



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

October 16, 2014

Important Dates

Friday, October 17

SCHOOLS CLOSED – MSEA Convention/
Professional Work Day

Friday, October 24

Spirit Day – Show team spirit – Wear your favorite jersey

Friday, October 31

End of the 1st Marking Period

Halloween/Fall Festival

Monday, November 3

SCHOOLS CLOSED – Professional Work Day

Tuesday, November 4

SCHOOLS CLOSED – Election Day

From the Principal. . .

Dear Parents,

Although the Orioles run in the postseason ended rather abruptly, this year's team helped make baseball relevant again in our area. It was exciting to witness, and be a participant in the renewed enthusiasm and pride generated by our state in our local team. However, I am going to avoid watching Sports Center the next few days as it makes me feel slightly bitter listening to the anchors gush over Kansas City ☺ Congratulations to all the Nationals and Orioles fans in our community – both teams made it fun in October!

As I am sure your child has shared with you, our students in grades 1-5 have recently completed initial MAP testing. MAP (Measure of Academic Performance) is designed to measure student growth within an academic year and eventually across multiple school years. Students will participate in MAP testing once again later in the year. The assessment was taken in its entirety on the computer. Students in all grade levels were provided an opportunity to take a practice sample test first so that they could become accustomed to the look and feel of participating in an online assessment.

MAP assessments are aligned to the national Common Core Standards for Mathematics and Reading and are measured using selected response (multiple choice) questions. There are no performance based or constructed response items (written responses). No two children took the exact same test as MAP questions continually adapt to each individual child and the responses they provided to each question.

Data ascertained from MAP will help teachers and me determine instructional strengths and areas of need. Additionally, MAP will generate a norm-referenced report that compares how individual students performed with HCPSS and national peers. Phelps Luck will distribute MAP Student Reports with the 1st quarter report cards.

Enjoy the weekend,
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.

Coffee and Conversation

The Board of Education of Howard County regularly holds *Coffee & Conversation* sessions at schools throughout the county. These meetings provide citizens with an opportunity to share a cup of coffee and chat informally with Board members. The next meeting will be Saturday, October 25 from 9:30 to 11:00 am at Clemens Crossing Elementary School Media Center at 10320 Quarterstaff Road in Columbia.

Spanish Department Information

We are excited to inform you that all students in grades Kindergarten through 5th now have access to our online Spanish materials! Students and their families will be able to view and utilize the online textbook, as well as videos and a workbook from the convenience of their home. Log in information will be distributed the week of October 20th and will include your student's username, password, and the website information. The information will be printed on a label and placed in your student's agenda book (grades 3-5) or your student's white folder (K-2). If there are any questions, please contact the Spanish Department at 410-313-6886.

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. The window for completing the card online will close on October 29th. Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Self in the front office. Students may not attend field trips, if the card is not completed.

From the Media Center

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 PLES Reading Team

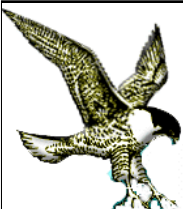
Sorting through your bookshelf? If you have books that you no longer use and would like to donate them to support a school initiative, you are in luck. At Phelps Luck we are gathering resources to help all students be successful with our Reading at Home Initiative. If you have books that you wish to 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 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