cafeteria (5th grade Pumpkin Display), out through the recess doors, through the blacktop following the wooden pathway by the recess playground equipment, around the outside of the soccer goal posts (please walk along the Tree Line on the soccer field).

The parade will proceed inside the building through the Forth Grade Hallway Doors and back to your classrooms.

Calling All Volunteers for STEM Day 2012!

STEM Day 2011 was a huge success thanks to all of the wonderful parents volunteers who planned and/or ran activities for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We are looking for parent volunteers again this year to run a STEM activity in a grade-level on Thursday, April 12, 2012. The event will last the entire school day as students in each grade level rotate through four to five STEM stations. You may either plan an activity or one can be provided for you. First come first serve on grade-level choice so sign up soon! Please email Jessica Brown at jessica_brown@hcpss.org if you are interested.

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.

Pop Tops/ pull-tabs from cans: These pull tabs on cans (soda, soup, etc) benefit families of the Ronald McDonald House. RMD house recycles them for money, which goes to help the children and families that stay there. This is an

easy way to help another child or family going through an illness. Please keep these separate from the Box Tops, if possible. For more information, please contact Liz Tomalis at Prescs@gmail.com

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

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rockydog1@comcast.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

It is that time of year again!

The River Hill High School Music Boosters are happy to continue our annual fundraising sale of sweet, juicy and downright delicious citrus fruits.

Our first order of citrus fruit will feature Navel Oranges, Grapefruit and Tangerines direct from Florida. The first order will go in on October 28th with estimated delivery date of November 12th. The next order will be in early December.

You can access the information and order forms from the River Hill Music website, www.riverhillmusic.org.

Click on the Music Boosters and then on Citrus Fruit.

River Hill's Haunted Hallows Eve Event

Come out for River Hill's Haunted Hallows Eve on Friday, October 28 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Claret Hall. Don't miss trick or treating in the Village Center, crafts, games, face painting or EricEnergy's Halloween Science Spooktacular Show. This year's show is new and shows will run at 6:00 & 6:45. The River Hill Community Association, Kimco Realty and the River Hill Shopping Center Merchants sponsor this free event. Check us out at www.villageofriverhill.org and facebook.

Columbia Association Summer 2012 International Program Sister Cities High School Student Exchange

- The Columbia Association will hold four information sessions this fall for parents and high school teens about the Summer 2012 Sister Cities High School Exchange program: Wed, Nov. 2; Tue, Nov. 15; Wed, Dec. 7; and Thu, Dec. 15. Howard County high school students with three years of French or Spanish language study can participate in the summer exchange program during July with a teen from Cergy-Pontoise, France or Tres Cantos, Spain. Students live with a family, practice their French or Spanish, and participate in cultural and recreational activities. The French and Spanish students then come to Howard County for two weeks and live with their Howard County hosts, going on field trips to NYC, Washington D.C., Ocean City, Six Flags, etc. All information sessions will be held from 7-8 pm at Columbia Association Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle in Columbia. Laura Smit, Program Manager for the Columbia Association's International Exchange and Multicultural Programs, will explain the program and answer questions. Information about the program and the 2012 Application Packet are available at www.columbiaassociation.org/TeenExchange. Application deadline is Feb. 17, 2012. For more information, call 410-715-3162 or email International@ColumbiaAssociation.com.

Columbia Ice Rink - Come out in a safe-to-skate costume for a Halloween Extravaganza at Columbia ice Rink on Sunday, October 30, 1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Enjoy games, fun, prizes and candy!

Learn to Skate Session Two will start on Oct 25. Early registration deadline by 4 p.m. on Oct 22. Please call Columbia Ice Rink at 410-730-0322 for more info.

More than your average College Expo...The Black College Expo

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Maryland College Park, Reckord Armory ~ www.thecollegeexpo.org (877-427-4100). A Program of National College Resources Foundation. Meet with Colleges/Universities. Get accepted on the spot! Get application fees waived!

Get scholarships on the spot!

Find out about Internships Opportunities. Free Parent and Student Seminars and Workshops.

YMCA ~ Youth and Government is a rigorous mock legislature program for high school students Grades 9-12. Participants form delegations, delve into the legislative process, learn parliamentary procedure, research and debate issues, write bills of their choosing and campaign among their peers. Over the course of the program year (October-April), participants will have the opportunity to experience the legislative process firsthand, develop critical thinking and analytical abilities, provide awareness of social issues and their possible solutions, engage with varying viewpoints, and actively experiment in working with political and public affairs. The culminating event is a three-day conference (participants stay in a hotel) in Annapolis at which participants will be able to present and debate their bills in the actual Maryland Senate and House of delegates. Thursdays, beginning Oct. 27 through the end of April, 7- 8:00 p.m., Howard County Y. Members: \$300, Non-members \$340 - \$100 deposit due upon registration. www.mdymcayag.org/ For more information please contact Jessica Pearsall at jessicapearsall@ymaryland.org or 410-465-4335.

Reminders:

Special Halloween Skate for Howard County Middle School Students. The Columbia Association Middle School Advisory Committee is offering a free ice skating session at the Columbia Ice Rink (5876 Thunder Hill Road, Columbia 21045) on Sunday, Oct. 30, 1:15-3:15 p.m. Come in costume and enjoy the special tricks and treats for the day. Please call to register by Oct. 26 at 410-715-5523.

5th Annual AD/HD Awareness Event with Debbie Phelps

The Howard County Public School System, along with CHADD of Greater Baltimore, the Learning Disability Association of America, Howard County Chapter, and Individual Differences in Learning will hold a free program for parents and educators.

Energetic and talented speaker Deborah Phelps will share her own experiences with learning and attention challenges and what she has learned as both a mother and educator. Phelps is an author, principal of Windsor Mill Middle School in Baltimore County, and mother of three including swimming champion Michael Phelps, who was diagnosed with AD/HD.

This free event will take place on Thursday, November 3, 2011 from 7-9 p.m. at Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City. Phelps' memoir, *A Mother for All Seasons*, will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Emily Hurd at emily_hurd@HCPSS.org or 410-313-1252.

Middle Patuxent Nursery School – Located at River Hill Outdoor Pool Community Building, near Great Star Dr. and Summer Sunrise Dr. Co-op and non co-op openings available. Call 443-535-9030, email mpnskids@gmail.com, or visit www.mpns.net for details.

River Hill's Haunted Hallows Eve - Friday, October 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Claret Hall
Don't miss trick or treating in the River Hill Village Center, crafts, games, face-painting or Eric Energy's Halloween Science Spooktacular Show. This year's show is new and runs at 6 and 6:45. This event is free. www.villageofriverhill.org

Winter Dance at Ballet Royale Institute of Maryland – Children, 3 to 18 years old. Never Danced? Ballet, Jazz, Zumba, Hip Hop, Theatre Dance Beginning levels through Advanced and Adult
Open Registration – Saturday, December 3, from 9 am- 2 pm
410-997-8443 www.balletroyale.org

Golden Opportunities for Seniors in Howard County Schools

The HCPSS welcomes grandparents, retirees and senior citizens to take part in school and system activities. Golden Opportunities is a free electronic bulletin containing high school performances listings, volunteer opportunities, system-wide news and other features of particular interest to the senior community. The October issue, and instructions for signing up to receive future issues, are available at www.hcpss.org/parents/golden.shtml.