

# POINTER VIEW NEWSLETTER

[www2.hcpss.org/pres](http://www2.hcpss.org/pres)

December 9, 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:** **Please do not send large denominations of bills for lunches**

[www.schoolmenus.com](http://www.schoolmenus.com)

Student Lunch - \$2.50

Milk - .50

Adult Lunch - \$4.00

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

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

The PRES website ([www2.hcpss.org/pres](http://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

### DECEMBER

- 06 Kgtn Field Trip to Toby's
- 08 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field trip to Toby's
- 15 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field trip to the Newseum
- 20 School Spirit Day - Wear PJ's
- 26-30 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK**

## JANUARY

- 02 School re-opens for students  
16 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS - MLK, JR DAY  
20 SCHOOL CLOSED 3 HOURS EARLY AT 12:55, END OF MARKING PERIOD  
School Spirit Day - Crazy Hair Day  
23 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS, PROF. WORK DAY  
27 4<sup>th</sup> grade Field Trip to Toby's  
30 Report cards issued

## FEBRUARY

- 08 School Spirit Day - Wear School Spirit wear  
15 School closes 3 hours early at 12:55 for conferences  
16 School closes 3 hours early at 12:55 for conferences  
17 School Closed

### Schedule for 5th Grade GT Testing for possible GT placement in middle school:

**Tuesday, December 6th**, for all GT math students during math class with Mrs. Cargiulo and Ms. Houck.

**Wednesday, December 7th**, for all nominated students with signed permission on file during math class with Mrs. Cargiulo and Ms. Houck. (GT math classes will be cancelled on that day.)

Danelle Houck  
GT Resource Teacher  
Pointers Run Elementary School

<http://teacherweb.com/MD/PointersRunElementarySchool/MsDanelleHouck>

**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 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](mailto:Janet_Browning@hcpss.org)

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

### **Heifer "Read to Feed" Reading Incentive Program:**

Three weeks ago, a packet came home about the Heifer program. Please remind students to fill out their daily reading logs and to bring in their weekly tally sheets. We are trying to reach our school-wide goal of 24,000 books by December 10th. If we do, Mrs. Fila & Mrs. Nimmich will dress up as heifers for the day.

Also included in the packet is a sponsor sheet. Each grade is working towards purchasing a specific animal to help needy families around the world. Any questions, please contact Mrs. K. Brown at [karen\\_brown@hcpss.org](mailto:karen_brown@hcpss.org).

### **HEALTH ROOM REQUEST:**

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

### **FAMILY CULTURAL NIGHT: Performers Needed!!**

Family Cultural Night will take place on **Friday, January 27th** from 6:30-8 PM! We will have delicious international foods, games and crafts, and a Student Talent Show.

If you would like to help out with the event, or if your child would like to participate in the Student Talent Show, please contact Jacqueline Easley at (410) 531-1106 or [JacqEasley@yahoo.com](mailto:JacqEasley@yahoo.com).

### **Student Photograph/Videotape Refusal Form**

Newspaper and television reporters/photographers often 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.

### **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.

## **RAIDER NATION DAY**

Need some time to do some last minute holiday errands. Drop off your children ages 5-10 years old at Atholton High School. The Atholton High School Lettermen Club and boosters will be able to watch your children from 9am-1pm. Kids will be able to do arts and crafts, watch videos, sing, dance and/or play games.

Date: Saturday, December 17, 2011

Time: 9am-1pm

Location: Atholton High School back gym

If interested, please call or email Mike Senisi at 410-313-7080 or

[Michael\\_Senisi@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Senisi@hcpss.org)

### **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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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
<a href="mailto:dede@matrangola.com">dede@matrangola.com</a>	<a href="mailto:rockydog1@comcast.net">rockydog1@comcast.net</a>

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Greetings,

Our new Healthy Activity Program with Virgin HealthMiles has been a tremendous success thus far. As a result of the enthusiasm for this innovative program, we have received inquiries about how now Non-HCPSS employees (substitutes, temporary employees, family members, school-based police officers, parents in the community, etc.) can join and participate in the Virgin HealthMiles program. While only HCPSS employees (current employees who are eligible for health insurance through the HCPSS) are eligible to enroll in the *HCPSS* Virgin HealthMiles program, Virgin HealthMiles offers an individual program to the public for a fee. The program cost includes a \$29.99 joining fee (includes pedometer and first month's membership) and then \$2.75 each month thereafter, payable by credit card.

Non-employees may join Virgin HealthMiles by going to [www.virginhealthmiles.com/getactive](http://www.virginhealthmiles.com/getactive). Once enrolled, new members will receive a pedometer and be able to track their activity in the same way HCPSS members do. They will have their own personal LifeZone (the website - which would not be

associated with HCPSS). Because this is an individual program, the members would not qualify for rewards through HCPSS (monetary, gift cards, iPads, etc.), nor would they be able to participate in HCPSS corporate-wide challenges. Members would have a personalized and customized LifeZone where they can take a Health Snapshot, track all of their activity and calories, use the workout planner, challenge other Virgin HealthMiles members(including HCPSS members), and enter measurements. It would be a very similar program to the one that HCPSS employees enjoy; however, there would not be any rewards.

Please feel free to pass this information. Thank you!

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. Our next order - offering navel oranges, tangerines and grapefruit will be due on December 2nd with delivery on December 17th. For an order form, go to [www.riverhillmusic.org](http://www.riverhillmusic.org) or email [wakegirl85@yahoo.com](mailto:wakegirl85@yahoo.com) for more information.

You can access the information and order forms from the River Hill Music website, [www.riverhillmusic.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.columbiaassociation.org/TeenExchange). Application deadline is Feb. 17, 2012. For more information, call 410-715-3162 or email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.com](mailto: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](http://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/](http://www.mdymcayag.org/) For more information please contact Jessica Pearsall at [jessicapearsall@ymaryland.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mpnskids@gmail.com), or visit [www.mpns.net](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hcpss.org/parents/golden.shtml).

### **Why is Howard County Having School on Jan. 2?**

A number of parents have asked why schools will be open on Mon., Jan. 2. Although Jan. 2 is a federal holiday this year, it is not a required holiday for Maryland public schools. New Year's Day is a mandated holiday for schools when it falls on a weekday.

In approving the 2011-12 calendar, the Board of Education chose to open schools on Jan. 2 in order to end the school year as early as possible. The school system is honoring employee contracts by closing the system on Fri., Dec. 30, for the New Year holiday.

### **High School G/T Orchestra Winter Concert**

**Sun., Dec. 11, 8 p.m.**

**Jim Rouse Theatre at Wilde Lake High, 5460 Trumpeter Rd., Columbia**

The Office of Fine Arts cordially invites you to attend the Winter Concert of the Howard County High School Gifted and Talented Orchestra, under the direction of conductors Ben Denne, Rosemary Lather and Tim Reinhardt and percussion director Tim McKay. Admission is free.

### **Join the ECAC**

**2011-12 meetings:**

**Tuesdays, 4:30-6 p.m., Dec. 13, Jan. 10 (snow date Jan. 17), Mar. 13, May 1**

**Dept. of Education, Rm. ML-2, 10910 Rt. 108, Ellicott City**

The Elementary Curricular Advisory Committee (ECAC) seeks parents of elementary students to serve on the committee. The ECAC provides input to the elementary curriculum office and fosters positive communication and partnerships among families, the community and the HCPSS regarding elementary programs and initiatives.

Contact Nancy Dickson in the Elementary Curricular Programs Office at 410-313-1538 if interested.

### **Friends of Education Award**

**Nominations Due Jan. 27**

The Friends of Education Award was established by the Board of Education to recognize individuals, businesses or organizations making innovative or unique contributions that directly support the school system's mission of excellence in teaching and learning. Any member of the Howard County community or any group, organization, or business located in or serving Howard County may be nominated for the award.

The nomination deadline is Fri., Jan. 27. Awards will be presented on Apr. 12. For nomination forms and additional information, contact the Administrative Secretary to the BOE at 410-313-1584 or visit [www.hcpss.org/board/foe.shtml](http://www.hcpss.org/board/foe.shtml).

**Reminders:**

**2012-13 JROTC Registration**

**Dec. 5 through Jan. 20**

Students interested in enrolling in JROTC for the 2012-13 school year, but who attend high schools where the program is not offered, may request an interview with the JROTC Instructor and School Administrator. Parents of interested students should contact Atholton, Howard or Oakland Mills High School to arrange for an interview. An interview does not guarantee acceptance into the program. The final date to request an interview is Fri., Jan. 20.

**Financial Aid Information Night**

**Wed., Dec. 7, 7 p.m.**

**Hammond High, 8800 Guilford Rd., Columbia**

High school students, especially seniors, and their parents are invited to learn about FAFSA applications, finding loans, grants, scholarships and more.

**G/T Testing Nominations Due Wed., Dec. 7**

**Grades 3-4 for G/T Math**

**Grades 6-7 for Middle School G/T Classes**

Howard County public schools are accepting nominations to test students for the Gifted and Talented (G/T) program for the 2012-13 school year.

Parents may nominate a grade 3 or 4 student for G/T mathematics testing with a written request to the G/T Resource Teacher. Parents may nominate a grade 6 or 7 student for middle school G/T content classes (English, mathematics, science and social studies) by submitting a signed nomination form to the G/T Resource Teacher. Forms are available from Student Services or the G/T Resource Teacher at your child's school.

Students currently participating successfully in a middle school G/T class are eligible to continue in that discipline next year without the need for additional paperwork or testing.

**G/T Research Information Sessions**

**Schedule of Sessions at all High Schools:** [www.hcpssnews.com/upload/HCPSS/GTSched.pdf](http://www.hcpssnews.com/upload/HCPSS/GTSched.pdf)

Parents and students are invited to learn about Gifted and Talented (G/T) Research Program electives available in high school. The G/T Independent Research and Intern Mentor programs empower students to apply, create and evaluate specialized knowledge to contribute to the larger community with support from a professional mentor or research project advisor.

Additional information is available at [www.hcpss.org/gt/high/adv\\_research.shtml](http://www.hcpss.org/gt/high/adv_research.shtml).