



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

October 2, 2014

Important Dates

Friday, October 10

Thursday, October 16

Friday, October 17

Picture Day

Kindergarten Field Trip to Sharp's Farm

Schools Closed – MSEA Convention/Professional Work Day

From the Principal. . .

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the many parents who were able to find time in their busy schedules to attend the many evening information sessions that Phelps Luck has hosted during the past two weeks. Back to School Nights, Spanish Information Night, Back to Bridges Night, and the first PTA meeting of the year all enjoyed great turnouts. Please continue to keep an eye on future opportunities to participate in various parent workshops and information sessions throughout the year. Additionally, the PTA hosts meetings the first Wednesday of every month from 7-8pm. There is always an open invitation for parents to attend these meetings.

Today, progress reports have been distributed to go home. These progress reports provide a general overview of your child's progress thus far in not only academic areas, but also learning behaviors. Please take time to review the progress reports together with your child. It is a great opportunity to celebrate strengths and collaboratively create goals aimed at addressing areas needed for improvement. When such discussions occur, feelings of ownership, accountability, and support are often increased.

Please be aware that Phelps Luck, in coordination with all schools in the Howard County School System, has implemented a new "Visitor Sign In" process in the front office. The system is called Lobby Guard and it involves an electronic procedure to sign in the school as a guest. Previously, schools utilized a pencil and paper sign in process. However, with an increased emphasis on school security, Lobby Guard provides a printed label with your picture and name that must be worn as you walk throughout our building to visit classrooms, attend meetings, or join your child for lunch. Additionally, prior to receiving the printed label and after scanning your driver's license or entering your information, Lobby Guard cross-references visitor information to the Sex Offender Registry. With no match, a label is printed. If a match is identified, the front office staff has been trained to navigate potential issues.

Although the sign-in process may take a couple of extra seconds, the additional security it provides our children is certainly beneficial.

Good luck to the O's who battle Detroit tonight in the first round of the MLB playoffs. As well as my beloved Terps who play their first Big 10 football game at home vs. Ohio State – here's hoping we don't get crushed☺

Take care,
Sean Martin, Principal

School News

Falcon Newsletter

Our Falcon Newsletter is sent out via HCPSSNews and posted on the Phelps Luck Elementary website twice a month. In order to save paper, and be green conscious, the October 30th newsletter will be the final issue sent home in paper form to every family. If you would like to receive it via HCPSSNews, visit hcpss.org and sign up. If you would like to continue to receive paper copies, please send back the green tear off that was sent home. Starting November 13th, the PLES Newsletter will be available only through HCPSSNews, on the PLES website at PLES.hcpss.org, or by filling out the "Opt-In" form that went home with all students.

Emergency Procedure Cards

Parents, if you have not completed your Emergency Procedure Cards, either online or hard copy, please do so as soon as possible. To complete the card online, proceed to HCPSS.org and follow the prompts. Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Self in the front office. Students may not attend field trips, if the card is not completed.

HCPSS 5K and Fun Run

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is excited to host Let's Go HoCo, its inaugural 5K race and 1 mile fun run on Sunday, October 12 in Columbia. The race is a great way to bring together students, families, staff and Howard County community members to promote health and wellness. The race will include beginners, intermediate and professional level athletes. View event information and register today at www.hcps5k.com.

From the Media Center

Welcome back to a happy new school year! The Media Center is looking for volunteers to assist with shelving books AND completing some long term projects. Even if it is just 30 minutes per week, flexibly scheduled, it will be greatly appreciated! If you are interested in helping, please contact Stephanie Greene at stephanie_greene@hcpss.org.

From the Physical Education Department

Did you know that September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month and that the prevention of childhood obesity starts at home? In an effort to make families understand their risks, the American Heart Association's *EmpowerMEnt Challenge* was created.

Over four weeks, families across the country are encouraged to take control of their health by pursuing a different goal every week which include increasing their fruit and vegetable consumption, reducing sugar sweetened beverage consumption, reducing sodium intake and increasing their physical activity — together. Each goal is fun, simple, won't break the bank and can be done as a family. By the end of the month, families will be better equipped to live a heart-healthy life.

We encourage you to adopt this challenge during the month of September. Help your children becoming healthy living influencers, not only to their peers, but to their families as well. The AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION has created complimentary templates and activities that can be viewed by going to www.heart.org/healthierkids and clicking the *EmpowerMEnt Challenge* banner. If you'd like to take the challenge personally, you can also visit the *EmpowerMEnt Challenge* [Facebook Event Page](#).

From the PLES Reading Team

Sorting through your bookshelf? If you have books that you no longer use and would like to donate them to support a school initiative, you are in luck. At Phelps Luck we are gathering resources to help all students be successful with our Reading at Home Initiative. If you have books that you wish to donate to PLES for this purpose please bring them to the front office labeled to the attention of the PLES Reading Team. Thank you for helping to support our students as they soar to new heights.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you have moved or plan on moving, please notify the office of your new address. You will need to bring your new lease/deed and a current utility bill to the office in order for your child's record to be changed.

From the PTA

"Congratulations to Jace Butler from Ms. Karbassi's Pre-K class for winning a \$25 Target gift card in the Summer Bucks for Phelps Luck drawing! Thanks to everyone who collected Box Tops over the summer for giving us a great jump start in earning **CASH** for our school! Send Box Tops to school ANYTIME in a bag or envelope marked "Box Tops 4 Education" or by using submission forms sent home monthly in your Thursday folder. Thanks for supporting PLES. Together, we can make a big difference!"

From the Community

"Cub Scout Pack 678 at Phelps Luck Elementary School always welcomes new scouts! Cub Scouts is open to 1st through 5th grade boys. An ideal opportunity for parents and sons to interact with others in a family oriented environment. We offer fun activities with a purpose! If you're interested in learning more about us, e-mail us at scoutpack678@yahoo.com."



No Doubts... No Limits...

Sean Martin ~ Principal

Connie Fowlkes ~ Assistant Principal