

December 14, 2018

Greetings Tiger Sharks,

We want to make you aware of a new initiative in which our school will begin participating during 2019. The Howard County Public School System and Wilde Lake Middle School believe that having a school community where your child feels safe and respected is an important foundation to their academic success. That is why Wilde Lake Middle School and all other HCPSS middle schools will be participating in No Place for Hate®, a national program supporting schools in their commitment to celebrating diversity, promoting respect for differences, and challenging bias and bullying at all levels.

Developed by the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) – a leading civil rights organization that has worked for over a century to “secure justice and fair treatment to all” – No Place for Hate® will help us incorporate new anti-bias and bullying prevention resources into our existing programs in order to have one consistent message of inclusivity.

- You and your child can help support our No Place for Hate® program in a number of ways:
 - We shared this initiative at the November PTSA meeting and have enlisted a wonderful group of parent members to join our No Place for Hate® Committee to help oversee the program, assess school climate, and plan or volunteer at No Place for Hate® events! Let us know if you are interested in volunteering at our launch event later this school year.
 - We have also enlisted a group of student leaders to join the planning committee. Let us know if your child is interested in joining this group.
 - At the launch event, students will have the opportunity to sign the No Place for Hate® Promise/ Resolution of Respect to commit to challenging bias and bullying! Parents can also join their students in signing the pledge.
 - Practice No Place for Hate® at home! For family resources on challenging bullying and bias, visit www.adl.org.

To learn more or to get involved with No Place for Hate® at Oakland Mills Middle School please contact Rhoda Nunez-Donnelly by 12/21 via email at Rhoda_Nunez-Donnelly@hcpss.org. With your help, we will make our school community an even safer and more welcoming space for all.

The Tiger Shark Theatre Company’s production of “The Triangle Factory Fire Project” opened last evening to high praise. Our students began in September engaging with this difficult material through deep character study, historical research, and embracing the concept of art as a vehicle for social commentary and action. Many thanks to Mr. Randy Kurstin, Sarah Lynn Nibber, and the **many** staff members who supported this unique production. Thank you to the WLMS Boosters Club for their steadfast backing. One parent expressed the following, “That was a brilliant performance by . . . middle school students . . . Thank you for producing such a

courageous show!” Tickets are still available at the door for tonight and tomorrow night’s shows both beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Anne Swartz, Denise Young, James McVey

Important Dates:

- December 14, 15 – 7:00pm WLMS Drama Production
- December 17 – 7:00pm – Winter Chorus Concert at WLMS
- December 18 – 7:00pm – Winter Orchestra Concert at WLHS
- December 19 – Interim Progress Reports Issued
- December 20 – UNO’s Pizza Fundraiser
- December 21 – Spirit Day – Holiday Sweater & Festive Wear
- December 21 – GOTCHA Store during lunch shifts
- December 21 – 6th grade Field Trip – Miller Branch Library (8:00am-11:45am)

Winter Meals on December 27-28: Please let your communities know that Free Winter Break Meals will be offered at two Howard County locations on Thursday, December 27 and Friday, December 28, 2018. Details can be found at [HCPSS News Post re Winter Meals](#).

Come show off your spelling skills at the annual spelling bee! The spelling bee will be on January 10th, 2019 at 7 pm in the Media Center. Study materials can be picked up from the media center or by going to www.spellingbee.com

Students who participated in the grade 5 Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) last school year are receiving home reports on 12/19/18 with their Interim reports. MISA is Maryland’s new Next Generation Science Standards(NGSS) aligned assessment. MISA replaced the MSA Science test in all Maryland schools and was phased in beginning in 2017. Results are being reported late due the process of setting performance levels. Students participate in the MISA in grades 5, 8 and 11. More information on the MISA can be found at: http://mdk12.msde.maryland.gov/assessments/k_8/index.html

Holiday Gift Card Donation We are so blessed to be surrounded every day with caring, giving people who reach out to help our community and families. This year the need seems to be even greater than in the past. If you are able to help, our Guidance Office will gladly accept gift cards in any denomination for Giant, Safeway, Walmart, Target, or Amazon. Our list of families in need is growing daily so anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated. We will hang our Giving Wreath outside the Guidance Office and for each donation we receive,

we will place a snowflake on the wreath anonymously with the words “WLMS Family” or “WLMS Staff”. We will start receiving donations now and end on Wednesday, December 19, so we have time to get the gift cards to the families. As always, thank you for your generosity and caring.

December 21st GOTCHA Store: Please sign up to help out at the December GOTCHA store. This is an especially exciting store as students are often times purchasing gifts with their hard earned GOTCHA’s. If you have anything new items that you would like to donate, it would also be appreciated. Here is the link to sign up to work: "Holiday GOTCHA Store 2018!" . To sign up to donate or volunteer for Holiday GOTCHA Store, please go here: <http://signup.com/go/EPGcSxF> (or <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2605027/false#/invitation>). Holiday Gotcha Store is scheduled for December 21, 2018.

The Dentist is Coming to Wilde Lake Middle on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 and it’s not too late to sign up!!

We are pleased to announce that our school has partnered with **Smile Programs** to offer in-school dental care. Best of all, in most cases there is no cost to you if your child is insured with Medicaid or CHIP! Private insurance and affordable self-pay options are also available. We know you are busy parents so having your child seen by the in-school dentist saves you valuable time. Top quality care is provided by local, licensed dentists’ right in the familiar surroundings of your child’s school. Dental care includes:

- Complete exam
- X-rays
- Cleaning
- Fluoride and Sealants when needed.

In addition, restorative care such as fillings may also be provided.

On Thursday of this week (November 29), your student will be bringing home a Smiles Program Consent Form. Please complete the permission form and return it to school no later than **FRIDAY, December 14th** Or... you can register online at www.myschooldentist.com

Taking Care of your child’s teeth is an important part of keeping them healthy!!

If you have any additional questions contact either Ms.Thomas or Ms.Grzybinski in the Health Room.

Please visit the Community News and Programs page at

<https://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/> for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.