

WAVE NEWSLETTER

February 29, 2024

Important Dates:

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

March 6 ~ General Membership PTA Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

March 12 ~ Vision and Hearing Screening

March 15 ~ Family Bingo Night; 6:30 p.m.

On Deck with your Administrators

Dear DOES Families:

Each year, Grade 4 students at Dayton Oaks have the opportunity to participate in the GT Seminar, *Unheard Perspectives*. This challenging performance-based program allows students to research and delve through primary sources like letters, songs, interviews, pictures and maps as well as reading newspaper articles, biographies, and much more as they learn about our history. Part of each project focuses on contextualizing and putting events in reference to others through the student creation of a timeline of relevant events. Each week, students will hone their research skills as they learn more about black innovators in American history

The culminating activity for the seminar is the *Unheard Perspectives Showcase*. On Saturday, February 24, 2024, Grade 4 students from DOES participated in the annual *Unheard Perspectives (UP) Showcase* at Hammond Middle School. Students presented research on the following African American innovators: Mae Jamison, Thurgood Marshall, and Josephine Baker. All three teams brought home GOLD! This is the highest recognition for the showcase. Please join us in congratulating Ms. Mangiulli, the advisor for *Unheard Perspectives*, and these wonderful students for their accomplishments:

Clayton Bogard, Henry Go, Henry Rubens, Jaiden Richa and Sunny Zhang	Thurgood Marshall: A Legend of the Courts
Paisley Arpasi, Jackie Crimmins, Emerson El Sawi and Lia Palos Suciu	Josephine Baker: An Entertainer Who Changed the World
Anwith Manduva, Anjali Truesdale and Sashya Turlapaty	Mae Jemison: A Determined Astronaut

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear DOES Families,

As Spring approaches, this is a great time to revisit our school-wide supports for recess. Recess is an important part of the school day where students practice managing healthy relationships while having fun! Teachers will be reviewing behavior expectations at recess

using our D.I.V.E rules. Starting in March, students will have the opportunity to earn recognition for positive sportsmanship while playing at recess, as well. Below you will find a few questions to get your child talking about recess.

- What game did you play during recess today?
- Did you notice anyone being kind at recess today?
- What are you looking forward to doing at recess tomorrow?
- Where do you play the most at recess?
- Who do you want to play with at recess that you don't usually play with?
- How do you feel when you are at recess?
- How are you a good friend at recess?

Please reach out to one of the school counselors if you would like to talk through supports for your child at recess!

Stephanie Dix & Alyson Hannan

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.

Vision and Hearing Screening

The Howard County Health Department will be coming to DOES for our annual vision and hearing screening on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. All kindergarten and first-grade students and those new to Maryland Public Schools will be screened. If your child wears glasses, please make sure they bring their glasses to school on screening day. If your child is absent, the rescreening date is March 21, 2024. The health room is in need of volunteers for screenings between 8:30 am and 12:30 p.m. If you are available to volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact our school nurse, Rachel Tulis, at: rachel_tulis@hcpss.org.

The Council of Elders Community Academy: Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships

The Council of Elders Community Academy is hosting a virtual session on Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships on March 9. The virtual session will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. The session will explore the dynamics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and how to start conversations with children. In this interactive session, participants will:

- Learn how to help their child manage peer conflict.
- Learn how to identify abuse in teen relationships.
- Gain skills and strategies to intervene, if needed.

Please register for this virtual session [here](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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.

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 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.