

HAMMOND TIGER TALES

October 31, 2019



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

November 1	Schools Close 3 Hours Early (12:30 dismissal), Professional Work Day
November 4	4 th Grade Field Trip to Smithsonian American Art Museum
November 5	Visiting Author - Hena Khan
November 6	Picture Retake Day
November 6	Screenagers Viewing, HMS gym 6:30 p.m.
November 11	Report cards issued
November 12	3 rd Grade Field Trip to Ellicott City
November 19	Literacy Night 6:30 p.m.
November 20	Hearing/Vision Clinic
November 25 & 26	Schools Close 3 Hours Early (12:30 dismissal), Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 27	Schools Closed for Students, Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 28 & 29	Schools and Offices Closed (State mandated holiday)
December 6	1 st and 2 nd Grade Field Trip to Toby's Theater
December 11	Advanced Band and Orchestra and Chorus Performance 7:00 p.m.
December 13	Quarter 2 interim progress reports issued
December 18	Advanced Band and Orchestra and Chorus Performance *Snow Date*
December 23-January 1	Winter Break (Schools closed for students)
January 9	Dental Clinic
January 9	Family Fit Night
January 14	Beginning Band and Strings Performance 7:00 p.m. HMS Gym
January 20	Schools and Offices Closed (State mandated holiday)
January 27	Schools Closed for Students, Professional Work Day
January 28	Beginning Band and Strings Performance *Snow Date*



We Like You Just The Way You Are!

Dear Parents,

November 18-22 is American Education Week for public schools across the nation. Our Hammond Elementary students and staff welcome our families to visit and to join students in the classroom. Because we share the traffic loop with middle school, we ask our parents to visit between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in order to avoid challenges with bus and car movement. When you arrive, please report to the office to login and receive a visitor badge - you will need a picture identification card at the time of entrance. We would also appreciate your understanding in regards to younger siblings attending American Education Week. Although we enjoy meeting our students' siblings, we are committed to maintaining consistency and reducing distractions throughout our academic day, so siblings are not able to attend. They are welcome to attend our family fun functions that are sponsored throughout the year by our PTA. Please also be aware that use of cell phones are not permitted during school hours and that pictures and videos are not permitted due to privacy matters.

Additionally, the school system calendar allows for teachers in grades K-5 to schedule conferences on November 25, 26 and 27. We encourage you take this opportunity to talk with your child's teacher about progress made during this quarter of the school year. This window of time is a special period as staff and parents discuss the hopes and dreams that you hold for your child. As parents, you know your child best and can offer such a helpful perspective to the team here at school! In preparation for the conference, I encourage you to review your child's report card to note strengths and to determine if there are areas that you have questions. Writing questions in advance helps to support the process as time can be spent in rich discussion.

As a reminder, all students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. on November 25 and November 26. Schools will be closed for students on Wednesday, November 27. You can access your child's Language Arts teacher's conference schedule beginning Monday, November 11 through www.hcpss.org/connect. For specific instructions on how to register for a Conference go to: <http://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/synergy-parent-teacher-conference-registration.pdf>.

Sincerely,

Kimberlyn S. Pratesi

Principal

Hammond Elementary School

kimberlyn_pratesi@hcpss.org

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

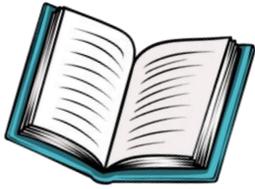
Congratulations

HES kindergartener, Leyna Zhou, competed in this year's BMTG Intercontinental Piano Competition. She won first place after performing in the Concerto/Orchestra Elementary division and was the youngest pianist. Please join us in congratulating Leyna and wishing her well as she prepares for a performance on November 24 in New York. Leyna will play Concerto with the orchestra at Carnegie Hall!

Picture Retake Day

Picture Day Retakes will be held on Wednesday, November 6. If you would like your child to have their portraits retaken on this day, the entire portrait package must be returned. Please have your child bring the portrait package to the photographer on retake day. Parents of students who were absent should

contact the main office for an order envelope if they wish to order portraits. Please visit www.schoolpix.com to order additional portraits.



Author Visit

Author Hena Khan will be visiting Hammond Elementary on Tuesday, November 5! She will speak with our students about the writing process and finding one's voice through writing. Ms. Khan is the author of several award-winning fiction novels and picture books. Her books may be purchased through Barnes & Noble, Amazon and local book sellers. As part of the visit, she has offered to autograph books for our students! PTA volunteers will collect these from the classroom for signing & return end of day to our students.

If you have, or will be, purchasing a book by Hena Khan, please be sure to return this to school on or before the morning of November 5.

Report Cards

Quarter 1 report cards will be issued on Monday, November 11. We encourage you to review the feedback with your child and consider asking what they believe they are doing well and what areas may require a little more effort. Help your child set some goals and develop a plan for how to reach that goal. Click here for more information on understanding your child's report card.

Book Fair and Literacy Night

The **Book Fair** is coming to HES...

Monday, November 18 through Friday, November 22, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, November 19 we will host a **Literacy Night** in conjunction with the Book Fair. It will be a fun-filled night that includes a variety of activities! Highlights will include:

- Meeting AND writing a poem with assistance from the famous author of, "Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary," Laura Shovan.
- Learning about a variety of books during an engaging presentation from the Howard County Library.
- Participating in an interactive technology session using the Howard County Public School's data base.

Feel free to come early and visit our Book Fair from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.! Please click on the link below to RSVP for this event so we know how many people to expect!!

<https://forms.gle/DJT9YBYvNwbWkCc18>

Music Class News

Several students have asked for the Quaver code - our online music curriculum website. There are fun activities that students can access if they wish. Below are the directions and code.

- Go to <https://www.quavermusic.com/info>
- Click on "STUDENT INTERACTIVES" (at the top of the page)
- You will be asked to enter a CLASS CODE.
- Type in the following code: 62L5V
- Click on "ENTER." You're in...have FUN!

Caring School Community Corner



HES students have discussed a variety of social topics during community circles, such as our interactions in the school environment including caring for the classroom, following established norms and developing empathy. Each Thursday students may receive a letter (varies depending upon topic and grade level) that provides an update to families regarding the topic discussed during that week's community circles. Please be sure to review this letter and you may complete the optional activity with your child and submit it to your child's teacher by the following Thursday.

Indoor Recess Activities

As the weather changes, we know it won't be long before access to outside may become limited due to weather. To prepare, we are looking for some additional activities for students to use during indoor recess. As you are doing your fall cleaning, please consider donating the following to HES:

- New or gently used board games (please include all pieces)
- Puzzles
- Coloring books
- Building blocks
- Crayons or markers



All donations are welcome to the front office. Thank you!

Looking to Join the Cub Scouts?

Cub Scout Pack 606 Boosters of Hammond welcomes you to visit our meeting in the HES cafeteria on Tuesday, November 12 at 6:45 p.m. For additional information, please feel free to reach out to Jamie Munford at jmunford09@gmail.com or Christina Gonzalez at cgonzalez726@gmail.com. All are welcome to visit us with a parent or guardian!

RHS Fall Play

Reservoir High School's fall play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" will be November 21-23, 2019. The show is a total treat, honoring the award winning Broadway play and New York Times bestseller book of the same title. View the flier for more information.

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Weather is Here

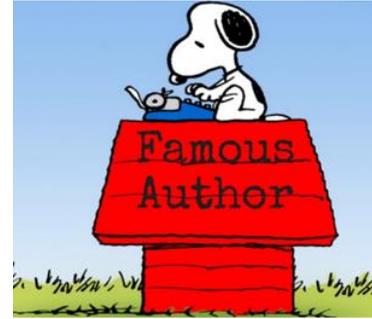
As the weather gets colder, please make sure that your child has a coat and appropriate clothing to keep warm during outdoor recess.

Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association is launching the annual State of Maryland Young Authors' Contest! This year we are excited to announce that first graders are eligible to enter the contest.

Students in Grades 1-5 are encouraged to submit a short story and/or poem by Monday, December 2 using the following guidelines:

- Entries must be original work.
- All entries must use no smaller than 12 point font in Times New Roman.
- Short story entry must range between 100-400 words (gr. 1-2) and 300-800 words (gr. 3-5).
- Poem entry will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-150 words (all grade levels).
- Entries must not include graphics.
- Each entry must include a completed cover sheet signed by the student author's parent.



View the flier for more information and be sure to include the contest coversheet.

Text Alerts

If you are interested in receiving school text alerts, please subscribe by texting the word "YES" to 67587 from the cell phone number on file in HCPSS Connect.

Birthday Celebrations

In order to avoid disappointment for our students and to maintain an environment conducive to learning, please understand that birthday party invitations should be distributed outside of school. A student directory is now available on Family File. On the special day, if you choose to bring lunch for your child, please remember only your child is allowed to enjoy the meal and/or snack as we have to assure safety for students with allergies, and dietary needs.



Absence Reporting and Change in Dismissal Reporting

In an effort to go green and reduce interruptions to the classroom instruction, we ask that you use the following Google Forms for reporting absences or if there are any changes in your child's dismissal routine: HES-Reporting Absence(s) Form and HES-Change in Dismissal Routine Form. These forms are available on Hammond Elementary School's website: hes.hcpss.org

Please be advised: You will need your photo ID any time you are entering the building.

Volunteers Welcome!

The old proverb is right! It takes a village to raise a child and we need your support. Volunteering is easy and fun!

Each year HCPSS/HES requires you to take 2 short trainings online before volunteering in the school or on field trips. Visit the HES website, click on Get Involved and scroll down to "Volunteer" section. The link will take you to the HCPSS Parent Volunteer Information page. *Due to liability and safety concerns, Hammond Elementary requests that small children do not accompany parent volunteers.* Questions or Concerns? Email: volunteer@hespta.org

Please be advised you will need to turn in your volunteer certificates to Mrs. Bajwa or Mrs. Hawkes if you are planning on volunteering in the classroom or attending your child's field trip(s).