

## 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](mailto:Farah_Evans@hcpss.org) or 410-313-6823.

### Winter Chorus Concert

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

### Upcoming Spirit Day

Our Student Leadership Team consulted with their peers to come up with many ideas for spirit days. Our next spirit day will be next Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for "Pajama Day".

### 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

Monday, December 17	Winter Chorus Concert – Performance for students – 2:30pm <b>Due to limited space, this performance is just for WFES students.</b> Session 1: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Chorus & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Percussion – 6:15pm Session 2: 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Percussion – 7:15pm
Wednesday, December 19	School Spirit” Pajama Day”
Wednesday, December 19	Kindergarten Polar Express Day
Wednesday, December 19	Interim Reports Issued
Thursday, December 20	Gr. 1 Tiger Celebration – 1:55pm
Friday, December 21	Gr. 3 Tiger Celebration – 3:00pm
Friday, December 21	Gr. 4 Tiger Celebration – 3:00pm
Mon., Dec. 24 – Tues., Jan. 1	No School – Winter Break
Wednesday, January 2	Schools Reopen
Friday, January 4	Gr. 5 Tiger Celebration – 9:20am
Friday, January 4	Kdgn Tiger Celebration – 2:35pm
Friday, January 4	Gr. 5 Cluster Choral Concert at MRHS
Tuesday, January 8	Parent Puberty Education Meeting in Room #123 – 5:30pm
Friday, January 11	Kdgn In-House Field Trip – 9:15pm
Wednesday, January 16	PTA Meeting in Media Center – 6:30pm

## PTA News

### The WFES School Spirit Store is live!!

Place your holiday shopping order by December 17<sup>th</sup> at the West Friendship Elementary School on-line spirit store to guarantee delivery by Christmas. Enjoy up to 50% off items and shipping on gifts for the whole family, including the expanded ladies and youth sections. Don't miss out on polos, gym bags, sweatshirts, t-shirts, shorts, hats, and more.

Please visit [https://spiritstore.olinesports.com/index.php?school\\_url=wfesgear.com](https://spiritstore.olinesports.com/index.php?school_url=wfesgear.com)

A portion of each sale goes directly back to West Friendship Elementary School and is sold by O-Line Sports only with the express permission of WFES.

### 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.