School News

From Our Administrators...

November is such a busy month! We continue to look forward to seeing our families at the special events that lie ahead in the next few weeks: American Education Week, Parent Conferences, and our Scholastic Book Fair! Thank you for supporting us in all our activities!

Report Cards will come home on Monday, November 11th. Please take time to review your child’s report card with your child. It is helpful for children to know what areas they are doing well and where they need to work harder. Don’t feel the need to reward their hard work with a tangible item. Most children respond well to praise for their persistence and hard work. Please focus on the effort behind the grade and not for the grade itself. If a child is lacking in an area, it may be helpful to set a goal to improve a grade or learning behavior.

Please note the information provided below for visiting with us for American Education Week and reserving a time for Parent/Teacher Conferences. We are excited to have two opportunities to collaborate with you on the progress of your child!

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable weekend!

Ms. Kaye Breon, Principal
Mr. Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal

American Education Week at West Friendship Elementary School

The National Education Association’s 98th annual American Education Week is November 18-22, 2019. This year’s theme is... "Reach. Educate. Inspire." It is an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a quality education.

West Friendship Elementary invites parents to visit classes during the week. We ask that you refrain from bringing siblings to class, as this is a time for you to enjoy an academic activity with your child. Grade levels have planned special activities involving parents as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Nov. 18</th>
<th>Tuesday, Nov. 19</th>
<th>Wednesday, Nov. 20</th>
<th>Thursday Nov. 21</th>
<th>Friday, Nov. 22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Second Grad</td>
<td>Third Grade</td>
<td>Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Fifth Grade</td>
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<td>12:30 – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1:30 -2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>10:25 – 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>10:15 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>First Grade</td>
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<td>1:45 – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>10:25 – 11:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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Parent-Teacher Conferences
As partners in your child's education, we invite you to sign up for fall Parent Teacher Conferences. Important conference information was sent home with all students today. Please check your child’s take home folder for this information.

The HCPSS window for conferences is scheduled for November 25\textsuperscript{th}, 26\textsuperscript{th}, and 27\textsuperscript{th}. Parents can log into HCPSS Connect beginning Monday, November 11\textsuperscript{th} at 12:01 a.m. through Friday, November 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 11:59 p.m. Parents will be able to view and select from the time slots provided.

Fall conferences will be with your child’s Language Arts teacher. If your child is in the 4th grade GT math program with Mr. Haskins, you will also be able to schedule a time.

Math conferences, to include 5\textsuperscript{th} grade GT students and Mrs. Greene’s 4\textsuperscript{th} grade G/T students will be held in the February. If there is a math concern, please contact your child’s math teacher on November 21\textsuperscript{st} or 22\textsuperscript{nd}, by email or phone, to schedule a time.

Should you need to conference with a related arts teacher, please contact our Teachers’ Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512.

**Time for the Book Fair**

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please plan on visiting our Book Fair to help our children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading. What an awesome way to start your holiday shopping!

Book Fair dates: November 18 – 26, 2019
Book Fair location: Conference Room (Main Office)
Shopping hours: 8:45am to 4:15pm
Extended hours: Monday, November 25 & Tuesday, November 26, 8:45am to 7:00pm

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair!
Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

**Volunteers Needed for the Book Fair!**
The West Friendship Elementary Book Fair is an event that students look forward to, year after year. Many middle school students return to WFES to support the Book Fair. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please visit https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EKcQsHzt6KjQEfCuN6mFZUC7PPZIOPhf5Cjhr-cEJk/edit#gid=0 to select a time you are available to help our school. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated.

**Upcoming School Spirit Days**
Please join us on **Monday, November 11\textsuperscript{th} in wearing RED, WHITE, and BLUE** to honor our Veterans and service men and women. We value and appreciate the important role played by our veterans and service men and women. In honor of Veterans Day, West Friendship would like to recognize these heroes who serve our country. To all who have served or are currently serving, we thank you!

**Federal Impact Aid Forms**
Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive additional federal funding. Parents who completed Family File and who identified themselves as working on federal property in Maryland or as active duty military will receive pre-filled Impact Aid forms last week in your child’s Friday folder, to confirm the information and provide a signature. Signed forms returned to your child’s school will help ensure that the school system receives applicable funding. If you did not indicate that you work on a federal property or are active duty military,
please let the front office know, and we will send a form home with your student. Please visit https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/impact-aid/ to learn more about the Federal Impact Aid programs.

School Counselor Newsletter
Click here to read the HCPSS Elementary School Counseling monthly newsletter, The Advocate.

Young Authors’ Contest
Students in Grades 1-5 are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors’ Contest, which is sponsored by the State of Maryland Literacy Association. Poems or short stories may be entered into the contest. The deadline for entries is December 4, 2019. Attached you will find complete contest guidelines and an entry cover sheet.

Contest Guidelines
Entry Cover Sheet

HCPSS New Attendance Procedures
Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student’s academic and social success starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school or even facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student’s academic success.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Student attendance is a major point of focus for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Starting in school year 2018-2019, MSDE lowered the chronic absenteeism rate from 20% to 10% which means that at 10% a student should be receiving support and interventions to improve their absenteeism.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key for student success. Per Policy 9010, HCPSS defines exemplary attendance as a final attendance rate of 96% or more of the student year.

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach for attendance supports and interventions.

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents will receive a Care and Concern Phone Call and letter from their school. This step will allow staff members to coordinate with families to determine how the student can be supported for better attendance.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.
- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and supports at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State’s Attorney’s Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life.

Visitation/Lunch
Parents are invited to visit our school; however, the instruction of the students is the primary purpose of the school and no other activity should interfere with this basic purpose. For the protection of the children and staff, all visitors must report to the school office before going to any other area of the building, including outside recess. Visitors must sign-in with a driver’s license or state issued identification card in order to obtain a badge from the office. Visitors who are not listed on a student’s emergency procedure form, must have written permission from the student’s parent in order to visit/volunteer in our school. Anyone wishing to tour the school or visit a class must call the school and prearrange a visit. Please understand that younger siblings are not permitted during visits/lunch/recess/volunteer time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Save the Date!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 11</td>
<td>School Spirit <em>Wear Red, White &amp; Blue</em> in Honor of Veterans Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 11</td>
<td>Report Cards Issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 13</td>
<td>Worries, Concerns &amp; Apprehension Parent Event in Media – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, November 15</td>
<td>Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18 – 22</td>
<td>American Education Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18 – 26</td>
<td>WFES Book Fair</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 20</td>
<td>PTA Meeting – 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>November 25 &amp; 26</td>
<td>Schools Close 3-Hrs. Early – Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>November 27-29</td>
<td>Schools Closed – Happy Thanksgiving</td>
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From the PTA

West Friendship Elementary School PTA News
The overall purpose of PTA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Be informed about the goings on with WFES PTA:
*PTA Website:* [www.wfespta.com](http://www.wfespta.com)
*PTA Facebook page:* West Friendship Elementary School PTA

School Directory Access
The school directory is now available. Please log onto the directory with the following directions. The directory can be sorted by grade or other various search options.

Go to [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)
Click on HCPSS Connect
Click on HCPSS Connect Log In
Select **Family File/School Directory** from the menu on the left of the screen in the navigation bar.

WFES Day at Tony’s Pizzeria
Monday, November 18th will be an ALL DAY fundraiser at Tony’s Pizzeria in West Friendship. Both, carryout and delivery orders qualify us to receive credit. However, you must present the flyer to the restaurant or delivery person in order for the PTA to get credit. Please print out this flyer to have available. Please share with family and friends!!!
PTA Meeting
The next PTA meeting will be held on November 20\textsuperscript{th} at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

Winter Coat Drive Update
Thank you to the WFES community for making the Coat Drive a huge success! We collected 74 coats, 38 pairs of mittens and gloves, 29 hats and 2 scarves. All donations were distributed within Howard County so your generosity made a direct difference to the community.

WFES PTA Walking Wednesday
Walking Wednesday is an integral part of our school’s commitment to promote Wellness for All Students!! We are gathering volunteers to log laps and to be an encouragement to all of our students!! Please just come to WFES, sign in at the office, and join us on the blacktop during your child’s recess time! We look forward to seeing you there!! Any questions, please email Kendra Albert at jalbert2276@yahoo.com

Recess Schedule
Kindergarten 11:00-11:30
1st Grade 11:00-11:30
2nd Grade 11:30-12:00
3rd Grade 11:45-12:15
4th Grade 12:45-1:15
5th Grade 12:15-12:45

Community News
Visit the Community News and Programs web-page for all announcements of events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations. https://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/
Marriotts Ridge High School Fall Plan
*Peter and the Starcatcher*, a prequel to Peter Pan
**November 14, 15, 16 at 7pm; November 17 at 3pm**
Ticket sales are now live! Please use the following link to purchase: [https://tinyurl.com/MRHS-PETER](https://tinyurl.com/MRHS-PETER)

**Description:** In an evocative and fast-paced adventure on the high seas and on a faraway island, an orphan boy named Peter and his mysterious new friend, Molly, overcome bands of pirates and thieves in their quest to keep a fantastical secret safe and save the world from evil. (Rated PG)

**Address**
12500 Frederick Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

**Phone**
410-313-5512

**Website**
wfes.hcpss.org

**Twitter**
@hcpss_wfes