

# WAVE NEWSLETTER

February 15, 2024

## Important Dates:

February 19 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - Presidents' Day

February 22 ~ Black History Month Program, 6:30 p.m. in Cafetorium

February 27 ~ Spring Class/Individual Picture Day

March 4 - 8 ~ Kindergarten and New First Grader Registration Kickoff

## On Deck with your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

During the month of February, we take time to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of Black Americans. Our PTA has planned fun and engaging activities for DOES students, staff, and families. This year's theme is "Celebrating African-Americans in the Arts." Families are invited to attend and participate in our annual Black History Month Family Program which is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the DOES Cafetorium. Below, please find additional information regarding Black History Month activities at DOES:

- Students received a Bingo Cards of Black History activities on February 8
- Students should complete 3 activities in a row to win a prize
- Students must return completed Bingo cards by **Monday, February 26** to the "**Bingo Drop Box**" in the front lobby of the school.
- Prizes will be distributed **March 1-8** for completed cards that are turned in by **February 26, 2024**
- Black History Month promotional items (pencil, sticker, bookmark) will be distributed to students on **February 15, 2024**
- Students have been hearing about the contribution of Blacks in the arts during morning announcements
- JOIN US: **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at the DOES Cafetorium. Enjoy a Black History Month program with presentations, interactive activities, and snacks for the entire family.
- Students in grades 2-4 will also have the opportunity to participate in Unheard Perspectives presentations on February 21 - 23, 2024, prior to the countywide competition which is scheduled for February 24, 2024.

DOES staff and students are excited to participate in these activities and we look forward to celebrating Black History Month together as a community.

Educationally yours,  
Ms. Williams-McKinney, Principal  
Ms. Lorch, Assistant Principal

## **Counselor's Corner**

Dear Families,

Last week was National School Counseling Week! Mrs. Hannan and I wanted to take a moment to thank the DOES families for the continuous support of the counseling program at DOES. We are proud to be the School Counselors at Dayton Oaks and love the work we do. The school counselors are here for every child and their families. If you have any questions or would like to partner to ensure your child's success at school, please reach out: Stephanie\_Dix@hcpss.org or Alyson\_Hannan@hcpss.org.

The counselors are planning exciting things over the next month including a school-wide event. On February 22nd, kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Mix-It Up Lunch of the school year! This event was originally created by the team at Learning for Justice and has become a state-wide initiative to increase inclusion and break down social barriers. On 2/22, students will be encouraged to mix-up at lunch instead of sitting with their homeroom class. Conversation prompts will be on the tables to support meaningful conversations among the students. We look forward to supporting this event!

Stephanie Dix (she/her)  
School Counselor

## **2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration Kickoff**

Kindergarten [registration](#) for families of children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2024, kicks off Monday, March 4. Parents can begin the enrollment process online, after which your child's school will contact you to complete the registration process. Current HCPSS prekindergarten students do not need to be re-registered for kindergarten because they are already enrolled as an HCPSS student.

## **Health Room Reminders**

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below to help you.

**Stay at Home:** If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home or make appropriate child care arrangements:

- **Appearance and Behavior** - unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child.
- **Eyes** - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye. With pink eye (conjunctivitis) you may see a white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain and/or redness.
- **Fever** - temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Remember that a child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Greenish nose discharge and/or chronic cough** - should be seen by a healthcare provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- **Sore throat** - especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck. (With strep throat, the child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics.)
- **Diarrhea** - three (3) or more watery stools in a 24-hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **Vomiting** - vomiting two (2) or more times within the past 24 hours
- **Rash** - body rash, especially with fever or itching. Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.

- **Ear infections without fever** - do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- **Lice** - children may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of live lice. Make a habit of checking your child's hair for head lice once a week.
- **COVID** - Students who are positive for Covid should isolate at home through at least day 5 (day 0 is the day symptoms appeared or the date the specimen was collected for the positive test for people who are asymptomatic). They should wear a mask through day 10 while at school. Students must be 24 hours fever free to return to school.
  - The Maryland Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education recommend that schools and child care programs follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs for the 2023-2024 school year.

**If your child shows any of the above symptoms at school, it will be necessary to pick them up from school. Please make sure to update your emergency contacts so that you can pick up your student within an hour of notification from the health room. Please call or email if you have any questions: Rachel\_Tulis@hcpss.org or 410 313-1575**

### **Handicapped Accessible Parking Spaces**

In response to our need for additional handicapped accessible parking for this year, the county offices have provided several additional spaces. These are located in our front lot adjacent to the school.

As a reminder these spaces should be utilized only by those who currently hold a State of Maryland issued plate or placard allowing for use.

## **NEWS WORTH REPEATING**

### **DOES Student Showcase**

SAVE THE DATE for the Dayton Oaks Student Showcase scheduled for May 9, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm. The DOES Student Showcase is an open house for family and community that spotlights learning at Dayton Oaks Elementary. We will be rolling out the red carpet to view the amazing work from all our star students in RECC to 5th grade! Additionally, we invite students to participate in the showcase by creating a STEAM project. Just follow the directions for creating a STEAM Project in the packet . We hope to see you at our red carpet event!

### **Volunteer in the Media Center!**

The Media Center is always looking for parent volunteers. Please consider signing up to volunteer by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44A5AD2EAA8-47151726-winter>

### **Student Technology Reminder - Personal Devices**

Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of students bringing personal technology devices to school. These include cell phones, Apple watches, Gizmo watches, and other personal devices that include text messaging capabilities. These items have been disruptive to classroom instruction, therefore, we wanted to uplift the HCPSS Policy regarding personal technology devices in elementary schools:

[HCPSS Policy 8080](#) - Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media states that elementary school students “will keep personal technology devices in backpacks during the school day, unless otherwise authorized by school administrators or instructional staff.”

If your child has a personal device, please review this policy with them. As stated in Policy 8080, students who bring these devices to school will be instructed to place them in their backpacks for the duration of the school day. Thank you for your partnership.

### **Cold Weather Reminder**

As cold winter weather approaches, we want to remind you that students will still be going outside for recess. Please make sure you send your child to school with warm clothes. All clothing should be labeled with your child's name. Below you will find the HCPSS criteria we consider when having outdoor activities.

- 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, 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.

### **HCPSS Emergency Notifications**

As we head into winter weather, [families are reminded](#) that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. [Be sure your Family File is up to date](#) and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

### **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](mailto: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.