

January 8, 2016

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We hope that all of you had an enjoyable winter break. This week's cold snap reminds us that there is still a lot of winter to come. Remember to set your HCPSS News information and preferences for notifications to be sure that you are the first to hear about school closings and delays. (TV/Radio notifications are not a reliable source for this information.)

It is hard to believe that the year is nearly half complete! The second quarter/first semester ends on January 22, 2016 and report cards will be issued on February 1, 2016. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the afternoon and evening of February 4, 2016 and during the day on February 5, 2016. Look for information coming soon regarding the window for signing up for conferences.

Unfortunately, we need to bring a very serious topic to your attention. This Monday, we learned that many Wilde Lake Students were involved in the inappropriate use of social media while away from school on break. A large number of students were recognized accessing an "Instagram" site where students were using profane language, making disparaging remarks about a staff member and school peer, and students were also making threats to harm a WLMS Student. These remarks triggered unsafe feelings and a disruption to our school learning environment. With the assistance of HCPSS Resources, administration was able to identify students who participated in making the comments and those who accessed the site. Due to the impact on our school environment, students who participated received consequences commensurate with their involvement. According to the HCPSS Code of Conduct, Cyberbullying and School Disruption (including behavior that originates off campus with technology) can result in a range of consequences from a student conference to parent conduct to suspension from school, and expulsion from school.

We share this information with you in order to appeal to all parents to be vigilante in monitoring your child's use of social media. Just because your child does not have his/her own cell phone does not mean that they are not accessing chat sites through their friends' phones or computers. In addition, we have learned that students will use aliases or proxy web browsers to access restricted sites. Please make it your job to educate yourselves as parents on the different sites on which your child might already have an account (Kik, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.). Read the "Terms of Use". Most sites require students to be at least 13 years old to use the service. Take the time to read the comments and language being used by other teenagers on the site. Make time this weekend to have a conversation with your child about your expectations for technology use and take the necessary actions.

We are committed to making Wilde Lake Middle School a safe and productive learning environment. Therefore, the administration has no tolerance for cyber-bullying and any derogatory comments made towards our staff or our students. The HCPSS Code of Conduct will continue to be enforced to protect all students and our learning environment. Parents, your monitoring at home will make the difference in partnering with us to create both a positive school and community environment for our students.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Anne Swartz, Pete Gaylord, Lexi Couch, Tiffanie Nunley

Important Dates to Remember:

- January 12 – MAP Reading Testing
- January 13 – Outdoor Ed Parent Meeting – 5:30 pm Media Center
- January 14 – MAP Math Testing
- January 14 – Spelling Bee 6:00pm Media Center
- January 15 – Eighth Grade Lock-in
- January 15 – Jazz Band Fieldtrip
- January 20 – SIP (School Improvement Meeting) 3:00 pm
- January 22 – 3 Hour Early Dismissal – end of 2nd Quarter

Dental Education/Screening/Fluoride/Sealant Program at WLMS

The Howard County Health Department in collaboration with Chase Brexton Health Care will be providing dental education to all students at WLMS. If you would like your student to also participate in the programs oral screening exam and fluoride application please indicate "Yes" on the consent form and complete all other areas of the form including your signature. The schedule for this program is as follows:

Tuesday January 26, 2016 : Dental Education Visit (all students)

Thursday, January 28, 2016: * Dental Screening and Fluoride Varnish for all students **with** completed consent form. After completion of the screening you will receive a notice if your child needs immediate attention and you will be asked to follow up with a dentist.

Friday, January 29, 2016. * Dental Sealant application for those student identified having during the screening visit **with** completed consent form.

(with parental consent)*

Please complete the consent form coming home with your student this week and return to WLMS no later than **Monday, January 11, 2016**.

If you have any questions please contact the Cluster Nurse, Annette Grzybinski R.N. at 410-313-6957.

Policy 8030: Graduation Requirement - Update for Families

In the spring of 2015, the Howard County Public School System Board of Education voted to accept revision to [Policy 8030 – Graduation Requirements](#). In the revised policy, students who successfully complete high school level courses while in middle school will earn high school credit. Previously, students would receive credit for completing the course, but the credit would not count toward the 21 credits required for high school graduation.

The specific excerpt from the policy is shown below:

A. Credit for High School Courses Taken in Middle School

High school courses, which are offered at the middle school level, are eligible for high school credit.

Beginning with courses completed in the 2015-2016 school year:

1. The student's passed course will count toward the 21 credits for graduation requirement.
2. The student's course grade will be recorded on the high school transcript.
3. The student's grade will not be calculated into the high school grade point average. If a student re-takes one of the high-school courses taken in middle school for which credit was earned:
 - a. The high school grade will be calculated into the GPA, and
 - b. Only one credit will be awarded.
4. For high school world language courses, one credit will be awarded at the completion of a course in grade 8.

If you have questions about Policy 8030, please contact your school counselor.

Leadership Opportunity: HCASC invites all middle and high school students interested in leadership with a purpose to participate in our unique student-run monthly meetings the second Wednesday of every month-

- learn leadership skills and best practices
- discuss current events impacting students in HCPSS
- explore ways to make a difference in their schools and communities
- have fun!

Come see what 100 student leaders, athletes, and artists, who meet each month already know- HCASC is for students who want to get involved and work together to make their schools and HCPSS as strong as it can be.

Next meeting Wednesday 1/13 7-8:30 at the Homewood School 10914 MD-108, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org

Military Information Night: River Hill High School will be hosting a County-wide Military Information Night on Thursday, March 17, 2016 from 6pm-9pm. The program will take place in the Cafeteria and Media Center. Representatives from the five United States Military Academies, private and state sponsored military colleges, enlistment recruiters, ROTC, and the Howard County JROTC programs at Atholton, Howard, and Oakland Mills will be present and will be manning tables to distribute information. In addition, representatives of Congressional offices will be on hand to discuss the nomination process for the Military Academies. We will also have representatives of the Military Academies discussing their application processes.

Community Notices - *the events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.*

QPR Training Saturday, January 9th

Did you know that mental health and suicide prevention is one of the greatest areas of concern for Wilde Lake high school students and staff? Please join the WLHS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) for QPR training on Saturday, January 9th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the high school media center. QPR stands for **Question, Persuade, and Refer** — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Each year thousands of Americans, like you, are saying “Yes” to saving the life of a friend, colleague, family member, or neighbor. Please join us!

This session will be taught by WLHS parent Tina Barnett, a certified QPR facilitator and staff member at the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. There is a \$2.00 charge for materials. Financial assistance is available. Session is limited to 35 people. Please register by emailing Linda Leslie at lindaleslie@verizon.net. Call Linda at 410-740-4177 for additional information. Linda Lamppert, Phone: 443-539-8576

Columbia Festival of the Arts: Looking for something to do? Information regarding the Columbia Festival of the Arts Winter 2016 Festival Season is attached.

Crisis Text Line

Help at your fingertips, Crisis Text Line serves anyone, in any type of crisis, bullying, self-harm, and more. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds quickly to help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment and to stay safe and healthy. **Text START to 741-741**, anonymous and confidential.

If you have any questions or would like more information about Crisis Text Line, please contact Laurie Carson at lauriecarson@verizon.net for more information or to volunteer, visit www.crisistextline.org.

Howard County Recreation and Parks

Volleyball classes starting this Jan., you can view all of the programs and get more info at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/volleyball.htm>. Just click on the Youth Volleyball Programs and Leagues link. For questions, please contact Carson Nickell at cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4720. To register, call 410-313-7275.

Success in Style

Success in Style is looking for high school volunteers to help hang and tag clothing, organize donations and maintain neat and orderly retail spaces. If you'd like to volunteer, please go to our web site www.sucessinstyle.org.

University of Maryland

Evaluation for Parents and Teens at the Comprehensive Assessment and Intervention Program (CAIP) teens age 14 to 15 years, University of Maryland, College Park. Assessment consisting of a series of questionnaires, interviews, and videotaped activities assess how teenagers and their parents think and act around each other. The study would last for approximately 3-4 hours. Office Phone: (301) 405-4264, caipumd@gmail.com

Candlelight Concert Society

Brentano Quartet, Sat., Jan. 9, 8 p.m., Smith Theatre – Columbia, MD
For more information and to purchase tickets www.candlelightconcerts.org

River Hill Community Association

Coupon clipping event to benefit military families will be held in Jan., please drop off any unwanted/unused coupons to Claret Hall in the River Hill Village Shopping Center (6020 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville). Expired coupons are accepted since the base commissaries allow their use up to 6 months after the expiration date. If you are interested in participating in the actual coupon clipping on Jan. 13 and 14, call 410-531-1749 to sign up newsletter@villageofriverhill.org.

Candlelight Concert Society

Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School by Theatreworks USA, Sun., Jan. 31, 2 & 4 p.m.
Smith Theatre Columbia, MD. www.candlelightconcerts.org 410-997-2324

Howard Community College

Beginning Sewing: Make use of your trusty, dusty sewing machine. Learn (or relearn) to thread it, select material, follow a pattern, Tues., Jan. 12-March 8, 7-9 p.m., Wilde Lake High School. Howardcc.edu/ConEd or call 443- 518-4404.

Howard Community College

Inspiration and Songwriting: Explore lyrical content, rhyme, rhythm, melody and harmony with a talented musician and composer. Discover the song within you. Weds. Jan.13- Feb. 10, 7-8:30 p.m., Oakland Mills High School. Go to Howardcc.edu/ConEd or call 443 518-4404 for more information.

Howard Community College

Beginning Folk Guitar: Learn to play traditional and contemporary songs using flat-picking and finger picking techniques. Weds, Jan. 13-March 2, 7-9pm, Oakland Mills High School. Go to Howardcc.edu/ConEd or call 443-518-4404 for more information.

Howard Community College

Speaking with Confidence: This day long course, taught by a professional speaker and coach, will teach techniques to help you become a more confident, skilled and polished presenter, Sat., Jan. 16, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Gateway Campus. Go to Howardcc.edu/ConEd or call 443 518-4404 for more information.

Howard Community College

From Selfie to Self-Expression: Cell Phone and Tablet Photography: That SLR has been replaced with cell phones and tablets to take “in the moment” photo memories. Take your shots to the next level with this

course, taught by an HCC instructor and professional photographer. Sat., Jan. 16-23, 9 a.m.-1p.m. Go to Howardcc.edu/Con Ed or call 443 518-4404 for more information.

Howard Community College

Advanced Driving Skills: For newly licensed or seasoned drivers and offered in partnership with DriveTeam. Learn a variety of skid avoidance and recovery skills using state-of-the-art equipment. Use your own vehicle and the Skid Vehicle. Offered at HCC (Main Campus, Lot F). Next class is Sat., Jan. 23, 12:30-4:30 p.m. For more information go to riderschool.org or call Loretta Farb 443-518-4971.

Glen Mar Church

Second annual Day of Service: Mon., Jan. 18, (MLK Jr. Day) 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Family-oriented short-term service opportunities. Free and open to public. Come for an hour or come for the day. Glen Mar Church: 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City. Visit us at www.glenmarumc.org or call D.C. Veale at 410-465-4995 ext. 205.

Boy Scouts

Troop 615 Open House **Jan. 27**, at the Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City at 7 p.m. Join us to learn about Boy Scouting and the Adventures of Outdoor Cooking. Please RSVP to Dr. Bruce Anderson @ bdaabat@gmail.com.

Healing Dimensions Foundation Offers Stressless Tests

Stressless Tests Winter study skills classes. High School classes start **Jan. 27**, meeting for four Weds evenings at Centennial High School. Middle School classes start **Jan. 19** and meet for four Tues. evenings at Burleigh Manor Middle School. For more information, email Bcaldwell202@gmail.com or www.Stresslesstests.org

Food on the 15th

Volunteer opportunities for students of all ages. We collect, sort and deliver free non-perishable groceries directly to low-income Howard County senior citizens. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at www.foodonthe15th.org/. We are always looking for students and groups to do food drives for us. We can be reached at foodonthe15th@gmail.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

Pancake Supper, Tues. **Feb. 9**, 6-8 p.m., St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rt. 97 in Glenwood. Contact Beth at elizlindblom@hotmail.com with questions.

Glenelg Country School

The College Admission Process: The Past, Present, and Future, **Feb. 10**, 7 p.m., Multz Theater, Glenelg Country School, 12793 Folly Quarter Rd, Ellicott City, MD. A panel of distinguished college and university admission officers will host a frank and informative discussion. Full Details and RSVP: www.glenelg.org/dragindialogues.

North Laurel Community Center

Howard County Teen Clubs, Fri., **Jan 29**, 3:30-5 p.m., North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel, MD. Volunteer and earn service hours while learning important leadership and life skills. Please register online or by calling Recreation & Parks 410-313-7275 (Course Number RP2880.503). For more information, please contact Christine Lyons clyons@howardcountymd.gov

Glen Mar Church Singers (adults and high-school age) are needed to perform John Rutter's entire "Requiem" at a Good Friday Worship Service on **March 25**, 7:30 p.m. at Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City. Practice starts on Thursdays from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in January. Contact Sophie Hong, Glen Mar's Music Director at 410-465-4995 ext. 209 or sofie.hong@glenmarumc.org for more information.

Junior Achievement Rising Women

JA Rising Women is a unique after-school opportunity for female high school students in Howard County, Wed., Feb. 17-May 18, 5-6:30 p.m. (with 3 sessions extending to 7 p.m.) at bts Software Solutions in Columbia, MD. For more details and application requests, please contact Hina Naseem at hnaseem@jamaryland.org or 410-313-6403.

SPORTS

4th Quarter

Spring after school leadership program at Bonnie Branch and Elkrige Landing Middle School (Spring registration ends **Mar. 1**, 2016). The Fourth Quarter uses fitness and touch football to tackle these MAJOR community issues: 1. Lack of focus 2. Experimentation with drugs and alcohol 3. Childhood obesity 4. Failing to reach ones leadership potential. Become apart of the 4th Quarter TEAM by downloading a 4th Quarter Spring registration form at the4thqtr.org or jguy@the4thqtr.org

