

October 23, 2014



HAMMOND TIGER TALES

Hammond Elementary School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment that fosters individual success through academic excellence, and appreciation of diversity, to ensure lifelong learners.

Important Dates*

October 27	1-2-3 Magic Presentation 7-8:30pm 5 th grade field trip – Terrapin Adventures
October 28	*Rescheduled Kindergarten field trip to Sharp's Farm
October 29	Pick-up for Joe Corbi's & Mrs. Field's fundraiser 3:30-6pm
October 31	Halloween Parade 2:15pm
NOVEMBER 3	SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS/Professional Work Day
NOVEMBER 4	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED/Election Day
November 6	Spirit Day – Sports Day/wear your favorite sport shirt
November 7	Flu Mist Clinic Picture Retake day 9am
November 12	1 st grade field trip – Brunswick Columbia Bowling
November 18	4 th grade field trip – Smithsonian Art Museum/Washington D. C.
November 24 – 25	SCHOOLS CLOSE 3HRS EARLY/Parent/Teacher Conferences
NOVEMBER 26	SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS/Parent Teacher Conferences
NOVEMBER 27 – 30	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED/Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER 24-JAN. 2	SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS/WINTER BREAK

“PAWS OF PRIDE”

FALL FESTIVAL/HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Fall Festival/Halloween Parade will take place on the blacktop on the side of our school, on Friday, October 31st at 2:15pm. After the parade ends, we ask that only the room parents that are helping with the activities join us in the school. Dress reminders:

-You may wear a Halloween costume or you may dress in fall colors.

-If students choose to bring a costume, they must wear their regular clothes to school and time will be permitted for them to put their costume on over their clothes before the parade.

-Please do not send children to school with face paint.

-Masks or items (play/real weapons, knives, swords, etc.) are not permitted for safety reasons.

The above criteria applies to all who attend the parade (adults and siblings included).

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the Fall Festival/Halloween Parade and activities, please send a note in to your child's teacher before the 31st. An alternative activity will be offered for students that do not participate. Thank you for adhering to these rules so everyone can have a safe, enjoyable afternoon.

Kimberlyn S. Pratesi

Principal

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pickAtime Conference Scheduler

Hammond Elementary will be using an internet program called *pickAtime* for parents to schedule conferences again this year. This will give you the choice of date and time that best fits your schedule.

The window of opportunity for registering for the November conferences will be from November 1st at 9:00 am through November 20th at 9:00 pm.

To access the program you will need to do the following things: Click on the

pickAtime link on Howard County Public School's main website, www.hcpss.org.

You will need your child's nine digit student ID number to be able to access the program. This ID number can be found on the sticker at the top of the *pickAtime* letter (being sent home soon) or on your child's 1st Quarter Interim Progress Report.

Follow the directions on the pink two-sided *pickAtime* Parent Information Sheet attached to the letter coming home. If you have difficulty registering at home or do not have internet access please stop by our front office and we will be happy to assist you in using *pickAtime*. If you do not have internet access and cannot stop by the school, please call the school to schedule a conference.

FLU MIST CLINIC FOR HES STUDENTS

FluMist consent forms were sent home last Thursday.

Please return completed consents to the health room by Friday October 24th.

The FluMist Clinic will be held Friday November 7th.

Notes from the Health Room

As we enter into flu season, this is a reminder that good hand washing and covering sneezes and coughs with tissues and sleeves are essential steps to preventing the spread of "germs." Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of other children) is most important of all. For this reason, we ask you to please:

Call the school nurse (410-880-5893), to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat, or the flu etc. Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of over 100.0.

A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear but he/she will still be contagious to others.

Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.

Please be advised that the Health Room has a direct fax # 240-456-0439.

Please send health information, medication forms, etc. to this number. Please do not send to the School fax #.

TIPS FROM TUFFY Focus on Responsibility

Giving kids a choice when it comes to decision-making allows them to experience some responsibility within your limits. Decide what your child is choosing between, whether it's doing the dishes or setting the table, which homework to complete first, or which place to go on the weekend. Letting them choose gives them a sense of empowerment and responsibility. They will most likely follow through with their choice and feel proud of the opportunity to make a decision and of their accomplishment.

Food Drive

Our Food Drive for LARS has begun! If you have any food items you would like to donate please send them in to school with your child. You can donate any unopened item such as cereal, pasta, peanut butter, canned foods, etc. LARS stands for Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services and helps the needy right here in Laurel. So send in those food items with your child!