



# Pointer View



November 07, 2014

## Important Upcoming

### Dates



### NOVEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> NO SCHOOL – Prof Dev  
4<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL - Election Day  
5<sup>TH</sup> Banking Day  
7<sup>TH</sup> Second Grade Field Trip to Toby's  
10<sup>th</sup> Picture Retakes  
12<sup>th</sup> Report Cards Issued  
13<sup>th</sup> First Grade Field Trip to Sharp's Farm  
14<sup>th</sup> Book Fair Starts  
17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> American Ed Week  
24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> School Closes 3 hrs. early at 12:45 for Conferences  
26<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL – Conferences  
27<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving  
28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Holiday

### DECEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> Banking Day  
12<sup>th</sup> Interims Issued  
17<sup>th</sup> Banking Day  
18<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert @ RHHS 7:00-8:30  
19<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to BMI  
23<sup>rd</sup> Last Student Day before Winter Break  
12/24 – 1/4 WINTER BREAK  
JANUARY  
5<sup>th</sup> – First Student Day after Winter Break  
18<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert, RHHS @ 7:00 pm

## Principal's Pointers

### Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conference

Conference time is approaching! We look forward to seeing many of you here November 24-26<sup>th</sup>. There are many steps you can take to assure that the conference is productive and positive. I've included some tips from the *National Association of School Psychologists* that may be helpful as you prepare for your child's conference:

- Talk with your child before the conference. Children should understand why the conference is taking place (is it due to a problem or is it a routine meeting held for all parents?) and be assured that parents are seeking ways to help and learn about what their children are doing in school.
- Find out if your child has any specific concerns about schoolwork or relationships with classmates.
- If your child has brought home homework, be sure you are familiar with the assignments and how your child has been performing. Is the work getting done? Does your child seem to understand the assignments? Does the work seem too easy or too difficult?
- Find out if there are activities you can provide at home to help your child practice skills learned at school. What sort of books might you have on hand to read to or with your child? Are there some math games to help practice the newly introduced math facts?
- Ask if your child's behavior is in accordance with expectations, if he or she seems to follow school rules without difficulty, if he or she seems to have friends in the classroom. If concerns surface, find out how the teacher deals with problems and how you might be able to reinforce appropriate behavior at home.

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#### Principal's Pointers cont'd

- Prepare a list of questions you want to ask your child's teacher: Is my child meeting expectations for learning and behavior? How has my child performed on daily class assignments, on tests, on homework assignments? If my child is struggling in any area, what has been tried to improve performance? Does my child pay attention in class? If my child is showing mastery of a skill, what can we do to provide challenge? What else can be done at home or at school? What are my child's strengths? Are there materials or resources that you would recommend?
- Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something or feel your concerns are not being addressed. Not understanding can quickly lead to misunderstanding!
- Be ready to collaborate, both teachers and parents want students to have a successful school experience.

Parents and teachers share the goal of helping children learn and feel successful. Research has proven that when parents and teachers work together, everyone benefits: students tend to earn higher grades, perform better on tests, attend school more regularly, have better behavior, and show more positive attitudes toward themselves and toward school.

Wishing you a positive and productive parent teacher conference!

Lenore Schiff  
Principal

## Announcements

### **PICK A TIME CONFERENCE SCHEDULING**

**Pick-a-time opens November 7<sup>th</sup>.** To schedule a conference go to HCPSS.ORG and look for the Pick-a-time icon. You will find a link to the parent directions (in different languages) for the Pick-a-time conference scheduling site. Conferences will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 -7:30.

### **American Education Week is Coming November 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

We welcome parents and guardians to visit your child's classrooms all week. However, to alleviate congestion with parking, we are recommending to visit on the following days:

Nov. 17, Monday: Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Nov. 19, Wednesday: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nov. 20, Thursday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nov. 21, Friday: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### **CONTACTING STAFF MEMBERS**

The PRES website (<http://pres.hcpss.org/>) 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 a phone message, it is e-mailed to the staff member.**

## **The Media Center is gearing up for our annual fall book fair!**

We need YOU! Please consider helping out with the book fair this year. It's a wonderful opportunity to see what your children are reading and what new books are available. Plus, we love the opportunity to get to know you. We need help with set up, running the fair during the week, and packing it up. Please visit the link below to sign up. The book fair is open from Nov. 17-25, 2014.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d49aaab2da02-pointers1>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the media staff or our wonderful Book Fair co-chairs, Melanie Yingling (myingling7@gmail.com) and Yin Guo (lsguoyin@yahoo.com).

## **Community Information**

Members of the Howard County community are invited to join the Board of Education for:

### **Coffee & Conversation**

Saturday, November 15, 2014, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

(Rescheduled from Saturday, October 25, 2014)

Clemens Crossing Elementary School Media Center

10320 Quarterstaff Road in Columbia

### **The Sound of Music at Reservoir High School:**

Thursday, November 20 @ 7:00 PM

Friday, November 21 @ 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 22 @ 2:00 PM

Saturday, November 22 @ 7:00 PM

Adult tickets: \$12

Student tickets: \$9

To purchase advanced tickets, please go to:  
[seatyourself.biz](http://seatyourself.biz)

### **REMINDERS:**

Just a reminder, don't forget to register your cards from Giant

Food's A+ Rewards ([www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com))

Account Number 02671)

Harris Teeter's Together In Education ([www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com))

Account Number 7583)

Target Take Charge in Education

([www.secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home](http://www.secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home)) Account  
Number 58073).

Our school receives rewards based on the number of participants and there's no cost to you!

### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the event of bad weather, please check your local TV and/or radio stations including Verizon Channel 42 for any emergency school delays or closings. In addition, any school delay or closing news will be announced via the HCPSS website, [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org), or HCPSS newsletter. Please note that no announcement will be made if schools are opening on time.



### **Join SuperSquads Cheerleading today!**

It's not too late! Practices are once a week after school for 1.25 hours. Contact [supersquadsinfo@verizon.net](mailto:supersquadsinfo@verizon.net), [www.supersquads.org](http://www.supersquads.org) or 410-796-2244 to register online or by mail and start next practice.

### **From the Health Room:**

Thank you so much to our volunteers for the flu mist clinic on October 30th: Michelle Jordan, Charlotte Hoyson, Eric Coler, Monica Jessup, Zulma L. (Cluster Nurse) and Karen T. (Cluster Nurse). Without your help, the flu mist clinic could not have run so smoothly.

During this time of the year, an increase in illnesses is expected, so please do not send your sick child to school. While we realize that the common cold can take a week or more to resolve symptoms, if there is a fever involved, the student must stay home. Please remind your child to cough into their arm/elbow and after using a tissue they should wash their hands.

The HCPSS policy for fever is that a student must remain home if their temperature is 100 degrees or greater and they must remain fever free for 24 hours without medications before returning to school. Please refrain from guessing what your child's temperature is by touching their forehead with your hand. This is not a measure of temperature and the only true measure is to use a thermometer.

If you have questions about whether your child is well enough to come to school, please contact the health room.

Head lice are a common community problem that happen to be most prevalent in fall and winter. Given that Halloween was just celebrated, costume and wig sharing may contribute to lice transmission. The good news is that lice do not transmit disease. The female head louse lays eggs, called nits, on the hair close to the scalp. The nits, which look like tiny, whitish ovals that are firmly glued to the hair shafts, usually hatch within two weeks. If you suspect head lice, check your child's hair closely. Head lice may be hard to locate because they move to avoid light. Nits may be easier to find. If left untreated, head lice will quickly increase in number, so you have to be sure to treat head lice as soon as detected. Follow the directions included with the product you use. Some products require retreatment in 7-10 days. Once treated, it is very important to continue checking the head for two to three weeks beyond last product used. Do not re-wash treated hair for one to two days. It is very important to remove all nits from the hair to avoid self-reinfestation.

Infestations are not related to cleanliness. In fact, head lice often infest people with good hygiene and grooming habits. Head lice cannot survive for very long off the head. Prevention includes: Avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact during play and other activities at home, school, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, camp). Do not share clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, or barrettes. Do not share combs, brushes, or towels. Please remind your children routinely of these safety measures, and intermittently check your child's head. If you treat your child for head lice, please notify any friends, relatives or close contacts so they can be checking their child.

Please notify the health room, if you suspect that your child has lice or you have any questions or concerns at 410-313-5633.

### **VISITOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Board of Education approved the installation of a new Visitor Management System throughout all of our schools. This new system replaces all existing manual and electronic visitor sign in processes for both visitors and school system personnel. **Due to the new HCPSS security procedures and the safety of our children, all visitors are required to provide their driver's license or a state-issued photo ID.** When you arrive at school, please be sure to bring in your license so that we may assist you.