



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

January 20, 2015

Important Dates

Friday, January 23

Winter Concert at Howard High School, 7:00 pm
Schools Close at 12:20, End of the 2nd Marking Period

Tuesday, February 3

Report Cards Issued

Friday, February 6

Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning Day

From the Principal. . .

Dear Parents, Can you believe that tomorrow, January 23, marks the end of the 2nd marking period? Time certainly passed quickly during the busy months of November, December, and January. As a reminder, since conferences were scheduled during the Fall with your child's AM (Academic Session #1) teacher, **Winter Conferences will be scheduled with your child's PM (Academic Session #2) teacher. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will continue to meet with their homeroom teacher.**

Parents continue to have the flexibility to schedule conferences using the pickAtime web-based application. The pickAtime link is available via our county's website – www.hcpss.org. Parents will be able to begin registering for conferences with their child's PM teacher using pickAtime on Monday, February 2 at 5:00 pm. The registration window will last until the following Monday, February 9 at 11:59 pm.

Please note that all Howard County Public Schools will offer a fewer number of conference slots this year during the February parent-teacher conferences due to a revised school calendar. Instead of two full days previously offered for conferences, HCPSS has allocated one full day for conferences. The rationale for the reduction of time set aside for February conferences is associated with a HCPSS analysis of recent trends with regard to parent attendance during winter conferences.

In consideration of our working families and an effort to provide access to conferences for all families, **we will offer conference slots on Thursday, February 12 from 1:00-7:40.** Each conference will be slotted for 20 minutes. Unless otherwise informed by your child's teacher, there will be no conferences offered on Friday, February 13th.

Attendance during February conferences will continue to be closely monitored by HCPSS across all its school to determine if future adjustments to the school calendar are needed. As always, we strongly encourage all parents to schedule a conference with your child's teacher. However, if you are unable to obtain a conference slot during the conference window, please know you can call or email your child's teacher to arrange for an alternative conference time/method.

School News

Spirit Day – 100th Day of School

Celebrate our 100th day of school on February 5 (unless we have any inclement weather days). Dress like you are 100 years old!

From the G/T Department:

Howard County Gifted and Talented Parent Academy

All interested parents are invited to attend the G/T Parent Academy "**Building Resiliency in Advanced-Level Learners**" at Atholton High School on Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Dr. Angela Housand, Assistant Professor and Gifted Program Coordinator at University of North Carolina Wilmington, will share her expertise.

Attaining success requires resiliency in order to overcome challenges along the way. Yet many advanced learners expect to "get the right answer" on their first attempt and once faced with truly challenging situations, give up before trying. This session provides parents with strategies to support high potential youth as they engage in the struggles that lead to meaningful SUCCESS.

For more information, please visit the G/T Advisory Committee website at <http://hcpssgtac.wordpress.com/>, email to hcpssgtac@gmail.com or call 410-313-6800.

Road to Kindergarten

Howard County parents with children who will be five years old by September 1, 2015 are invited to attend one of the free information sessions:

- Thurs., Jan. 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Long Reach High School
- Wed., Feb. 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Marriotts Ridge High School
- Mon., Feb. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Hammond Middle School
- **SNOW DATE** – Tues., February 17, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Howard High School
 - **Will only be held if one of the above sessions is canceled**

Registration is not required, and childcare is available at each session. For more information visit www.hcpss.org/schools/kindergarten-registration/

It's Time to Register for Kindergarten

Registration for students entering Kindergarten in August 2015 starts on Mon., March 2nd and runs through Fri., March 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Phelps Luck Elementary. Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. Information on neighborhood schools can be found through School Locator (<https://hcpss2.secaresites.net/SchoolLocator/index.jsp>) on the school system web site or by calling the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682.

The following documents are needed for registration:

- Child's evidence of birth
- An authorized record of immunizations
- Proof of residency in the form of a lease or deed and a utility bill
- Photo ID of parent/guardian
- Proof of custody (if applicable)

Visitor Sign In Procedures

With the "Lobby Guard" system you **MUST** have your license with you every time you come to visit the school. In order for the system to work correctly, please make sure to have your license with you every time you visit.

From the PTA

Box Tops for Education/Labels for Education

Send Box Tops for Education and Labels 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 (cut out the logo and expiration date). Thanks to the CASH earned from your Box Tops submissions, we have already purchased new games and activities for the kids to use during indoor recess!

Labels for Education

Send Labels for Education labels (cut out the logo and bar code) to school ANYTIME in a bag or envelope marked "Labels for Education". Points earned from the labels can be redeemed for FREE educational merchandise for our school!

Thanks for supporting PLES. Together, we can make a big difference!



No Doubts... No Limits...

Sean Martin ~ Principal

Connie Fowlkes ~ Assistant Principal