



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

May 15, 2014

Important Dates

Friday, May 16

Thursday, May 22

Monday, May 26

Friday, May 30

Wednesday, June 4

Schools Closed for Students

Simulated Congressional Hearings

Memorial Day, Schools and Offices Closed

Career Day (4th and 5th Grade)

4th Grade Field Trip to National Gallery of Art

From the Principal. . .

This morning, at Running Brook Elementary School, a press conference was held to introduce the Elementary School Model (ESM) to the greater community. As you know, Phelps Luck is one of four other Howard County elementary schools that will participate in the first year of the model next year. Laura Betz, PTA President, and I represented Phelps Luck throughout the press conference. As we embark on this exciting opportunity for students, their families, and our staff, I am appreciative of the ongoing funding, staffing, and research support that have been, and will undoubtedly continue to be, invested into all five ESM schools.

If you have not done so already, I would encourage you to access the link that was included in the letter I sent to the community in early April, introducing the Elementary School Model. As a reference, I have included important aspects of the letter, specifically the link. Please note one adjustment under the World Language Instruction.

I would like to take a moment to share with our Phelps Luck community an exciting initiative that Phelps Luck has been invited to participate during the 2014-2015 school year and beyond. I have shared this information at previous general PTA meetings – these meetings occur the first Wednesday of each month and are open to all PTA members.

PLES is one of five elementary schools chosen to participate in the ESM (Elementary School Model) initiative. The initiative includes four major components, each of which are grounded in research and have been designed to be engaging, rigorous, and ultimately globally relevant. The components are as follows...

- 1. Expanding Pre-Kindergarten** - Research highlights the positive long-term impact that early learning experiences have upon a child's development. These early experiences set the stage for future success extending throughout the child's school experience. Full day pre-kindergarten will be available to eligible students next year at Phelps Luck.
- 2. World Language Instruction** – It was announced today that Spanish instruction will be provided daily to all students in grades preK-5 for the 2014-2015 school year. This is an acceleration of the original plan that initially delayed the benefits of Spanish Instruction to our intermediate students by a year. Trained and certificated Spanish elementary teachers would provide Spanish instruction. Students will receive 30 minutes of Spanish instruction every day.
- 3. Departmentalization** – A departmentalized approach involves teachers narrowing their instructional focus so that they can develop deeper understanding and mastery of curriculum. As a result, instructional planning will become more efficient and more enriching educational experiences for our students will be able to be developed. ESM incorporates departmentalization into two daily instructional blocks consisting of English Language Arts/Social Studies and Mathematics/Science. Students will be exposed to each instructional block every day.
- 4. Strengths Development** – Through forging an ongoing partnership with Gallup, ESM aims to incorporate strengths development into the fabric of our students' day. Students and staff will work to develop an understanding of how to identify, and build upon, their existing strengths to enhance learning behaviors critical to success. Principals and selected staff members have already begun their training with Gallup on Strengths Development.

Although the components of ESM represent change, it is a change that has been designed with our students in mind. The goal of ESM is to help establish a strong foundation within all our students so that they can ultimately be better prepared to thrive academically and eventually more prepared to compete globally for college and career opportunities.

HCPSS has created a link that offers more detailed information regarding the components of ESM. In order to access the link, please type the following address into your browser...

www.hcpss.org/academics/elementary-model/

Have a great week! Sean

School News

Fabulous Falcons of the Week

Our Falcons for the week of May 5th are:

Kindergarten – Frank Petty, Jack Weiler, Joseph Rosa-Castellanos, **1st Grade** – Eason Liu, Ethan Quander, Katie Maldonado, Kaylee Washington, **3rd Grade** – Brandon Gholston, McKinley Michel, Amy Diaz Rosales, Jada Ponciano, **4th Grade** – Diego Turner, Alyssa Busby, Edward Hernandez, Asia Robison, **5th Grade** – Stephanie Rodriguez, Tori McArthur, Zoe Zenker, Ryan Guevara

Our Falcons for the week of May 12th are:

Kindergarten – Elijah Cox, Jonathan Cedeno, Emily Samadani, Erickson Avelar Lemus, Jaden Ward, **1st Grade** – Melchiah Huiswoud, Jordan Cristion, Thijia Harmon-McCloud, Ryan Loveless, Zoe Wright, **2nd Grade** – Maylyn Cazares-Perez, Ria Debnath, Issela Aguilar-Gutierrez, Rowan Nelson, Munah Williams, Jonathan Serrano Diaz, **4th Grade** – Jonelle Griffin, Isaiah Williams, Wendy Vasquez, Malachi Chewes, **5th Grade** – Fernando Avila, Max Goldberg, Francis Gardiner, Eduardo Mejia

Mrs. Koza and Mrs. Dower Are Retiring!

Mrs. Koza and Mrs. Dower are retiring! To honor their time working with our community, we are collecting messages and well wishes for a memory book. If you or your child would like to send a message for Mrs. Koza and/or Mrs. Dower, please email or send the messages to Megan Bainbridge at megan_bainbridge@hcpss.org or Carol Stevens at Carol_Stevens@hcpss.org.

School Spirit Day!

Wear your Red-White-Blue to show the 5th graders your support as they participate in their Simulated Congressional Hearings on Thursday, May 22nd.

Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten, and new student registration has begun. Come in between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm to register for the 2014 – 2015 school year. Kindergarten is mandatory in Maryland, and state law requires that children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2014 must be 5 years of age before September 1, 2014. Children entering Pre-Kindergarten in the fall of 2014 must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2014. Children entering first grade in the fall of 2014 must be 6 years old before September 1, 2014. Parents or legal guardians are to register students at the school currently serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. The parent or guardian must present the following information at the time of registration:

- The child's birth certificate
- An authorized record of immunizations
- Proof of residency in the form of a lease, a deed, or house contract, and a utility bill
- Photo ID of the parent/guardian
- Proof of custody (if applicable)

Driver's licenses and voter registration cards will not be accepted as proof of residence. State law prohibits a child from attending school for even one day unless proof of immunization has been provided. Immunization and health forms are available at every school.

Students who are currently enrolled in any HCPSS pre-kindergarten program are not required to re-register for kindergarten.

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 Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 678 is at Phelps Luck Elementary! We are an active and family oriented pack that likes to have fun while learning about ourselves and the world we live in. Some of our activities include, camping, arts and crafts, games, the Pinewood Derby, archery, community service projects, Christmas caroling, and fundraising. Cub scouts is open to boys in the 1st through 5th grades. If you are interested in learning more about us, come talk to us at the school's *Spring Carnival on Thursday, June 12, 2014* (or rain date of Monday, June 16, 2014), or e-mail us at scoutpack678@yahoo.com.