

December 4, 2015

Greetings WLMS!

We are happy that the sun finally came out this first week of December! Many exciting and meaningful holiday activities are happening this month with families outside the school day. We ask your support in reminding our students the importance of arriving to school on time and keeping their focus on learning and studies during the next two and a half weeks until Winter Break. Thank you!

Students who participated in the PARCC assessments in the 2014-2015 school year will receive a Math and English Language Arts home report on Thursday, December 10, 2015. The reports will be distributed with your child's interim progress report.

HCPSS will offer two PARCC informational sessions to help parents interpret and understand their child's PARCC results and explore ways to support their child at home.

- Tuesday, January 5, 7–8 p.m., [Atholton Elementary School](#) cafeteria
- Wednesday, January 6, 7–8 p.m., [Stevens Forest Elementary School](#) cafeteria
- Monday, January 11, 7–8 p.m., [Clarksville Middle School](#) cafeteria
- Tuesday, January 12, 7–8 p.m., [Oakland Mills Middle School](#) cafeteria

Please visit <http://understandthescore.org/> for a detailed breakdown of the information on the home report. Additional details about the PARCC assessments can be found at <http://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/parcc>. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about your child's PARCC Home Report.

We would like to recognize the following WLMS Tiger Sharks for their strong performances in the "Turkey Trot" before Thanksgiving Break.

Here are the WLMS 2015-2016 Turkey Trot Winners:

8th grade- Mishael Roy- 13:33
7th grade- Liam Nesbitt- 13:58
7th grade- Alex Nguyen- 14:28
8th grade- Shane O'Brien- 14:47
8th grade- Matt MacDonald- 14:52
7th grade- Ethan Adams- 14:55
6th grade- Chiara Sforza- 15:50
7th grade- Annika McCormick- 16:40
7th grade- Abby Pisanic- 16:44
6th grade- Sararose Lefors- 17:04
6th grade- Sumara Bedward- 17:06

Thank you to Mr. Tiffany, Ms. Chiarella, and Mr. West for coordinating this event with the PTSA. We appreciate all of the parent volunteers who came out to support our students along the course.

Congratulations to 7th Grade Student Lexi Nguyen for being selected to participate in the Howard County Middle School GT Orchestra (MSGTO). Lexi was selected among the more than 160+ violinists throughout HCPSS auditioning for a seat in the MSGTO. The MSGTO performs two concerts a year -the Winter Concert at Long Reach High School on December 5th, and the Spring Concert at Marriotts Ridge High School on May 7th.

Congratulations to 7th Grade Student Jason Kwon for being selected to participate in the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras (BSYO). Jason was selected among the violists throughout different counties auditioning for Concert Orchestra. They will be performing on Sunday, December 13th, 3:00 pm, at the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology (938 York Road, Towson, MD, 21204).

We would like to warmly thank the PTSA and parents for the snack and dessert donations for the staff during the parent teacher conferences. It was very thoughtful of you and appreciated.

One more big shout out to the parents of 7th grader Aidan Harshaw. They cut out all the fins that Ms. Drakes and Mr. Spicher are using on the cars that the kids are building in Science class.

Have a terrific weekend!

Anne Swartz, Peter Gaylord, Lexi Couch, Tiffanie Nunley

Important Dates

December 4 – 7:00pm – Winter Band Concert
December 7 – BSAP Celebration
December 10 – 2nd Quarter Interim Reports Issued
December 11 & 12 – 7:00pm – Drama Production
December 14 – 7:00pm – Winter Choral Concert
December 15 – 8:00am – Memory Book Group Pictures
December 17 -7:00 pm – Winter Orchestra Concert
December 18 – GOTCHA Store
December 24 – Winter Break Begins

Donations Wanted

The WLMS Kindness Committee is asking for Gift Card Donations for our school families who are in need this holiday season. Last year within a 3-week turn-around, we were able to collectively come together and collect \$2000 worth of Gift Cards! WOW!!! Last year we were able to help families with food, necessities, and gifts for

the holiday season. This year we are asking that you help again and be a link in that never ending chain of kindness. Here are the particulars:

NEEDS: [Gift cards, any donation; any denomination.](#)

WHERE SHOULD THEY BE FROM: [Anywhere! Common cards are TARGET, WALMART, GROCERY STORES, RESTAURANTS, ATHLETIC STORES](#)

WHO DO I GIVE THEM TO? [Turn them into Ms. Stout \(Guidance Secretary\)](#)

WHEN DO YOU NEED THEM BY: [We are requesting that all donations be in by Friday, December 18th](#), so that we can distribute the cards to the recommended families in time for the holidays.

Once you have contributed, we will add a snowflake to the wreath located in the main lobby/front office (Don't worry your name or donation amount will be anonymous).

[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 "**Pay it Forward**" **Wednesday 12/9 7-8:30** at the **Homewood School 10914 MD-108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. For more information contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org

[Community Notices](#)

These events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

Glen Mar United Methodist Church

Walk to Bethlehem, Fri., Sat. and Sun., **Dec. 4, 5 and 6** at the church, 4701 New Cut Road in Ellicott City. Drop in anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. for this free event. For more information, visit <http://glenmarumc.org/gmcevents/wtb/> or call 410-465-4995 ext. 204.

Oakland Mills Community Association

Jazz in the Mills is proud to present the Holiday Extravaganza featuring Lori Williams on Sun., **Dec. 6**, 5-8 p.m. at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD. "Light fare" will be included. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$25 at The Other Barn or online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1316398 or call 301-596-5128 or 410-730-4610; manager@oaklandmills.org.

Oakland Mills Village Center

Decorate Your Own Gingerbread House **Dec. 9**, 6:30 p.m., The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, All supplies will be provided and you will be able to take your decorated house home at the end of the evening.

Tickets are \$20/person and can be purchased at The Other Barn beginning Nov. 4-Dec. 2nd.

Advance ticket purchase is required. Limited spaces are available.

For more information, please contact Brigitta Warren at 410-730-4610 or events@oaklands.org

Columbia Association

Holiday Breakfast, all ages, Pre-registration required. Sat, **Dec. 19**, 9:30-11 a.m., KidSpace/PPP Mbrs, \$10 per family Columbia Cardholder, \$12 per family, Non-Mbrs, \$14 per family.

Enjoy our multicultural holiday breakfast, music, holiday stories, arts and crafts and more.

www.columbiaassociation.org/kidspace

Columbia Association

The Columbia Art Center offers a variety of Art Classes for children of all ages. Check out the Fall Brochure on www.columbiaartcenter.org for more information. For inquiries or to register, please call Columbia Art Center at [410-730-0075](tel:410-730-0075) or email art.staff@columbiaassociation.org.

Columbia Association

Visiting Artist Workshops! On **Dec. 29-Dec. 30**, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, please call Columbia Art Center at [410-730-0075](tel:410-730-0075) or art.staff@columbiaassociation.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.

Elkridge Library

Tween Club, Tues., 6:30-8 p.m., ages 9-12, 90 minutes, **Dec 15, 2015**: Craft & Create; **Dec 29, 2015**: "Art Market" - craft supplies with a "cost"; **Jan 12, 2016**: Scratch Games; **Jan 26, 2016**: Pop-Ups and More

Feb 9, 2016: Design Challenge; **Feb 23, 2016**: Bubble. Bubble. Toil & Slime Science."

SPORTS

4th Quarter

Spring after school leadership program at Bonnie Branch and Elkridge Landing Middle School (Spring registration ends March 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

Savage Boys and Girls Club

Is accepting registrations for boys and girls ages 7-17 for its recreation basketball program for the 2015-16 season. Visit www.savagebgc.org for more information.