

Wave Newsletter

December 7, 2023

Important Dates:

- Dec. 4 - 8 ~ Book Fair
- Dec. 11 ~ Young Author's Contest Entries Due
- Dec. 13 ~ Three-Hour Early Dismissal; Professional Work and Wellness Day
- Dec. 18 ~ Orchestra Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 21 ~ 3rd Grade Field Trip to Baltimore Museum of Industry
- Dec. 25 - Jan. 1 ~ Winter Break, Schools Closed

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Each year, The Council of Elders (TCOE) recognizes students for their academic achievement during the Celebration of Academic Achievement. The Celebration of Academic Achievement honors students who are in grades 4 – 9 and have achieved the following levels of academic success during last year's academic school year as 3rd through 8th graders:

- Grades 4 – 6: Students earned As or Bs in all areas of mathematics AND Language Arts in all 4 quarters and did not receive any Ds or Es in any of the following subjects – Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health Education for all 4 quarters.
- Grades 7 – 9: Students earned As or Bs in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies in all 4 quarters.

This year, TCOE Celebration of Academic Achievement will honor fifteen (15) Dayton Oaks students via a Zoom celebration which is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023. Students in grades 3-5 were recognized for outstanding academic achievement and performance. Please join us in celebrating the following students for this outstanding accomplishment: **Paul-Theodore Bikoi, Berylla Boadu, Kitson Broesmale, Luke Dadzie, Alexander Halasz, Syed Hassan, Claire Jasi, Alaylah Jefferson, Xavier Monroe, Temiloluwa Okunade, Hewan Sheferaw, David Siwajuola, Torrey Smith, Sage Stossel and Christopher Tunson.**

We are very proud of our Dayton Oaks scholars. Keep up the good work!

Counselor's Corner

The school counselors at DOES are excited to share that students and staff will be participating in Cross-Age Buddies again this school year. The first event of the school year was held on Friday,

December 1st during the typically scheduled Content block for each grade. This program, designed by Caring School Community, pairs a primary class of students with an intermediate class to participate in a structured activity that will support students in forming positive relationships across ages at DOES. Students will keep the same "buddy" all school year, with each event. This program is a highly anticipated one for our students! We look forward to hearing about the cross-age relationships forming in our school!

Please reach out to one of the school counselors if you have any questions or suggestions related to maintaining positive relationships at school!

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Holiday Assistance Donations Needed

During this time of year, many of our families are looking for ways to give to others in need. It's more important than ever that we provide support and care to our families who may be struggling this year. This season, we are continuing our gift card collection initiative. DOES is collecting donated gift cards in any amount from a grocery or clothing/toy store such as Giant, Safeway, Walmart, Target or Amazon starting. Feel free to drop gift cards into the basket located in the front office.

The Student Services Team at DOES will distribute the donations to local families in need. Even the smallest donation can make a huge difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Health Room News

The health room is always looking for donations of the following items:

- 3 to 5 oz paper cups
- Fragrance-free, hypoallergenic baby wipes
- Boy or girl pants/shorts with elastic waistband if possible
- New underwear size 4-10 are much needed in the health room
- Tissues
- Socks
- Goldfish snack bags
- Small bottles of water

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Champions of Courage Black History Month Contest (Entries Due by 12/11)

Entries are open for the 2023 Champions of Courage Black History Month Essay Competition, presented by WBFF Baltimore FOX 45. The competition is open to all Maryland students ages 11

through 18. "Champions of Courage " is a showcase for students to salute their positive role models who have demonstrated the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspiring them to dream and achieve. Students can enter by writing a brief essay saluting their "Champion of Courage". Fifteen (15) essays will be selected, and student winners will present their essays on FOX 45, The CW Baltimore, and My TV Baltimore during January and February 2024. Each of the 15 winning essayists will receive a \$100 prize. Please review the linked document for more detailed information and how to apply. Click [here](#) to access contest guidelines.

Registration for BSAP Saturday Math Academy Spring Program

This year, the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy will offer an in-person enrichment program for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3-12 based on course availability. Registration will take place online Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 9:00 a.m.- until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the [HCPSS Connect Website](#).

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2023/12/black-student-achievement-program-bsap-saturday-math-academy-spring-2024-program/>

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(English\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(Chinese\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(Korean\)](#)

HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy - Social Emotional Well-being and Substance Misuse

On December 16 from 9-10:30 a.m., parents and families are invited to attend a virtual session regarding how to effectively support students in maintaining positive Social and Emotional Well-Being and prevent substance misuse. Representatives from HCPSS and community partner organizations will provide resources for social and emotional development and education on prevention, risk factors, and warning signs of substance misuse. This session is for families of students at the elementary, middle, or high school levels and will be held virtually. To register, please complete the registration form linked [here](#). Attached, please find the [TCOE Social Emotional Well-being Flyer](#) for your reference.

News Worth Repeating

Howard County Family Support Center is Now Open!

The Howard County Family Support Center is now open! The [Family Support Center \(FSC\)](#) offers comprehensive, family-centered, community-based programs for parents and caregivers of children from birth to age five. Center staff promote the full development and well-being of children, enhance the quality of parent and child interactions, and are the link to services for overall parent and family self-sufficiency and sustainability.

- **Location:** 9790 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046
- **Operating Hours:** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **Questions:** email Kristin Reel at kreel@howardcountymd.gov

Spelling/Bumble Bees!

Dayton Oaks' 4th and 5th grade students will have an opportunity to participate in the Howard County Library System (HCLS) Spelling Bee. The winner of the HCLS Bee will represent Howard County in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May 2024 at the National Harbor in Washington, DC. Students will participate in their classroom spelling bees which will be held soon. Teams will notify families of specific dates that classroom spelling bees will be held. The classroom winners will compete in a school-level bee at Dayton Oaks on January 26th. One winner and one alternate from DOES will move on to the HCLS Spelling Bee held in March at Hammond High School.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd-grade students will have an opportunity to participate in a grade-level Bumblebee. One winner from each grade will be recognized at the HCLS Spelling Bee in March.

Best wishes to all of the participants!

Volunteer Training Required for Volunteers and Visitors

Anyone volunteering at school in any capacity, including parents joining their children for lunch, are required to complete volunteer training prior to their first visit. Please visit [HERE](#) for more information. Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our staff and students at DOES.

Attendance/Reporting Absences

Parents can email DOESabsence@hcpss.org to report a student's absence. Please include your child(ren)'s full name, parent's/guardian's full name and phone number, the date your child(ren) was absent and the reason. Parents may instead choose to send in a paper excuse note to their child's teacher with the same information when the student returns to school.

For families requesting local discretionary absences, please complete a [Local Discretionary Absence Request Form](#) and submit it to the front office at least one week in advance.

2023-2024 School Meals Information

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about HCPSS meal information.

Pricing for school meals for 2023-24:

- Breakfast (\$2.00)
- Lunch (\$2.80)

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the [Free and Reduced Price Meals \(FARMs\) program](#), which provides children with a wide range of benefits including free or discounted college tuition, testing and application fees, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition

to free or discounted meals. Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a [FARMS application](#) as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year. [Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program](#), including a link to apply, are available online.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs site](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.