

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

February 17, 2022



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hammond families,

February has been a busy month. We were happy to see the return of classroom celebrations for Valentines Day. Thank you to the many volunteers that helped to make that possible. We are in the midst of Kindness Week and have been enjoying seeing the students and staff dressing to coincide with the daily themes (see below). HES has been honoring Black History Month with many activities and lessons throughout the school (read more below).

This week we hit the monumental 100th Day of School. Our first graders were proud to write 100 words. They stacked and built castles with 100 small cups. In math they rolled a die 100 times and charted how many times they rolled each number.

The GoNoodle virtual evening together hosted on Tuesday by Mrs. Frere was a huge success. Over fifty families joined in the fun! Our next event is not to be missed! On Thursday, March 3 Mrs. Serpico will be leading us in Family Boot Camp at 6:30pm (<http://meet.google.com/rpv-nkpp-doo>), so grab your workout shoes and login.

We would also like to take this opportunity to provide a friendly reminder about safety in the car loop, specifically the drop-off lane. We recognize that patience is required when dropping off each morning and we are thankful for your kindness, especially when you see our staff supporting during those rainy and/or cold days. We do remind everyone that when you drop off, please remain in line until you are greeted by a staff member. Please do not pass other cars to expedite your time in line.

Remember: school is **open** on Presidents' Day this Monday, February 21.

Best wishes,

Ms. Ciarapica

Celebrating Black History Month and Diversity in Our School



At HES we strive to celebrate diversity and inclusion every day. February provides an opportunity to focus on Black History in the classroom. In music classes, students have been studying Blues and Jazz music. They are also singing spirituals and learning about the many African American musicians.

In 2nd grade, students have been learning about Misty Copeland and her contributions to the ballet world. They have also been learning about Mae Jemison and her contributions to the space program as the 1st African-American female astronaut.

5th grade has been listening to and enjoying read-alouds by African American authors, in addition to, reading books with African American characters. Throughout the year, the 5th grade team incorporates texts that highlight multicultural backgrounds, traditions, and history as the curriculum for SEL, Language Arts, and Social Studies provides many opportunities for enrichment and inclusion!

Grades 3 & 5 CogAT Testing

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grades 3 and to any 5th grade students who do not have a prior CogAT score as well as all students in 5th grade GT Math. For more information, click [here](#).

MCAP Early Fall Home Report Communications

Fall 2021 MCAP Assessment Home Reports

Students in grades 4 and 5 who participated in the fall 2021 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) will be bringing home score reports on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Please follow this [link](#) to learn more about this report.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rainbow Events

HCPSS is committed to creating safe spaces for all County families. Rainbow Representatives are new positions in the county this year and Mrs. Kennedy, School Counselor, is the Rainbow Rep for HES, helping to support LGBTQIA+ families, students, and staff in our community. She will share

Rainbow events here in the newsletter. All are welcome. There is an exciting, fun, and free climbing event happening on March 19th at the Movement Columbia Gym for ages 5-12 at 12pm! Please check out the attached [flier](#) for complete information! We hope to see you there!

Random Acts of Kindness Week

What is Random Acts of Kindness Week?

Kindness Week is in full swing and we are working hard on being mindfully, purposefully kind to others! We've had a lot of fun dressing up for our Spirit Week and we have had special lessons about how to show kindness to others! Ask your student about what is going on here at HES this week and start your own conversation about expressing kindness in the world!



Media Center Contest

MASL (Maryland Association for School Librarians) is holding an "I Love My School Library" Contest. The winning Student will receive a \$100 gift card to Amazon. The winning Librarian will receive a \$50 gift card to Amazon and a free membership to MASL for 1 year. [Read](#) more about the contest and how to submit your entry. Entries due by February 28.

Orchestra Announcement

February 17 will be the Beginning Orchestra Winter Concert start time is 6:30pm (6:15pm report time) and the Beginning Band Winter Concert start time is 7:15pm (7:00pm report time).

Has your child had a growth spurt since the last concert?

As you start your spring cleaning, please look for any gently used white shirts, or black skirts, pants, socks, and shoes. Your HES Music Team can always use donations of gently used concert wear for our band, chorus, and orchestra students. Since these clothing items are often only worn once or twice before they are outgrown, you can donate and help another family as well as help reuse and cut down on waste! Please contact Mrs. Sanders at larissa_sanders@hcpss.org with any questions.

Congratulations

Congratulations to bassist Henry String (5th Grade) on his acceptance into this year's Elementary School Gifted and Talented Sinfonia (ESGTS)! We are so proud of his hard work and achievements! We look forward to celebrating him at the ESGTS concert in May!

Young Authors' Contest

Congratulations to Hammond's students in grades 1 through 5 who won our schoolwide Young Authors' Contest! We wish the winners good luck as they move on to the county judging! This year we had 33 poetry and short story entries, and we hope to have even more students participate next year!

For the poetry category, our winners are:

Grade 1 and Grade 2 - no poetry entries

Grade 3 – “Change” by Lillian Van Osterom

Grade 4 - “For Men and Mice” by Shriya Shivakumar

Grade 5 - “I’m So Silly” by Josefine Fahrendorf

In the short story category, our winners are:

Grade 1 - “The Story of the Lost Chicken That Was Bad” by Violet Yu

Grade 2 – “Toucan Travels” by Caleb King

Grade 3 – “Take Off” by Maidot Mengistu

Grade 4 – “The Wish Catcher” by Danielle Broadwater

Grade 5 - “Jealous Jelly” by Ava Pendleton

Thank you to all who participated!!

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

From the Health Room:

Has your child had one or both of their Covid vaccines? Regardless of vaccination status, we are asking that all families complete the [HES Vaccination Status Form for Students](#) to collect this information for each of our students. To support the proposed return of contact tracing, please complete the form for each child attending HES as soon as possible.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 or is a close contact to a positive case, please email the following information to the Health Room staff (Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org) and Front Office (Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org) regarding your child's absence:

Positive Test:

- Date the symptoms began (if any)
- Vaccination status & date of last vaccination
- Type of Covid test taken (PCR or rapid) **and date**

Close Contact to a Positive Individual if not Vaccinated:

- Date of exposure (if close contact)
- Vaccination status & date of last vaccination
- If your child is a household close contact - can the positive family member be completely isolated from the child?
- Has your child had a confirmed positive Covid-19 test within the last 90 days

Updated Covid Mitigation Link:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2022/01/updated-covid-mitigation-efforts-in-hcpss-schools-jan-3-2022/>

Health and Safety Precautions

Please complete a [COVID-19 Self-Screening](#) with your child every morning.

Scheduled volunteers should also complete a [COVID-19 Self-Screening](#) prior to entering the building.

For more information about [COVID-19 Health & Safety](#) please visit www.hcpss.org.

HES is Still Hiring!

Temporary Employee (TE)

Description: These individuals provide close adult support to some of our special education students, under the supervision of Hammond staff.

For this special education position, interested candidates would apply through an outside agency that staffs these positions in our schools.

- The position is for 6.5 hour day (6 hours paid with an unpaid ½ hour lunch) from Monday through Friday from 9:00-3:30.
- Contact [R. Tencher](#) and apply through [Social Service Consultants](#)
- The pay rate for this position is \$13.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mapson at nykia_mapson@hcpss.org or 410-880-5890 as soon as possible.

Recess/Lunch Monitor Position

Description: These individuals supervise students at recess and outdoor/indoor lunch, under the supervision of Hammond staff.

- Begins as soon as possible
- We prefer 5 days (Monday through Friday) but can discuss part time options
- The hours are 10:45am - 2:15pm
- The pay rate for this position is \$12.50.

[Recess Lunch Monitor Application Link](#) - Please note that this is a long process through HCPSS Human Resources, so please submit your application as soon as possible and contact Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal, at nykia_mapson@hcpss.org or 410-880-5890, to let her know you are interested.

Please feel free to share these employment opportunities with friends, family, and neighbors.

2022 Summer Programs

The 2022 Summer Programs Preview, which contains descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information, is available to view and download from the Summer Programs web page <https://www.hcpss.org/summer-programs/>

Outdoor Recess, Outdoor Eating & Cold Weather

We will continue to offer outdoor lunch as weather and staff coverage permit. Please have a conversation with your child about where you would like them to eat. If your child is eating outside, please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather (coat and hat) each day. If you choose to have your child eat inside, all students have an assigned seat.

The decision to go outside or stay inside for recess, outdoor eating, physical education, or any other outdoor activity is the decision of the administrator at individual schools and based on the following criteria:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, outdoor eating, physical education, or any other outdoor activity **when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit** or the heat index reading is less than 95. Please be sure children are dressed appropriately for the weather.

PTA NEWS

General Meeting Dates

- 3/8: PTA Meeting, 7pm (virtual)

<https://zoom.us/j/93149929646?pwd=MjN0aFQrVHh2WVBrWFR3Zy83TnltZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 4992 9646 Passcode:7Ct5Ps

- 5/10: PTA Meeting: Elections, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
- 6/7: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)

Upcoming PTA Events

- 4/22: Outdoor Movie Night
- 5/7: Spring Carnival, 3-6pm

Support Opportunity

Elianna Ferrufino is a fifth grader at HES. When she was in 3rd grade, she had an injury which led to an aneurysm in her brain. She has been through a lot and is finally able to tell her story for the first time through Johns Hopkins Radiothon. You can tune in to listen to Mix 106.5 on February 24th and 25th to hear Elianna share her story. The radiothon aims to raise money for sick kids right here in our backyard, like Elianna! Elianna and her family have a fundraiser page to help raise money for the Children's center.

<https://www.helpmakemiracles.org/participant/397152>

Membership Drive

Thank you to everyone who has already joined the PTA! If you haven't yet, please consider doing so--we would love to have all of our families join the PTA this year. Please be aware that even if you were a member last year, you will need to renew your membership for the 2021-2022 school year. The PTA relies on money received through membership fees and fundraisers to provide the many programs and events for our students and families throughout the year, and we can't do any of it without YOU! You can register via our MemberHub site <https://hes-pta.new.memberhub.store/store>.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Kathleen Denny, VP of Membership at membership@hespta.org.

Support the PTA while you shop!

- Harris Teeter: Link your VIC card online each Fall at www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education
- AmazonSmile: Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select Hammond Elementary PTA as your charity

IMPORTANT DATES

February 17	Winter Concert for Beginning Band & Orchestra Students 6:30pm
February 21	Schools will be open!!!
February 25	"I Love My School Library" contest entries due Club Photos taken by School Pictures
March 3	HES Evening Get Togethers - Family Boot Camp 6:30pm with Mrs Serpico http://meet.google.com/rpv-nkpp-doo
March 8	HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
March 16	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
March 24	HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
March 29	HES Evening Get Togethers - Family GoNoodle with Mrs. Frere 6:30 pm http://meet.google.com/gcg-tayf-siw
April 1	End of 3rd Quarter - Schools close 3 hours early
April 6	HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
April 11-18	Spring Break - Schools Closed
April 27	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
May 3	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Learning Day for Staff
May 18	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
May 30	Schools & Offices Closed - Memorial Day

** denotes newly added Early dismissal days

You may link here to access the [HCPSS Calendar for the 2021 - 2022 School Year](#).

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation

Changes in afternoon transportation should be submitted to your child's teacher in writing (note or email). For changes that occur after 12 pm, please call our front office team (410-880-5890) to

communicate the change and they will provide the information to your child's homeroom teacher. Please communicate all changes no later than 2:45 each day to ensure they are communicated to your child prior to dismissal.

[Bus Numbers & Routes](#)

[Car Loop Dashboard Cards](#)

Are You Moving?

If your family is moving out of the Hammond Elementary district or even just down the street, we still need to know! Please contact the Front Office at 410-880-5890 if you are changing your address over the summer.

Chromebook Care Webpage

There is a new webpage for students, [Chromebook Care](#), which includes tips on caring for and transporting Chromebooks, as well as student mobile technology support and additional resources.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please visit the [link](#) to the Howard County Public School System's Community News and Programs page.

