

WAVE NEWSLETTER

January 18, 2024

Important Dates:

- Jan. 19 ~ End of 2nd Marking Period
- Jan. 22 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- Jan. 22 ~ HCPSS Connect Opens for Families to Sign Up for February Conferences
- Jan. 25 ~ Band and Chorus Concert, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 ~ Report Cards Available to View, 4:00 pm
- Jan. 31 ~ Family Fit Night, 6 - 8 p.m. (Snow date: 2/15/24)

On Deck with your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Earlier this week, we honored and celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday's holiday reminds us of the perseverance and hard work that was invested by many to ensure the legacy of this great civil rights leader is deeply embedded in the history of our country. This effort cannot be taken for granted and provides a great lesson for our students in Dr. King's belief that "The time is right to always do what is right."

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to eliminate inequities and injustices. Our shared commitment to removing barriers, opening doors, and inviting everyone through those doors in language that speaks directly to them is, and will continue to be, critical in supporting our efforts to cultivate a community where everyone feels like they belong. As always, thank you for all that you do each and every day to support and lift up Dr. King's dream through our shared values of *Communication, Teamwork, Collaboration, and Respect*.

Educationally yours,

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

February Parent Teacher Conferences

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Starting on Monday, January 22, at 8:00 a.m. [HCPSS Connect](#) will open for families to sign up for February conferences. To sign up for your conference through [HCPSS Connect](#), please [review the directions here](#). Note that you will need to be logged in through your parent credentials in order to access the conference availability schedule. When scheduling, the location field will note the time in which virtual conferences will begin for the teacher and conferences occurring before that time will be in person. Closer to the conference date teachers will use Canvas to post/email the room in our school where they will conduct their in-person conferences.

In-person parent-teacher conferences will be held after student dismissal on Wednesday, February 7th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Conferences after 4:00 p.m. will be in a virtual format. On Thursday, February 8, conferences will be held virtually following dismissal, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7 and Thursday, February 8 will be a 3-hour early dismissal for students, to accommodate the time for parent/teacher conferences. Each conference will be 15 minutes in length. Please understand that teachers create their schedules within a framework. Not all teacher conference schedules will look alike. Please consider your preferred type of conference and schedule accordingly.

The focus of our winter conferences will be in the area of Mathematics. Parents of Grade 5 GT math students will have the opportunity to conference with their GT-Math teachers. If your child works with a special educator or related service provider, that individual will attend the conference with the Math teacher. Related Arts Teachers will provide office hours to answer general questions.

Families will be able to schedule conferences in HCPSS Connect until Friday, February 2, at 4:00 p.m. After that time, parents will need to communicate any changes to conference schedules by emailing their student's math teacher directly. Please contact the front office if you need assistance during the scheduling window to access your child's teacher conference schedule.

Family Fit Night

Join us for our Fit Family Event on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 6 - 8 p.m. (Snow date: 2/15/24). Parents, come dressed to exercise with your children. Stations will include kid-friendly boot camp, martial arts, zumba, yoga, soccer, wellness tables, parent nutrition workshop and a dance party finale. Registration is required. Registration forms came home last week in students' Thursday folders. A parent or guardian must accompany children to this event! If you have any questions, please email: rachel_tulis@hcpss.org.

DOES Dance Party

Thanks to all of you, the PTA surpassed their fundraising goal for the year and earned our DoIFun Dance! The dance is January 26, 2024, 6:30 - 8:00pm, and we need your help to make it a success. Please help by signing up to set up, hand out food, give out glow sticks, etc. This is not a drop-off event, so please consider signing up for a time slot while you are at the dance! Click on the link below to sign up. If you have any questions, please email firstvicepresident@daytonoakspta.org. We are grateful for your continued support. Thank you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848ADA62BA6FDC61-47135738-jan26#/>

Music Notes

Congratulations to the following students who auditioned for and were accepted into the Howard County Elementary School GT Band.

- Zach Soldavin - clarinet
- Hannah Ball - trombone
- Istvan Turcsanyi - trumpet

Congratulations to the following students who were accepted into the Howard County Elementary School Honor Band.

- Nehemiah Rajan - percussion
- Colin Massie - clarinet

We are very proud of these young musicians and wish them the best of luck as they prepare for their concerts this spring!

Military Connected Family Night

Bellows Spring Elementary School would like to invite our military connected families to a special event to network and learn about the educational resources and supports available to military families. The school liaison officer from Fort Meade will share resources and information and give an overview of the MIC3 law (Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission).

Please RSVP using this link: <https://forms.gle/1ZjkoRbbD1LiCBQP7>

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Eric Soskil, Leadership Intern at Bellows Spring Elementary, at esoskil@hcpss.org or 410-313-5057.

HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy - Processes for Parent Empowerment:

HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy - Processes for Parent Empowerment: The next HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy will take place on January 27, 2024, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Parents and families are invited to attend a virtual session regarding parent advocacy topics include: Bullying, Parent Concerns, Special Education, Advanced Placement. Representatives from HCPSS will provide resources. 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](#). More information can be found in the [TCOE Processes for Parent Empowerment Flyer](#). If you have any questions, please contact Sheree Tilley at sheree_tilley@hcpss.org.

National Pan-Hellenic Council of Howard County Black History Expo 2024:

National Pan-Hellenic Council of Howard County Black History Expo 2024: The annual Black History Expo sponsored by the National Panhellenic Council of Howard County and the Howard County Public School System will be held on February 17, 2024, at Long Reach HS from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The theme of this year's event is "African Americans and the Arts."

HCPSS student organizations are invited to participate with exhibits that speak to the theme "African Americans and the Arts" (exhibit fee is waived), as assistants in various areas, or provide program performances. Students can receive community service hours for their participation. Registration forms for exhibitors, vendors and program performances are included in the [Black History Expo packet](#). The deadline to register to participate is January 20. For more information please contact Muriel G. Mitchell, Black History Expo Coordinator at (410) 461-4717 or blackhistoryexpo@gmail.com.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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.

Young Author's Contest Winners

Congratulations to all of the students who had the courage and creativity to enter the contest this year. All of the teachers at Dayton Oaks were impressed by the amazing writing! And now, without further adieu, the winners of this year's contest are:

First grade Short Story:
The Zebra Family by Keara Harriot

Second Grade Short Story:
Another World by Calvin Curran

Third Grade Short Story:
Sweet Land by Inara Marple

Third Grade Poem:
The Stage by Claire Kay

Fourth Grade Short Story:
Nature is Always Beautiful by Kaitlynn Hotrabhavananda

Fourth Grade Poem:
A Good Friend by Jack Flanigan

Fifth Grade Short Story:
A Book by Nina Yukich

Fifth Grade Poem:
At the End of Time by Emma Chan

Please give a big round of applause to these Young Author's Contest winners! Their entries will be sent on to the county level and families will be contacted if they win at that level!

PTA After School Activities - Sign up NOW available!!!

A few of the PTA sponsored After School Activities still have available spots for registration. Register now to secure your spot!

Black Belt Institute

Learn basic martial arts and understand self discipline. Students will learn and practice: fitness, coordination, flexibility focus, discipline and confidence respect and self confidence Korean language and culture

Grades K-5 Session I: 4 classes Mondays starting January 8

Session II: 4 classes Mondays starting Feb 26

\$109 per student per Session

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES mini auditorium

Register at: [DOES After School Application\(Session I\)](#)

Contact: bbiglenelg@gmail.com

Chess Wizards*

Chess Wizards is a premier chess education company providing fun, informative and challenging chess lessons to students. Students will be divided into groups according to their chess experience. At the end of this session, each student would have had the chance to participate in a mini-chess tournament. One parent/adult for each student must volunteer to attend one class. See additional details below.

Grades 1-5

8 classes Tuesdays starting January 23

\$168 per student

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES art room

Register at: www.chesswizards.com

iSTEAM*

Students will experience science interactively and will connect with STEAM knowledge to everyday events. Students may explore chemical engineering, molecular gastronomy, and static electricity. All supplies included. All equipment, supplies and food is included. One parent/adult for each student must volunteer to attend one class. See additional details below.

Grades K-5

10 classes Thursdays starting January 11

\$220+ processing fee per student

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES art room

Register at: www.isteamafterschool.com

Contact: info@isteamafterschool.com

iCook*

This class is fully booked, but please fill out the form in this [link](#) if you are interested in being placed on a waitlist/interest list for a potential second class

Learn culinary skills, nutrition and cultural awareness. Students will cook and taste 2 recipes per week! All equipment, supplies and food is included. One parent/adult for each student must volunteer to attend one class. See additional details below.

Grades K-5

9 classes Fridays starting January 12

\$198 + processing fee per student

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES art room

Contact: info@icookafterschool.com

***Due to the PTA's policy of requiring two adults at each class, an adult (18+ years) must sign up to attend one of the classes with their student. This applies to Chess Wizards, iSteam and iCook. Alternatively, if one parent is available to attend all the classes, these organizations will provide a 100% scholarship for the student! Sign up through each vendor. Financial assistance is also available to families who qualify through the PTA's scholarship fund. Please contact treasurer@daytonoakspta.org for the scholarship fund. For questions on the After School Programs, email afterschoolprograms@daytonoakspta.org**

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.

Folly Quarter Rising 6th Grade Family Information Evening

Folly Quarter's Family Information Evening is January 23, 2024, 6:00-7:00 pm. Families can learn about middle school, the academic schedule, and the Gifted and Talented program. We cannot wait to meet our future Falcon families!

Road to Kindergarten Workshop, January 2024

Save the date for an upcoming Road to Kindergarten [parent information session](#), providing information on expectations for school readiness, the HCPSS kindergarten program, and more. The first session will take place on Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Centennial High School.

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.