

Aaron Tark
Principal

Tiger Tales

Ann Steger
Assistant Principal

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School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

December 23, 2015

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Steger and I would like to wish you all a wonderful and safe holiday season! We hope your 2016 is one of good health, adventure, learning, and prosperity. It is a true joy to work with your child(ren). Thank you for sharing them with us. We appreciate your partnership and support and fully expect our school to continue its success for many years to come.

Thank you **Mrs. Lisa Cumberland** for running a hugely successful Box Tops competition. More Box Tops were collected than ever before! Kudos to **Mrs. Braswell**, 3rd grade teacher, and **Luke**, 4th grader who won the gift card raffles. Thank you **PTA** for providing us with a luncheon today! It was very appreciated.

Please consider having your child participate in this upcoming writing contest. Here are the details:

Writing Contest—students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade are invited to submit a poem and/or a short story

- Entries must be **original work**
- All entries with no less than **12 point** font using **Times New Roman** or **Comic Sans** font
- Short story entry may range from a minimum of 300 words to no more than 800 words
- Poem entry will consist of a single poem, any style from a minimum of 25 words to no more than 150 words
- Entries must **not** include graphics
- Include a completed cover sheet signed by the student author and sponsoring teacher
- Entries are due January 8, 2016

We ended the calendar school year today coming together as one community. We celebrated by having **Mr. Umla** lead us in our annual sing-along while we all wore our pajamas. Check out the pictures below! Happy Holidays!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 24 – January 1
Thursday, January 7
Wednesday, January 13
Wednesday, January 13
Thursday, January 14
Sunday, January 17

Schools & Office Closed – Winter Holiday
PTA Meeting in Media Center – 9:30 a.m.
Double Tuffy Ticket Day
Band & Strings Concert – 2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Yearbook Special Group & Candid Photos
Family Fun Rollerskating Party at Wheels Skating
Center in Odenton – 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Schools & Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Vision & Hearing Screening
WFES Spelling Bee – 2:30 p.m.
WFES Restaurant Night at E.W. Beck's in Sykesville
3-Hour Early Dismissal – End of Marking Period

What's for Lunch?

For the latest menus, and information regarding food services, please go to: <http://www.hcpss.org/food-services> or download the HCPSS App for free.

School News



Math at Home!:

A winter activity was sent home. Please encourage your child to work on it during the break.

Attention: Parents of Upcoming 6th Graders

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, January 21st at 6:30 p.m. An overview orientation for parents will be held in the Cafeteria at MVMS. The overview will include G/T and World Language Programs. Please watch for more information to be forthcoming in January. If necessary, an inclement weather date will be January 26th.

Road to Kindergarten Workshop Dates

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2016? Please plan to attend an information session about Kindergarten in the Howard County Public School System. At this workshop you will learn:

- Expectations for school readiness (and receive a Ready for Kindergarten toolkit).
- Details about the kindergarten program.
- Information about HCPSS kindergarten registration.
- Ways that families and children can be supported during the transition to kindergarten.

Choose a session that is convenient for you. No registration required. Child care is available at each session for children ages 2 and older. Please allow at least 15 minutes extra for child care sign-in.

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 * 6:30-7:30 p.m. * Oakland Mills High School

Thursday, January 21, 2016 * 6:30-7:30 p.m. * Atholton High School

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 * 6:30-7:30 p.m. * Hammond High School

Monday, February 1, 2016 * 6:30-7:30 p.m. * Howard High School

PTA News

Budget Amendment Vote – January 7, 2016 General Membership Meeting

As most of you know, the WFES PTA was involved in obtaining a grant from the Howard County Arts Council for a mosaic that the children worked on this school year. The amount received as a grant from the Howard County Arts Council was what was paid to Class Acts Arts, the artist in residence. On the income side, this does not pose a problem because approval from the WFES PTA general membership is not needed if income is more or less than budgeted. However, on the expense side this causes a problem even though this is essentially a wash (e.g., additional income equals the additional expense). When expenses are to exceed the amount that was approved in the budget, a budget amendment needs to be voted on and a general membership meeting needs to be held to approve it. As a result, **please accept this notice that we will be voting on this budget amendment at the next WFES PTA general membership meeting on January 7, 2016 at 9:30 am in the WFES Media Center.**

Family Fun – Save the Date!

When: Sunday, January 17, 2016 (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, asampsonhodes@gmail.com or Jessica Schwendeman, jlschwendeman@gmail.com.

Restaurant Night at E.W. Beck's

Mark your calendars! The WFES PTA will host Restaurant Night at E.W. Beck's in Sykesville on Wednesday, January 20th. Look for a detailed flyer to come home after Winter Break!

Save the Date: March 19, 2016

Mark your calendars now for Tiger Madness & Silent Auction to be held at Players Bar & Grill. We already have fantastic donations and ideas underway. We hope to see you there! Be sure to 'like' West Friendship Elementary School Tiger Madness & Silent Auction on Facebook for all the latest Tiger Madness updates!

How can you get involved?

We need volunteers to help during the silent auction event and be a part of the planning committee. If you have experience (i) planning a silent auction, (ii) designing flyers and invitations, (iii) social media marketing, (iv) event marketing, (v) running a March Madness bracket, or (vi) just want to lend some time, we need you! Please email me your contact information. This event will be fun, will help your kids, and will make money for our school!!!

We also have sponsorship and donation opportunities for the event. If you or your business would like more information on becoming a Tiger Madness & Silent Auction sponsor, please contact me for more information. I also invite you to join us in supporting the West Friendship Elementary School PTA by providing an in-kind contribution to be included in the silent auction that will take place during the event. We are looking for items such as sports memorabilia, sporting event tickets, vacation home rentals, airline tickets, spa packages and the like. If you or someone you know has access to these items, we would appreciate the donation. For your contribution, you will receive recognition at the Tiger Madness & Silent Auction Fundraiser, in our marketing materials, and publicity on our social media outlets (Facebook: www.facebook.com/wfestigermadness). We will also provide you with a receipt for your donation, which you may use for tax purposes. WFES PTA is a charitable, tax exempt, non-profit entity under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and the entire amount of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Tiger Madness & Silent Auction contact info: Kara Williams, 443-756-3067

karamichellewilliams@yahoo.com

West Friendship Elementary School PTA Membership

By becoming a member of the WFES PTA, you will be helping your child and the entire school community. The WFES PTA sponsors many wonderful programs and activities, such as the Back to School Dance, Cultural Arts Assemblies, Science Fair, Staff Appreciation, Spring Festival, and much more! In addition, recent policy changes prevent teachers from using their class mailing lists for non-school activities. However, members of the PTA will receive a membership book and classroom mailing list, which is about the only way to obtain these items.

Online registration process this year (you can pay by credit card or check): <http://www.wfespta.com/join/>
While you're on our website, feel free to follow us via Twitter, Facebook or E-mail to stay informed.

If you would prefer to complete your registration via paper, please leave a message at [443-396-3707](tel:443-396-3707). Someone from the membership committee will contact you.

Community News

It's the last citrus sale of the season!

This is your last chance to purchase fresh from Florida oranges, Ruby Red grapefruit, and Honeybell tangelos from the Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation. Orders will be taken from December 12th through January 8th (the Choral Cluster Concert), with anticipated delivery on Saturday January 23rd, 2016. You can place an order or obtain a mail-in order form online at www.mrhsfruit.com, or contact any MRHS music student. Your fruit sale purchase will support purchase of instruments, uniforms, music, and student participation in music competitions. Your proceeds can be donated either to a specific music student in Chorus, Band or Orchestra, or toward the Music Foundation general funds. Thanks for your support of music at the Ridge!

Howard County Public Library – Glenwood Branch

The *following presentations require registration* (which begins one week prior to class). Please register by calling 410-313-5579 or on-line, www.hclibrary.org.

BOOK BINGO

Ages 5-10; 45-60 minutes (Howard County Schools closed or close early)
Tuesday, December 29 OR Friday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m.

NOON YEAR'S EVE PENGUIN BALL

Dress up in black and white and ring in the New Year Penguin style.
Ages 3-7; 45 minutes
Thursday, December 31 at 11:30 a.m.

SLOPPY SATURDAYS

Ages 5-10; 20 minutes.
Saturdays - January 16, February 13 at 3:00 p.m.

Food on the 15th

Volunteer opportunities for students of all ages. We collect, sort, and deliver free non-perishable groceries directly to low-income Howard County senior citizens. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at www.foodonthe15th.org/. We are always looking for students and groups to do food drives for us. We can be reached at foodonthe15th@gmail.com.

Glen Mar Church

Second annual Day of Service: Monday, **January 18th**, (MLK Jr. Day) 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Family-oriented short-term service opportunities are available. Free and open to public. Come for an hour or come for the day. Glen Mar Church, 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City. Visit us at www.glenmarumc.org or call D.C. Veale at 410-465-4995 ext. 205.