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

**April 26, 2019**

## **Weather Emergency Drills**

Yesterday, WFES students and staff practiced a severe weather drill. This drill is one of the safety measures that all HCPSS schools conduct periodically throughout the year as part of our Emergency Response Plans. It is good practice for students and staff to review safety procedures. We again practiced this drill today due to a severe thunderstorm warning. We are very proud of our students and the manner in which they conducted this emergency drill.

## **Wanted!**

Spring has sprung and so have the little noses suffering from allergies! We are in desperate need of facial tissues! If you can spare a box or two, please send them to the office so we can distribute to the classrooms that are in need. Thank you so much!

## **Toys in School**

We have noticed an increase of toys and trinkets in school. Students are requested to keep balls, trading cards, and other toys at home, unless specifically requested by their teachers.

## **PARCC Testing for Grades 3-5**

This spring, all third, fourth, and fifth grade students in the state of Maryland will take the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment in reading and mathematics. Testing dates for each grade are listed below. There is nothing special that you need to do to prepare your child for the assessment, other than ensure a good night's sleep the night before and a good breakfast that morning. If your child has headphones of their own at school he or she will use those. Otherwise a pair will be provided by the school.

Please avoid scheduling travel and appointments on the testing dates for your child's grade.

If you have any questions about the PARCC assessment, please contact your child's teacher or Mr. Vanisko.

April 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math

May 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

May 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

May 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

May 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

## Mark Your Calendars! Please RSVP ASAP!

Guest speaker Vincent DeVivo, community outreach specialist with the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maryland, will present ***Innocence Stolen: Protecting Our Children Online*** on **Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the Media Center at WFES. This is a multimedia presentation that provides communities the necessary information to keep children safe on the internet. The presentation informs parents about how to protect their children from negative and criminal influences online. Note: Due to the mature nature of some content, this event is limited to adults only. **RSVP for this event here: [Innocence Stolen Presentation](#)**

Here is a review of this presentation from one of our tech savvy staff members:

*"I have seen this presentation twice over the past couple years and just wanted to add my recommendation to attend if you are able... What a great opportunity to have Mr. DeVivo right here in our own media center! (The first time I saw him, it was far from convenient to get there.) Well worth the investment of time for this eye opening wealth of information. I hope you can attend. – Holly Walker, Gifted Talented Teacher"*

## How to Help Your Child Who Has Allergies

**SPRING ALLERGIES** have started. Does your child suffer from spring allergies? The following are some things you can do to help your child during the allergy season:

- 1) Regularly give allergy medication as prescribed by the doctor.
- 2) Discourage rubbing of the eyes. Use a cool compress on the eyes to give relief.
- 3) When your child comes in from outdoors, the following may help alleviate symptoms:
  - a) wash hands with soap and water,
  - b) wash off face, including glasses, with a wash cloth or splash water on face,
  - c) wipe down from head to toe with the wet cloth, and
  - d) change clothing, if not going back outside.
- 4) Try not to allow your child to go into the bedroom with the clothing worn outside; this will prevent pollen from falling on the bed.
- 5) Have your child take a bath or shower before bed to rinse pollen off the hair and skin.

## Update on the Last Day of School

The Maryland State Department of Education today approved HCPSS' request for a waiver of one school day. As a result, the last day of school for students is Friday, June 21.

The final, updated calendar for the 2018-2019 school year includes:

- Tuesday, June 18 - Friday, June 21: High school exams
- Tuesday, June 18: Last day for half-day Pre-K/RECC
- Wednesday, June 19 - Friday, June 21: Schools dismiss three hours early
- Friday, June 21: Last day of schools for students (including full-day Pre-K)

HCPSS requested the waiver because all four days reserved for inclement weather make up days were used, plus one additional day. Maryland state law requires schools to be in session for a minimum of 180 days each year, and waivers to this requirement must be approved by the Maryland State Board.

The current [HCPSS calendar](#) is available online.

## Kindergarten & New First Grade Registration Continues!

The kick-off for Kindergarten and New First Grade at West Friendship Elementary School began last week. Children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2019 must enroll in Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. Registration will take place daily from **10:00 a.m.**

**to 3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.** Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent/guardian resides. It is important to take care of registration as soon as possible. Knowing how many students we will have is necessary to adequately plan for next school year.

**The online registration process is very convenient.** Most of the process can be conveniently completed online. Please visit <https://news.hcps.org/news-posts/2019/03/2019-2020-kindergarten-registration-online-enrollment-open-completion-in-schools-march-11-15-2019/>. Be sure to register for the 2019-2020 school year. **Please understand that you still must visit our school to finalize your registration.** You must bring or upload the following documents:

1. Birth certificate
2. Current immunization record - must be a print out from the physician and signed
3. Deed or lease to your home
4. Current utility bill
5. Proof of Custody (if applicable) **(must be presented at the school!!)**
6. Photo ID of parent/guardian registering the student **(must be presented at the school!!)**

Questions??? Please contact Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 or [Colleen.Green@hcps.org](mailto:Colleen.Green@hcps.org).

## Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, May 1	Walking Wednesdays Begin!
Wednesday, May 1	Tiger Celebrations – Gr. 1 at 1:55pm; Gr. 3 at 3:00; Kdgn at 3:05pm
Thursday, May 2	Parent Book Club – 9:30am
Thursday, May 2	<i>Innocence Stolen: Protecting Our Children Online</i> Presentation - 6:30 pm
Friday, May 3	Kindergarten Field Trip – 9:30am to 3:00pm
Friday, May 3	Gr. 2 Tiger Celebration – 3:00pm
May 6 – May 10	Teacher Appreciation Week
Wednesday, May 8	Night of Excellence – 6:30pm
Friday, May 10	Gr. 5 Simulated Congressional Hearings
Tuesday, May 14	Choral Concert – Performance for Students – 2:30pm
Tuesday, May 14	Choral Concert – Evening Performance – 6:00pm
Thursday, May 16	Interim Reports Issued
Thursday, May 16	PTA Meeting in the Media Center – 6:30pm
Friday, May 17	3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students – Professional Learning Day
Monday, May 20	Field Day (Rain Date 5/22)
Tuesday, May 21	Gr. 5 Students Visit Mount View Middle – 9:30am
Tuesday, May 21	Gr. 5 Students will assist in Planting Day – PM
Thursday, May 23	School Spirit <i>Decade Day</i>
Friday, May 24	PTA Spring Festival – 4:30pm
Monday, May 27	Schools & Offices Closed – Memorial Day
Thursday, May 30	Parent Book Club – 9:30am
Thursday, May 30	Gr. 1 Tiger Celebration – 1:55pm
Friday, May 31	Tiger Celebrations – Kdgn at 2:30pm; Gr. 2 & Gr. 4 at 3:00pm

**PTA News** <https://www.wfespta.com/>

## Help Wanted!

In search of some fun and talented parents! Several of our PTA Board and Committee chairs have 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and will be passing the torch. Have you been wanting to get involved

and just don't know how to get started? It is simple, whatever little or lot of time you can donate will be much appreciated. Some committee vacancies for next year are: Family Fun Committee (movie night, school dance) - what could we do better? Membership Committee - sending out forms and keeping count of our fabulous members! Please contact Mrs. Amy Grutzik with questions, concerns, or ideas at [agrutzik@gmail.com](mailto:agrutzik@gmail.com). Remember, questions do not commit you to anything!

### **WFES PTA Restaurant Night at Ernesto's**

Mark your calendars! On May 6<sup>th</sup> come to Ernesto's to celebrate and raise money for the West Friendship PTA, anytime between 5 and 9. Come enjoy everything Ernesto's has to offer. Be sure to mention WFES PTA so they will receive a portion of the sales! Ernesto's is located at 10040 Baltimore National Pike (Enchanted Forest Shopping Center).

### **Amazon Smile**

Help support West Friendship Elementary Schools PTA by shopping on Amazon through Amazon Smile. You get the same great deals and benefits offered by Amazon while supporting our school! Just go [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and login to Amazon using your regular username and password. Search for and select West Friendship Elementary School PTA under charitable organizations, and you are ready to shop!

## **Community Information**

### **Does your rising 6th grader need aftercare? Click here for complete details.**

Attention parents of rising 6th graders! Are you looking for aftercare for your child going into middle school? Let's get a program started at Mount View Middle School!

Howard County Recreation and Parks can start the program with as few as 10 registered students. The Can-Teen Club offers homework time, healthy snacks, age-appropriate activities, and field trips. It also offers a 3-day or 5-day enrollment option.

Registration started on April 2. There is a \$50 registration fee and you should select "Folly Quarter MS" as the site (as MVMS currently is not a site). **Once you have registered, email the coordinator to tell her that you want the program to start at MVMS.** The Can-Teen coordinator is Lakishia Major, 410-313-4717 or [lmajor@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lmajor@howardcountymd.gov).

Please register your student before we leave for summer break. Recs and Parks needs time to get the school inspected and licensed as a new site as well as hire and train new staff. If you have any questions please contact Yvonne Cotto at 240-418-2501 or [yhucotto@hotmail.com](mailto:yhucotto@hotmail.com)

### **Wellness Resource Fair**

You are invited to attend our Wellness Resource Fair on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Bollman Bridge Elementary School. Please visit <https://bbeswellnessresourcefair.weebly.com/> for complete details.

### **Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey**

Parents of students receiving special education services are encouraged to complete the MSDE survey, which will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services. Complete the hard copy recently mailed to parents, or complete the survey online at [www.mdparentsurvey.com](http://www.mdparentsurvey.com) Please remember the survey must be completed by May 17, 2019.

## **Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center**

Learning Together Program – Prekindergarten

The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) preschool and pre-kindergarten programs are making preparations for classes for the 2019-2020 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 or 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup> may contact Katie Hereth at Bushy Park Elementary for an application package beginning February 15, 2019. At this time, there are a few available 4-year-old learning together peer spots for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. This program is also at Bushy Park RECC in the afternoon 5 days a week. Please contact Katie Hereth at 410-313-5500 for additional information and an application.

## **2019 Summer Band Camps - It's now time to register!**

If you have a child who is in fourth or fifth grade band and you are interested in them participating in one of the many wonderful Howard County summer band camp programs this summer, now is the time to register your child. Mrs. Syversen has created a list of local band (and strings) camps in the Howard County and surrounding areas. Please visit her band website at: <https://www.amybejm.com> and click on the button for "2019 Summer Camps" to access the HCPSS Google Drive document and register your child for a summer of musical fun!

## **Marriotts Ridge HS Booster Summer Camp 2019 registration is now open!**

We have a camp for everyone -- sports, music and arts! Complete information, including camp schedule, is available on the booster's website. Early registration closes May 18<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.mrhs-boosters.com/summer-camps>

## **Camp Improv - Summer Comedy Camp for Kids and Teens!**

Session 1: July 8-12, Session 2: July 15-19

Director: Kathryn Carlsen, Centennial HS Theatre

This camp is all about the joy of jumping in and finding the funny. Listening, saying "yes, and," collaboration and flexibility are key. Though there is a focus on the basics, students with prior improv experience will find an opportunity to strengthen their basic comedy muscles.

Grades 2-5: 9am-12pm

Students will work on creativity and teamwork through improv, storytelling, and clowning exercises. They will perform a show at the end of the week featuring the skills they learned.

Grades 6-8: 9am-12pm

Students will work on teamwork, trust, support and artistic collaboration through improv exercises and short form games, like the ones played on Whose Line Is It Anyways? Students will perform a show at the end of the week featuring the games that they learned. (*Level 1 and 2 available. If you have been at one year of Camp Improv, you can be in level 2*).

Location: Centennial High School on the stage and in theatre room.

Cost: \$195 includes a Camp Improv shirt

Performance: Students will perform on the Friday of the camp week at 7pm. All tickets to the show are complimentary!

Registration Due: June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please visit [www.campimprov.org](http://www.campimprov.org) for information and registration.

Questions? Email Kathryn Carlsen at [kcarlsen@hcpss.org](mailto:kcarlsen@hcpss.org)

*Camp Improv is supported by the Centennial High School Boosters.*