



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

October 29, 2020

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Important Dates

October 29	6:30pm PTA Virtual Halloween Bingo for Grades PK, K, 1, 2
October 30	Spirit Day: PLES Spirit Wear Day or Wear Our School Colors (Red/Black)
November 3	Election Day – No School
November 4	Distribution Day: Grades PK, 4 th , 5 th from 1-3pm at school 7pm PTA Meeting via Zoom
November 6	End of 1 st Quarter – 3 Hour Early Dismissal (link to schedule below) Spirit Day: Workout Wear Day!
November 16	Report Cards Available at hcpss.org/connect
November 23	Parent Conferences – 3 Hour Early Dismissal
November 24	Parent Conferences – 3 Hour Early Dismissal
November 25	Parent Conferences – No School
November 26 & 27	Thanksgiving – No School

***** More info about the PTA events are in the PTA Section.*****

From the Principal. . .

Dear Phelps Luck Families,

We are a week away from the end of the first quarter. Please check your child's grades in Canvas for each of their Canvas cards. Please contact your child's teacher with questions and ensure your child completes any unfinished work. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Michelle M. Leader
Principal

School News

PLEASE COMPLETE: Family File Information:

Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File (electronic emergency card) for each child. HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the "More Options" tab on the left and then clicking on "Family File" from the list. If your child was in an HCPSS school in previous years, you only need to update any changes. Please update/provide the info ASAP. Thank you!!!

PLEASE COMPLETE: Free and Reduced Meal Application:

Once you have completed your Family File Information, a screen will pop up asking you to complete the Free and Reduced Meal application. Please complete the FARM application if you think you will qualify or if you have qualified in the past. Qualifying for FARMs provides benefits for meals, reduced Comcast internet fees and much more! Please find the [FARM application here](#).

FREE Grab-and-Go Meals

Grab-and –Go breakfasts and lunches are served Monday through Friday from 8-9am and 10:45am-12:45pm respectively at Phelps Luck. All breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals are FREE to all students!! **Free meals will be provided through the end of the 2020-2021 school year for all children 18 and under.**

Weekly Tip from the Instructional Intervention Team:

Is your family still not quite in a groove yet? That's been the case for many of the families of staff and students within our Phelps Luck community this Fall. No worries... we are in this together and the school's Instructional Intervention Team (IIT) has committed to sharing a weekly tip that may help day-to-day life run a little smoother. We know that "one size" definitely does not fit all, so please try what you think might work for your family and feel free to pass on the others.

*This week's tip: **School starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.***

It may be helpful for students to start viewing the school day much like they would if they were actually in the school building. Getting up at least an hour before their first class to get dressed (no pajamas), eat breakfast, and make sure they have all of their learning materials ready for class will help them be prepared for a successful day "at school". Having a quiet "classroom" to go to where they have a surface for their computer and materials, and few distractions (i.e., no TV, games, toys, other people) is also very important. All of our homes are different and so we may have to think creatively to carve out a calm and quiet spot for our kids to learn.

It's easy in the virtual world of school to pop out of class to grab a quick snack from the kitchen, but this should be discouraged, especially for students who get off track easily. There are breaks built into the day that provide opportunities to eat, grab a drink, go to the bathroom, and get some physical exercise. Just think... if we were in the school building, we wouldn't be walking out of class to grab some food. Helping your child engage in behaviors that are consistent with the school schedule may help them be more successful virtually and will definitely help when it comes time to transition back to the school building.

One last thought... encourage your kids to "come home" from school at 4:00 p.m. each day. This means taking a break from the computer and schoolwork, much like they would when transitioning from school to home at the end of the school day. If there is additional work to be done, set up a specific homework time (i.e., 5:00-6:00 pm). You'll find they are able to work better with a snack and a little break!

News from the Media Center!

Returning Media Books

Come one, come all! Ready to return your school library books? We are ready to take them! If you would like for us to send you a list of books that your student still has checked out, please use this [List Request Form](#) and we will In Box message/or email you with the list of titles. Otherwise, please stop by the school between the hours of 8-4 and drop off your books in the EXTRA SPECIAL MEDIA BIN inside the vestibule. We will gladly accept books from other schools, as well!! Thanks!

Checking Out Books

We are so excited for you to check-out books again from our Media Center. Please click on the directions to learn how! [DIRECTIONS](#)

You may also access these directions from your student's Canvas account by visiting Mrs. Greene's or Mrs. Garza's Media Course. Once there, simply click on Modules on the left Navigation Menu to find the directions. This is a family activity!

Contactless Book Pick Up will be on Wednesdays between 9:30 and 3:30 in the school vestibule. Our first Wednesday will be 10/28.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS for 5th Graders!

It is now time to form voluntary and virtual teams to participate in the HC Library Battle of the Books. Start forming your teams of 3-5 members and a parent/adult coach. (Inbox your fellow classmates.) Each team gets a free set of books to share. The **Virtual Info Mtg** will be on the [HC Library](#)

Website on 10/20 and **Team Registration is 10/23-11/6**. The **Virtual Battle is 4/16/21**. We will "be there". Will you? Contact Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Garza, or the HC Library for more information.

Message from the MUSIC Department

From Ms. Strawley:

Attention all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders and families: It's time to sign up for band and orchestra!

Students in 3rd grade may participate in orchestra, and students in 4th and 5th grade may participate in band or orchestra. This semester we will have virtual lessons and rehearsals, both synchronously and asynchronously. If your child would like to play an instrument, you can get more information and sign up online at <https://sites.google.com/site/msstrawleysmusic/home>. Please contact Ms. Strawley if you have questions or need any help: karissa_bryant@hcpss.org.

From Mrs. Yi:

All 4th and 5th grade singers are welcome!

If you love to sing and make new friends, please join our chorus. We will be having our chorus both synchronously and asynchronously for this semester, and I am looking forward to making beautiful music with all of you. Our rehearsals will be held synchronously on Wednesdays.

Thank you!

Social Emotional Learning Corner:

Time with Friends

So many young people are wanting time with their friends. With redistricting, friends are in different schools. With Covid, so many of us are staying home, limiting interactions. Social time with friends is such an important part of development for young people, and an important part of being healthy emotionally. So, in this time, how can we support our young people in this challenge? Here are some ideas, that meet with Howard County Health Department [recommendations for social gatherings and Holidays](#).

- Invite a friend to meet and take a walk or a hike. Turn it into a scavenger hunt, here are some [ideas](#). Write them down or make up your own.
- Invite a friend to take a bike ride, scooter ride, rollerblade around your neighborhood.
- Grab a blanket, invite a friend or two to bring a blanket and set up in a circle in the park or open grassy area. Play charades, chat, tell jokes, ask "would you rather" questions.
- Become pen pals with a friend, cousin, or teammate. Write letters, draw pictures, send jokes or photographs.
- Use FaceTime, Zoom, personal Google chat for a play date, game or movie night, or "share" a meal.
- Meet in someone's garage with doors open, covered porch, or screened-in porch.
- Meet in someone's driveway or sidewalk and use chalk to create artwork, positive sayings, or hopscotch.

I hope this gets your creativity flowing! Remember, in all these suggestions wear a mask, keep 6 feet, wash or sanitize your hands, and keep numbers very small. Stay home if you are feeling sick or have possibly been exposed to the virus.

Please reach out if there is anything I can do to support you or your young person.

Be Well,

Mrs. Croushler

sarah_croushler@hcpss.org

News from the PTA:

Upcoming PTA Events:

Square 1 Art: If your child would like to participate, artwork must be uploaded by October 28th and orders placed by November 11th. Click the following link for more info: <https://www.square1art.com/parent-portal/>

K-2nd Grade Halloween Bingo: October 29, 2020 @ 6:30pm. Click here to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4FA4AC2CA4FF2-k2nd>

Clothing Bin:

Our Clothing Bin is still accessible during the school closure. Please feel free to donate any items to our Clothing Bin in our school parking lot. This is a fundraiser and supports our PTA! Please place all items in a closed trash bag before placing the bag in the bin. Thank you!!!

From the Community

Here is a list of food sources for you to access:

COVID 19 Rent Assistance:

Beginning October 5, 2020, Howard County residents may contact one of the participating providers to complete an application for assistance to pay past due rent and/or mortgage payments and/or to prevent eviction. Maximum assistance per household is 3 months of housing expense. [Click here for details.](#)

Long Reach High School & Ducketts Lane Food Distribution:

Fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat will be given out at Long Reach High School & Ducketts Lane Elementary (6501 Ducketts Lane, Elkridge, MD 21075) this Saturday (10/31) at 10am. This is the last scheduled food distribution.

OMHS Food Pantry

OMHS Food Pantry will be open next week for distribution. For the foreseeable future, we will be distributing on the last WEDNESDAY of every month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Our upcoming dates are:
Wednesday, November 18
Wednesday, December 16

Columbia Community Cares:

This group gives out food at Howard High, Swansfield Elementary, and Oakland Mills Middle on Wednesdays from 5-8pm and Saturdays 10:30am-1:30pm. You can also fill out their form for food and they can deliver as well.

Website: <http://columbiacare.live/>

Form for food:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJIRfYmnGVs1KNEvq0mfqL8qoOJtIVkOo8utBVyKeoEbxA7g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

More Than Karate!

This after-school program, typically offered by our business partner - Okinawan Karate Dojo - ...is **now available ON-LINE on the ZOOM platform!** It is the perfect way to keep **YOUR CHILD(REN)** (ages 6 -10...K-5th) engaged in exercise and character development during this season of limited options for youth! *Registration is OPEN, and classes are offered every Tuesday, beginning Tues. Nov 10th.* Fun and Structured...kids enjoy this awesome introduction to the benefits of martial arts training! All classes will be **held on-line via ZOOM!** The Instructors have been teaching on ZOOM for a long time, and have a truly engaging format for classes! The results are AMAZING! So convenient for your family...10 WEEK/class package is only \$119. Led by adult Instructors from THE OKINAWAN KARATE DOJO, students will gain improved focus, more respect, and sound self-defense skills! For Information and Registration: www.OKDKarate.com; call: 443-574-8999; or email: morethankarate@gmail.com. Also ask about our Virtual School Support program, Dojo During the Day!!



No Doubts... No Limits...

Michelle Leader ~ Principal Connie Fowlkes ~ Assistant Principal Sandra McGraw ~ Assistant Principal