March 3, 2023

Upcoming Dates

Mon., Mar. 6 – Fri., Mar. 10  Kindergarten Registration Week
Tuesday, March 7  School Spirit “Book Character” Day
Sunday, March 12  Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
Wednesday, March 15  Schools Close 3-Hours Early – Professional Wellness Day
Wednesday, March 15  Spirit “Wild About Reading” Day – Wear something with an animal on it or animal print.
Sunday, March 19  PTA Read-a-thon Final Day
Friday, March 24  School Spirit “Maryland Day” – Wear Red, Yellow, and Black
Friday, March 24  PTA Sponsored Cultural Arts Assembly – Spectacular Science: Fire & Ice
Monday, March 27  PTA Restaurant Event at Walker’s Tap and Table
Friday, March 31  Schools Close 3-Hours Early – End of 3rd Marking Period
Mon., Apr. 3 – Mon., Apr. 10  Schools Closed – Spring Break
Tuesday, April 11  Schools Reopen

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Community,

We had a wonderful week showing appreciation to our outstanding school staff! Our staff members are completely invested in partnering with us and our WFES families to build a culture for continued learning and growth. We are proud to serve as their administrators and thankful for their dedication.

We would like to thank our families who took time to submit one or more notes of recognition to our staff. We can assure you that they absolutely loved reading each shout out. We received more than 80 submissions and each one brightened the day of the people making a difference in the lives of our students.

We have lots of action taking place at WFES over the next several weeks. Next week is Kindergarten Registration week. Please spread the word to all your friends, family, and neighbors. We also have several fun spirit days planned for this month, as we finish out the last several weeks of our third marking period. The last day of the third marking period is Friday, March 31st.

We hope all WFES students will participate in the PTA Read-a-thon. The PTA Read-a-thon Committee is working hard to make this event a success. Take a few minutes to register your reader and support the PTA.

Thank you for your continued care and support of our students.

Yours in Education,

Lauren Slattery, Substitute Principal
Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal
School News

**Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration**

Registration for 2023-2024 Kindergarten begins on March 6th – 10th. Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2023, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Registering for school is an online process.

**Road to Kindergarten Workshop Slideshow**

**Gather Documentation**

**Getting Ready for Kindergarten**

**Begin Registration**

Parents/Guardians without access to a computer should contact Teachers’ Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 for assistance in completing the registration process.

**Early Admission for Kindergarten and First Grade**

Applications for early admission to kindergarten and first grade are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to kindergarten and first grade by April 30 and May 31, 2023, respectively.

**2022-23 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale**

It is not too early to order your 2022–2023 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The **deadline for ordering is April 14th**. To make sure your child will have a yearbook when books 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 14th. Do not 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 next week). Click [HERE](#) to begin your order. Please reach out to [Penny Smith@hcpss.org](mailto:Penny_Smith@hcpss.org) with any questions.

**Mystery Reader March**

Did you know that March is National Reading Month? To celebrate, we will be having Mystery Readers during the week of March 20th - March 24th. We would love for a parent to come into the classroom and share an age-appropriate story with your child’s class.

Do you need help finding a book to read? No problem! There will be several author options available for you to choose from on the sign-up page.

To volunteer, please sign up below by **March 13th**:  
Kindergarten Mystery Reader Sign Up  
1st Grade Mystery Reader Sign Up  
2nd Grade Mystery Reader Sign Up  
3rd Grade Mystery Reader Sign Up  
5th Grade Mystery Reader Sign Up

If you have not already completed your required volunteer trainings, please do so before your scheduled date. Thank you in advance for helping to make our students excited about reading! Please contact Mrs. Schnebly if you have any questions.

*** Chaperones * Visitors * Volunteers**

There are opportunities for parents to volunteer at school and/or chaperone field trips. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete two required volunteer trainings. Please take time to complete the required trainings now so you will be ready when these opportunities present themselves. You must review the trainings, print the documentation for each training, and send them to school at least 5 days prior to volunteering or chaperoning a trip. You may email them directly to Penny Smith at [penny_smith@hcpss.org](mailto:penny_smith@hcpss.org).

[Child Abuse Training](#) please review then complete the [Child Abuse Certificate](#)

[Confidentiality Training](#) please review then complete the [Confidentiality Certificate](#)
Lunch/Recess Update
The Office of School Safety and Security and Risk Management, in collaboration with School Management and Instructional Leadership, reviewed county wide practices regarding school visits and it has been determined that parents are no longer able to attend recess. Parents can continue to eat lunch with their child(ren) if they complete the following:

1. Go to the HCPSS website to review information about the school system volunteer process.
2. Review the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” PowerPoint.
3. Sign the Certificate of Completion for the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” form and provide it to the school when signing in.
4. Review the "Confidentiality Training for Volunteers" PowerPoint.
5. Sign the Confidentiality Agreement and provide it to the school when signing in.
6. Sign in at the front office using the Lobby Guard sign-in system (a valid photo I.D. must be provided).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Pre-Kindergarten Programs
The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are preparing for classes for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program’s focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3-years old by September 1st may apply. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February.

In alignment with Maryland’s Blueprint for the Future, new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available or accepted. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a prekindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at (410) 313-5500.

Howard County Family Resources
Please consider signing up to receive monthly newsletters from the Howard County Office of Children and Families. Attached you will find the February issue of Parent Pages.

Inclement Weather Reminders & Asynchronous Students Days
Students, families, staff, and community members will be notified of inclement weather notifications via:

- HCPSS Status website
- HCPSS homepage
- HCPSS News email and text message alerts
- Twitter - @hcpss
- HCPSS Information Hotline, 410-313-6666

Asynchronous Student Days are as follows:

- Code Purple – Asynchronous Student Day; Buildings Open
- Code Pink – Asynchronous Student Day; Buildings Closed

Elementary school students access asynchronous tasks distributed by teachers or via the HCPSS website.

** March Asynchronous Learning Packets were sent home with students on 2/24/2023. **
Summer Programs Registration
Online enrollment requests for HCPSS’ 2023 Summer Programs for currently enrolled HCPSS students will open Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00pm. Enrollment requests can be made via HCPSS Connect Synergy by a parent, guardian, school counselor, or school achievement liaison. Enrollment requests do not guarantee placement in courses.

Health Room Reminders
- **Please keep all sick children at home.** Any student with a temperature of 100 degrees should be kept at home for 24 hours past the last fever (without medications).
- Encourage your child to wash their hands frequently to reduce the spread of germs.
- Stay home while sick and limit contact with others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or tissue.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap & warm water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if washing is not available.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes, and mouth.

Always feel free to email our School Nurse, Elizabeth_Collora@hcpss.org with any questions.

When Your Child is Absent from School
Now that our year is well underway, we would like to remind our families about our attendance procedures. If your child is going to be absent from school, or if you need to provide a note to excuse your child’s absence from a previous day, please use our school absence inbox by emailing wfesabsence@hcpss.org. You may also send in a note the day your child returns to school. Your message must include your child’s first and last name, the date of absence, and the reason for absence. Please do not email CANVAS or the teacher regarding absences. We are required to have a reason for the absence in order to code absences as excused in alignment with HCPSS Policy 9010: Attendance.

PTA News & Events
**West Friendship Elementary PTA Read-a-thon**
Our Read-a-thon started on Thursday March 2, 2023. Please check student backpacks for instructions on how to activate your reader's personal page. This is where you will be able to view and record their progress. We encourage you to activate your reader’s account today by clicking on this link [https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/cPABYZ/1](https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/cPABYZ/1) and following the simple instructions. We've chosen Read-a-thon because it will not take much of your time, gives your child a reason to read, and helps in the development of stronger reading skills. We hope EVERYONE participates.

**WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraisers**
**Walker's Tap and Table Fundraiser**
Walker’s Tap & Table is located at 2465 MD-Route 97, Glenwood, MD
Have a delicious meal at Walker’s Tap and Table on **Monday, March 27**th and support the WFES PTA!
Community News and Events

HCPSS Community News and Programs Site
The HCPSS 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.

Know What’s Happening in Howard County
Sign up for HC DrugFree’s newsletter at https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/ to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed.

Glenelg High School Theatre Department presents Little Shop of Horrors this weekend. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased online at HCPSS.booktix.com or at the door! March 3 at 7PM; March 4 at 2PM and 7PM; and March 5 at 2PM

Kids on Campus at Howard Community College
Each summer, Howard Community College offers a variety of weekly enrichment programs for youth ages 6 to 17. Below you will find a flier, or you may visit www.howardcc.edu/koc for information and updates. A limited number of booklets are available in the “WFES Brochures and Information” display located in the front hall by the office. Registration opened January 26, 2023.

The Essence of Us Workshop Series
Saturdays: Feb. 11, March 11, April 15, and May 13, 10-11 a.m., virtual and in-person workshops
The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County and the HCPSS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have partnered to present "The Essence of Us: Chronicling the African American Experience," a workshop series geared toward middle and high school students that will provide a better understanding of African American history and how it is written. Workshops will be held both, virtually and in-person. Participants will receive an email with details upon registering online.