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Tiger Tales

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Web Site: <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

February 4, 2022

Mark Your Calendars

- Now – February 15 Summer Programs Registration Window
- February 7 – 11 [National School Counselor Week](#)
- February 8 – 22 Rising 6th Grade Middle School Fine Arts Course Selection Window
- Wed., February 9 Vision & Hearing Rescreening
- Wed., February 9 PTA Meeting (Virtual) – 7:00 p.m.
- Thur., February 10 3-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Friday, February 11 3-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Monday, Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day Grade Level Celebrations
- February 14 – 18 Kindness Challenge Sprit Week
Monday, 2/14 – Wear Red and/or Pink
Tuesday, 2/15 – Wear Tie Dye
Wednesday, 2/16 – Wear Mismatched Clothes
Thursday, 2/17 – Wear Hawaiian/Beach Attire (flowers, leis, bright colors)
Friday, 2/18 – Wear WFES Colors (Green/White) or Spirit Wear
- Wed., February 16 3-Hour Early Dismissal (12:45pm)**
- Wed., February 16 PTA Fundraiser at Bushel and a Peck
- Mon., February 21 **Calendar Change: SCHOOLS ARE OPEN – INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP DAY**
- Tues., February 22 **NEW DATE: Class/Group Picture Day**
- Tues., February 22 5th Graders - Registration Deadline for Middle School Courses through HCPSS Connect

School News

WFES COVID-19 Absence Reporting

We are asking families to follow the guidelines below to report any student absence(s):

- COVID Related Absences - report here: [WFES COVID-19 Absence Reporting](#)
 - Students displaying symptoms of COVID (a COVID Like Illness)
 - Students who are in Quarantine as a Close Contact to a known Positive case of COVID
 - Students who are Positive for COVID (with or without symptoms)
- All Other Absences - report here: WFESAbsence@hcpss.org
 - Illness not related to any COVID like symptoms (sprained/broken wrist, dental, lice, etc.)
 - Travel, Family Events, Family Emergencies

- Other

Lunar New Year Celebration

In celebration of Lunar New Year, WFES planned some exciting activities for our students. Each day this week we heard fun Lunar New Year facts, read aloud by various students on our morning announcements. In addition, our media specialist, Mrs. Petrilla shared some amazing read alouds and other resources with teachers who were able to utilize them in their classrooms.

The week concluded with a dancing dragon and parade! Thank you to the following First Grade Students who performed as our dancing dragon: **Noel L., Sarah F., Declan S., Savannah I., Ella C., Sean L., Olivia E., Ramsay W., Nolan M., and Jenna P.**

Also, thank you to the following Fifth Grade Students who volunteered their time to help with the creation of the dragon: **Sofia B., Taishi S., Tvarita R., Eleanor B., Annika J. and Zayna F.**

Finally, I would like to give a special shout out to Mrs. Schroder, Mrs. Pratt, and Mr. Umla for assisting Mrs. Schnebly with this event!

From the HCPSS Physical Education Office

All students must wear the proper shoes to participate in PE class. This follows the proper PE dress code set forth by the county PE office. Please remind your child(ren) that if it is a PE day, then tennis shoes/sneakers are to be worn. If your child wants to wear their boots, Uggs, sandals etc..., then have them carry their tennis shoes in their backpack or bag to change into for PE class.

Thank you for helping us keep your child(ren) safe for participation.

National School Counselor Week

Next week, February 7 - 11 is [National School Counselor Week](#)! We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate our very own WFES School Counselor, Mrs. Leslie Schnebly! Mrs. Schnebly's program creates and supports an environment for our students and staff, with a strong focus of well-being and belonging. Please consider taking the time to send Mrs. Schnebly an email, Leslie_Schnebly@hcpss.org, make a card, or write a letter to thank her for all she does for WFES.

WFES Valentine Celebrations on February 14th

WFES students and staff will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Monday, February 14th. Each grade level will organize a short time within the school day which will allow the exchange of Valentine's and a few **(non-food)** classroom activities. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Due to allergies and HCPSS Policy 9090, no Valentine cards or goodie-bags with food or candy are permitted. **Please do not send in Valentine's that contain candy. These types of Valentine's will NOT be distributed due to student safety.** Pencils, stickers, trinkets, etc. are allowed.
- Teachers will send home class lists. It is expected that if your child chooses to give out Valentine cards, he/she will give one to each child in the homeroom class.
- Individual teachers/grade levels will be in contact with families for any specific needs.
- Celebrations are for students and staff, parent volunteers will not be required.

Kindness Challenge Spirit Week

West Friendship will be participating in our annual Kindness Spirit Challenge Week! Please join in the celebration from **Monday, February 14th - Friday, February 18th**. We will begin sharing this information with students next week. Please refer to this [flier](#) for more information.

Please contact Mrs. Schnebly, WFES School Counselor for any kindness questions or updates.

Celebrating Black History Month

Unheard Perspectives is a G/T Instructional Seminar offered to 4th grade students. Students develop research skills as they learn about African American innovators whose contributions to our society are unheard or underrepresented.

The 4th Grade Unheard Perspectives Virtual Showcase will take place from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on February 23 and 24. WFES community members can get involved as judges. Judges will apply a rubric to the students' presentations, ask follow-up questions and provide feedback. You do not need to be an American history expert to serve as a judge. If you are interested in participating, please contact Nathan Haskins, WFES G/T Resource Teacher at Nathan.Haskins@hcpss.org no later than February 14.

Field Day News

HCPSS has advised Field Day planning and events for the 2021-2022 school year may return to normal. As with all HCPSS volunteers, Field Day volunteers must adhere to HCPSS guidelines regarding [masks](#), [vaccine requirements](#), and other [Volunteer Training](#). In order for Field Day to run smoothly and be a fun event for our student, we will need the assistance of many parent volunteers. If you have not already done so, please complete all of the required volunteer trainings and vaccine requirements as soon as possible. It is a three step process.

1. Complete the [Confidentiality Training](#), download and print the certificate
2. Review the [Child Abuse Training PowerPoint](#), download and print the certificate
3. Use the [PinPoint Vaccine Check Platform](#) to verify your vaccination status

2021-22 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale

It's not too early to order your 2021–2022 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The deadline for ordering is April 15th. To make sure your child will have a yearbook when they are delivered at the end of the school year, you must order through our school photographer. Books will NOT be available for purchase after the deadline of April 15th. Don't delay, order today! Books are \$20.00.

Please view this [flyer](#) for directions to order online (your student should be bringing home a paper copy later this week). Click [HERE](#) to begin your order.

Please reach out to Penny.Smith@hcpss.org with any questions. Thank you!

Fall 2021 MCAP Assessment Home Reports

Students in grades 4 and 5 who participated in the fall 2021 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) will be bringing home score reports on Monday, February 14th.

The reports show the prior grade level's understanding in math and English language arts. These assessments are just one measure of your child's performance and provide you with insight into your child's level of proficiency. Federal accountability requires that students assess annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. The assessments delivered in early fall of 2021 were the postponed assessments from the 2020-2021 school year. Reports reflect proficiency in the previous year's grade level or course. These results never stand alone in assessing student growth, and will be used in combination with other assessments and class work to gauge overall student performance.

For more information, please visit the [early fall HCPSS FAQ](#).

Important Messages for 5th Grade Families

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to any 5th grade student who does not have a prior CogAT score as well as all students in 5th grade GT Math. The data will assist with identification for Accelerated GT Math and provide an aptitude measure for students who had no previous CogAT test. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning

abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

The CogAT will be administered to the students mentioned above on February 22, 23, and 24. No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily with a fully charged Chromebook.

If you have any questions about GT placement, please contact our school's GT Resource Teacher, Mr. Haskins at nathan_haskins@hcpss.org

Important Message for 3rd Grade Families

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grades 3. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 will participate in the testing. The CogAT will be administered on February 22, 23, and 24. No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily with a fully charged Chromebook.

Placements for 4th grade GT Math will be made following the CogAT administration and will include all available performance and assessment data in accordance with Maryland COMAR for Gifted and Talented Education.

4th Grade GT Math Placements

Placements for 4th grade GT Math will be made following the CogAT administration and will include all available performance and assessment data in accordance with Maryland COMAR for Gifted and Talented Education.

If you have any questions about GT placement, please contact our school's GT Resource Teacher, Mr. Haskins at nathan_haskins@hcpss.org

Opting-In to Text Messages

Text Messaging

How can I opt-in to receiving text messages?

Text the word "YES" to 67587 from the wireless device you wish to receive texts on.

I received a text message that says if from SchoolMessenger. What does it mean?

An opt-in invitation message was sent by HCPSS using SchoolMessenger from 67587 and said: Howard County Public Schools alerts. Reply Y for approx. 5 msgs/mo. Txt HELP 4 info. Msg&data rates may apply. See schoolmessenger.com/tm

To continue receiving text messages, reply with Y. If you do not reply, you will not receive any future text alerts from School Messenger, the HCPSS News service provider. Text alerts include weather-related closings and emergency information.

2022 Academic Calendar Updates

In order to provide school-based staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education approved updates to the current [academic year calendar](#). Three-hour early dismissals now will take place on the following dates:

- February 16, 2022
- March 16, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 18, 2022

Update Your Family File

Please make certain your Family File is up-to-date. We will be using these to dismiss your student(s) on unexpected closing days. Do not wait until that day to make changes. We may have already printed information prior to you making changes. In addition, HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to supply emergency information. If you haven't done so already, [please verify and/or update information for your child\(ren\)](#) for the 2021-22 school year.

2022 Summer Programs Preview Available Online

Parents/guardians and students can now view/download the [2022 Summer Programs Preview](#), which includes descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information. Online enrollment requests for current HCPSS students will open at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 1st.

Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Recess

When we are able, we will offer outdoor dining during the winter months. We will also have outdoor recess whenever we can. Please have your students wear proper winter weather attire (coats, hat, gloves, etc.) so they are prepared for outdoors. The following factors are considered in determining if recess is to be held outside:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reading is less than 95. Children with certain health conditions may need special accommodations during extremely hot or cold weather. Parents of those children should provide medical documentation and may be consulted to determine if other arrangements are necessary.

Mask Policy

We continue to remind our students, regularly, about wearing their masks properly. We are reminding them that their mask should cover their nose and mouth. In addition, students must wear their mask on the school bus. Please check to be sure your child has a mask each day before leaving home. It is a good idea to place an extra mask in their backpack. We just want to keep everyone safe.

Early Dismissal Procedures

If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment that is close to the end of the school day, **please do so before 3:30pm**. After 3:30 pm, it is very difficult for our front office staff to get students while assisting with dismissal procedures. We appreciate your assistance with this! Thank you!

HCPSS Emergency Closing Notifications

In times of emergency/weather closings or delays, information is shared through our website, email, and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. The school system's operating status can always be found on the [HCPSS Status website](#). [More information about Emergency closings and information sources](#) is provided online.

From our Health Room - Daily COVID-19 Self-Screenings

All parents/guardians are to perform a [COVID-19 health check](#) every day before your student leaves home. Students are not to come to school if they are experiencing any [symptom\(s\) associated with COVID-19 or other communicable disease](#).

We thank you for keeping your children home when they are experiencing various illnesses. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the health room, by calling 410-313-5515 or email school nurse at Elizabeth.Collora@hcpss.org. If you want to test your child, please don't go to the ER unless the child is having difficulty breathing. [mobile covid testing sites](#)

PTA News

PTA Meeting

Please join us for the next PTA Meeting on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:00pm. This will be a virtual meeting held via Zoom. The Zoom meeting code will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Restaurant Night

The WFES PTA will have Restaurant Night at **Bushel and a Peck on Wednesday, February 16th, from 4:00 to 9:00pm**. Mention WFES and 20% of all dine-in, carry-out, and curbside orders will be donated to our school! Please use promo code: WFES if placing an online order. See below for complete details.



WFES RESTAURANT NIGHT FEB. 16TH 4- 9 PM

**SKIP THE COOKING & DISHES FOR THE NIGHT AND JOIN US AT
BUSHEL AND A PECK**

**MENTION YOU'RE THERE FOR WFES (ONLINE ORDERS. USE PROMO
CODE: WFES) AND 20% OF YOUR CARRY- OUT. CURBSIDE. AND
DINE- IN ORDERS WILL BE DONATED TO OUR SCHOOL!**

Clarksville Commons: 12250 Clarksville Pike, Suite H



Community News

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations."

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

Stay up-to-date on vaccine clinics, Covid testing, and more.

[Link to the Howard County Health Department](#)

Vaccination Clinics

Upcoming Vaccination Clinics:

- Cradlerock Elementary School, Friday, February 4, from 4:00 to 7:00pm
- Deep Run Elementary School, Tuesday, February 15, from 4:00 to 6:00pm
- Swansfield Elementary School, Friday, February 25, from 4:00 to 6:00pm

Stay up-to-date on vaccine clinics, COVID testing and more.

[Link to the Howard County Health Department](#)

Howard County Conservancy Summer Camp

[Click Here for Flier](#)

Mental Health Resources

- [Foreign-Born Support Services/Bilingual Support Services](#) - Updated Resources
 - Bilingual Mental Health Professionals
 - [Asian American Health Initiative \(AAHI\) Mental Health Providers Youth](#)
 - [Chinese](#)
- [Grief & Loss](#) - New Resource

Community Allies of Rainbow Youth

CARY, Community Allies of Rainbow Youth in Howard County, is sponsoring a virtual program on understanding and supporting transgender and non-binary young people.

It will take place on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. Anyone can register using [this link](#).

CARY is an organization started by CHS parents that advocates to improve opportunities for LGBTQ+ young people.

