

# TIGER SHARK TIMES

W L M S N E W S L E T T E R

**RESPECTFUL**

**RESPONSIBLE**

**READY**

**SAFE**

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Family and Friends of Wilde Lake Middle School,

Next Friday, October 31st, is the end of the first quarter. Take time this weekend to review your students grades through the Family Portal (ASPEN). Talk to them about any upcoming assessments or assignments, and help them make a plan to finish the quarter strong. Report Cards will be issued on Wednesday, November 12th.

Next Friday is also Halloween. Please support our school expectations for that day by ensuring that your student attends school ready to learn. Costumes, masks, wigs, etc. will not be allowed. If a student does enter school next Friday, in violation of this expectation, they will be asked to remove the item(s) or possibly change their clothing for the day. Again, thank you so much for supporting us in these expectations.

Don't forget to join us this evening for our Second Annual Zombie Run and Family Fright Night. The festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. Also, we are looking forward to our families participating in or visiting to make purchases at our Community Yard Sale and Costume Sale on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. During the Yard Sale our School Girls Unite group will be selling items to raise funds for our sister school in South Africa. Their goal is to raise at least \$700.00; please support their efforts.

Sincerely,  
Lisa R. Smithson  
Principal  
Wilde Lake Middle School



### Tips for School Success:

Discuss ideas and feelings about school, studies, and activities. Be realistic about what your child can and should be able to do. Don't expect straight A's or exceedingly high test scores if they are not capable of performing at that level. That expectation will only cause unnecessary frustration.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/more-school-involvement/success-tips-middle-school-principal>

# WLMS INFORMATION

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

We still are missing updated emergency procedure information for many of our students. Today, we once again sent home paper copies with students whose information has not been verified/updated for the 2014-2015 school year. You have the choice to complete the paper form or complete the process online by visiting [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org). The online process to update/verify information will only be available until 5:00 p.m. on October 29th. If we do not receive your student's updated emergency contact information by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, your student will be excluded from a portion of our PBIS Activity Day, on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who has not completed their emergency contact information, by the designated date, will not be allowed to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Lock-In scheduled for the evening of Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

## FLU MIST CLINIC

On November 12th, WLMS will hold a FluMist Clinic for students during the school day. Consent forms were sent home this week. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Godwin or Ms. Grzybinski at 410-313-6957.

## PICTURE RETAKE DAY:

Picture retake day will be on Wednesday, October 29th. You

may have your portrait retaken for any reason for a \$5.00 re-sitting fee. Retakes are FREE if there is photographer error, such as eyes closed, mouth open, or off-centered prints. In either case, it is necessary to return the ENTIRE portrait package to the photographer on retake day. Students who were absent will be photographed, if you wish to order portraits, contact the main office for an order envelope, or visit [www.schoolpix.com](http://www.schoolpix.com) (Fall Portraits) to view portrait package selections.

## 8TH GRADE LOCK-IN:

Information for the Annual 8th Grade Lock-In was sent home with students. This annual event will be held on Friday, November 14th, from 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. The cost is \$30.00 and permission slips and payment are due to homeroom teachers no later than November 10th. Please consider volunteering for this event, as we need your help for it to be successful. For more information, visit [www.8thgradewlms.weebly.com](http://www.8thgradewlms.weebly.com) or contact Ms. Drakes.



## IMPORTANT DATES:

- October 24th-**  
WLMS Zombie Run/Family Fright Night
- October 25th-**  
WLMS Community Yard and Costume Sale
- October 28th @ 7:30 a.m.-**  
Conversation with the Principal
- October 29th-**  
Picture Retake Day
- October 31st-**  
End of Quarter 1
- November 3rd-**  
No School For Students  
(Professional Development Day)
- November 4th-**  
Schools Closed- General Election Day
- November 11th @ 7:00 p.m.-**  
PTSA Meeting
- November 12th-**  
Report Cards Issued
- November 14th-**  
PBIS Activity Day
- November 14th, 7:00 p.m.-  
1:00 a.m.-**  
8th Grade Lock-In

## MORE INFORMATION

### CONVERSATION WITH THE PRINCIPAL:

Throughout the year, I will be holding "Conversation with the Principal" sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to give updates on WLMS and to respond to questions that are brought up by the WLMS community. As the Principal of Wilde Lake Middle School, I am always looking to hear feedback, concerns, and suggestions, so that we can work together to continuously improve our school community. My first "Conversation with the Principal," will take place on Tuesday, October 28th from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. During this first session I will collect feedback forms that will give attendees the opportunity to share additional topics that they would like me to consider covering for subsequent sessions. I am looking forward to this opportunity to connect with the WLMS community.

### PTSA NEWS:

**PTSA FORUM:** The WLMS PTSA will be sponsoring a parent meeting to discuss the topics of "School Safety and Cultural Issues at WLMS. The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 30th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the WLMS Media Center. All parents/guardians in the school community are welcome to participate. Discussions will include concerns, positive experiences and brainstorming next steps for continuous improvement. Contact [hawkinseidson@verizon.net](mailto:hawkinseidson@verizon.net) or [hgpeek@aol.com](mailto:hgpeek@aol.com) with questions.

**STUDENT DIRECTORY:** Last call to participate in the student directory! If you would like to be included, please email the following information to [michelle.wood@verizon.net](mailto:michelle.wood@verizon.net):

Student name and grade, Parent(s) Name(s), Address, Phone number, and/or email address no later than October 31, 2014. Please note, if you have completed a PTSA membership form, your information is already included (unless you opted out of the directory).

**MEMBERSHIP:** Please sign up for your 2014-15 PTSA membership! Your dues help support many events and activities at our school. Membership/Directory forms came home in the first-day folder - please send in the completed form and your dues in an envelope marked "PTSA". Or sign up online here: <http://wlmsptsa.weebly.com/join-us.html> - you can even pay through PayPal!

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their forms and dues! PTSA Membership cards have already been sent home with your student, as has the car magnet with the new school logo (for those who got the \$20 family membership). Didn't get yours? Please check your student's locker. Contact Michelle Wood with any questions: [michelle.wood@verizon.net](mailto:michelle.wood@verizon.net)

**YAHOO LIST:** New families: are you on our PTSA Yahoo list yet? Please sign up and stay informed! Email Lada Onyshkevych at [lada2@verizon.net](mailto:lada2@verizon.net). You will receive an invitation to join from Yahoo - you must actually accept the invitation! Check your spam folder if you don't see your invitation.

### WLMS PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS:

Sign up and join the WLMS Performing Arts Boosters Group by visiting <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WLMSBoosters/info>, and clicking "Join." A yahoo account is not needed to join the group. Stay up to date on all the latest performing arts news this way.

### WLMS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE TEAM OPENINGS:

We're off and running for this fall's FIRST Lego League competition. There will be two teams participating. The FLL involves a team research project to come up with an approach for improving the way something is taught, and the building and programming of a Lego NXT robot to tackle this year's obstacle course.

There are still openings on both teams. "Team Curry" meets on Thursday's at 6:00 p.m. To join or learn more, please contact Vernon Curry at [vcurry99@gmail.com](mailto:vcurry99@gmail.com) or Nancy Schweiss at [bobschweiss@verizon.net](mailto:bobschweiss@verizon.net).

"Team Yahaya" meets on Wednesday's at 6:00 p.m. To join or learn more, please contact Adenike Yahaya at [chericoco6@yahoo.com](mailto:chericoco6@yahoo.com) or Sylvain Arbareri at [msee21230@yahoo.com](mailto:msee21230@yahoo.com).

To learn more about this year's FIRST Lego League challenge, see <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2014fllworldclass>.

## MORE INFORMATION

### **HC DRUG FREE HALLOWEEN UPDATE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS:**

HC DrugFree, a non-profit organization located in Howard County, is dedicated to keeping youth drug and alcohol free, and provides educational services on behalf of the Howard County Health Department. Other partners include the Howard County Public School System, the PTA Council of Howard County, the Howard County Police Department, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, and the Howard County Library System. If parents have any drug or alcohol questions, please contact HC DrugFree's Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi at [joan@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:joan@hcdrugfree.org) or 443-325-0040, or visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org).

Halloween Safety Tips from Poison Centers:

Before you go trick-or-treating:

1. Feed your children to help cut the urge to snack on the route.
2. Bring your own candy, so children won't eat unchecked treats.

After you return home:

3. Carefully check all treats before allowing your child to eat them.
4. Only eat candy from original, unopened and undamaged wrappers.
5. Throw away candy if wrappers are faded, torn, or show signs of re-wrapping.
6. When in doubt, throw it out!
7. To reach the poison experts 24 hours a day, call the Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

### **ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC BOOSTERS:**

Atholton HS Music Boosters' popular citrus fruit sale is underway. Order the freshest of Florida's citrus and mammoth pecans in time for Thanksgiving. Visit: [www.atholtonmusic.org](http://www.atholtonmusic.org) and click on the fruit fundraiser to see order forms or pay via PayPal on the site. Questions: contact Linda Corso, [ahsmusicfruitsales@gmail.com](mailto:ahsmusicfruitsales@gmail.com) 301-490-8598. The first month's orders are due by November 7th. Pick up is at the high school on November 22. Citrus is a healthy and delicious snack and makes a great holiday gift.

### **CAREER ACADEMIES INFORMATION SESSION (FOR 8TH GRADE PARENTS):**

On Saturday, November 5th, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at 10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, learn how [the Career Academies](#) provide high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, scholarships, and industry certifications, participate in worksite and mentorship experiences, and become creative problem solvers by participating in hands-on project based learning.

