

School News

Outdoor Recess

As we head into our winter months, now is the perfect time to share our school system's policy regarding outdoor recess. As you are aware, we take students outside each day for recess. This is a great opportunity for students to get some exercise and a much needed break from their academics. With that being said, we want to make sure that we keep students healthy so that they can be in school each day. If the wind chill (AKA "Feels Like") temperature is 20°F or above and no falling precipitation (no more than a sprinkle or mist) we will go outside for recess.

As the temperatures drop, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for the bus stops, as well as for recess. Please make sure students have winter coats with them for recess. We want to keep students safe and healthy. Please be sure all student clothing (coats, sweaters, hats, gloves) are labeled with your child's name. If you need assistance providing a winter coat please contact our Pupil Personnel Worker, Farah Evans at Farah_Evans@hcpss.org or 410-313-6823.

Winter Chorus Concert

Please mark your calendars for the Winter Chorus Concert on Monday, December 17th. The concert will be held in 2 parts. Session 1 will begin at 6:15pm and will feature the 3rd Grade Chorus and the 4th Grade Percussion Ensemble. Session 2 will begin at 7:15pm and feature 5th Grade Chorus and the 5th Grade Percussion Ensemble.

Elementary Safety Protocol - After School

Parents with children in the HCRP aftercare program and any after school activity, please take note: For the safety of our staff and students in after school programs, the doors at West Friendship Elementary will remain locked after school. **If your child is in an after school activity, you must wait for your child outside. The program activity staff will walk the children to the front doors and dismiss them to their parents/guardians at the end of their activity.** If your child is in our regular after care program, you will ring the bell at the cafeteria door to pick-up your child. This is the same as the before school procedure.

Also, please understand that teachers lock their classroom doors when they leave for the evening. Parents and students will not have access to the school or classrooms to retrieve forgotten items such as homework or instruments. It is important that you help your child to learn ways to remember to bring home all needed items.

Home & School Connection

Please view the attachments to read the September issue of Home & School Connection. The publication is available in both, English and Spanish.

December – English

December – Spanish

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, December 12

Friday, December 14

Monday, December 17

Wednesday, December 19

Wednesday, December 19

Wednesday, December 19

Thursday, December 20

Friday, December 21

Friday, December 21

Mon., Dec. 24 – Tues., Jan. 1

Wednesday, January 2

Friday, January 4

Social followed by PTA Meeting – 6:00pm

Gr. 2 Field Trip – 9:25am

Winter Chorus Concert – Performance for students – 2:30pm

Due to limited space, this performance is just for WFES students.

Session 1: 3rd Grade Chorus & 4th Grade Percussion – 6:15pm

Session 2: 5th Grade Chorus & 5th Grade Percussion – 7:15pm

School Spirit” Pajama Day”

Kindergarten Polar Express Day

Interim Reports Issued

Gr. 1 Tiger Celebration – 1:55pm

Gr. 3 Tiger Celebration – 3:00pm

Gr. 4 Tiger Celebration – 3:00pm

No School – Winter Break

Schools Reopen

Gr. 5 Cluster Choral Concert at MRHS

PTA News

PTA Meeting & Social

Our next PTA meeting is tomorrow, December 12th. We are meeting in the Media Center for a social starting at 6:00pm. Come out and meet other members and enjoy some delicious holiday treats! Have a great holiday cookie recipe? Bring some to share! We'll sample cookies (or other holiday treats!), exchange recipes, and chat at 6pm, with the meeting starting at 6:30. Baking not your thing? No big whoop. Just come eat cookies and get to know other WFES parents! Our PTA President, Melissa Bonier is great at keeping the meeting short and to the point. We would love to see some new faces!

Please Join the PTA

If you have not already, please join the WFES PTA! Membership supports all the amazing programs at WFES such as cultural arts, the school dance, skate night, movie night, Spring Festival, and in-school field trips. The cost is \$15 per family for the year. For that price you get access to the PTA directory, and satisfaction of knowing you are supporting all of the great events your kids love. Please take a second and join by visiting <https://www.wfespta.com/join/pta-member-registration/>

FAMILY FUN SKATE NIGHT – SAVE THE DATE!

When: Sunday, January 20, 2019 (no school the following day!)

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Wheels Skating Center in Odenton

Skate Rental - \$3.00 for quad skates - \$4.00 for in-line skates

ADMISSION IS FREE!

Look for a flier to come home in early January
Questions? Contact Alicyn Hodges at asampsonhodges@gmail.com

Community News

Winter Break Meals Program Will Serve Howard County Children December 27-28, 2018

The Howard County Public School System is collaborating with the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services, the Howard County Library System and the Community Action Council of Howard County to provide nutrition for children in need during the winter school break. Free meals will be offered at two Howard County locations on **Thursday, December 27** and **Friday, December 28**.

Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on both days at the following locations:

- The Bain 50+ Center – [5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia](#)
- Howard County Library System East Columbia Branch – [6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia](#)

“The number of Howard County families that qualify for the Free and Reduced-Meals Program is rising each year,” said HCPSS Superintendent Michael Martirano. “Hunger doesn’t take a vacation, so it was imperative that we replicate our summer meals program to serve our children during their winter break.”

All children under 18 years of age will receive a free meal. There are no application requirements or cost to families.

Holiday Jazz Cabaret at Marriotts Ridge High School!

The Annual Holiday Jazz Cabaret will be held Tuesday, December 18th at 7pm. Join friends and family for a relaxing and joyful evening. Enjoy fabulous treats (including a chocolate fountain!), appetizers, and beverages while listening to some amazing holiday music performed by the MRHS Jazz Band, Women’s Choir, Madrigals and several amazing soloists.

Tickets are \$12 and sold at the door.