

# WAVE NEWSLETTER

## November 14, 2024

### Important Dates:

#### November

- 15 ~ PTA-Sponsored Dance Party, 6-8pm
- 18 - 22 ~ American Education Week
- 19 ~ Grade 4 Field Trip to Museum of Natural History
- 20 ~ Kindergarten Field Trip to the Library
- 21 ~ Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling Closes at 4pm
- 21 ~ Kindergarten Family Gathering, 10:45 - 11:35am
- 21 ~ Family Academic Night, 6:30 - 8:00pm
- 25 - 27 ~ Schools Dismiss Three Hours Early - Parent Teacher Conferences
- 27 ~ Schools Closed for Students
- 28 & 29 ~ Schools and Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

#### December

- 2 - 6 ~ Book Fair
- 9 ~ Grade 2 Field Trip to Chesapeake Art Center
- 19 ~ Winter Orchestra Concert

### On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

November 18-22, 2024, marks American Education Week—a special time to highlight the importance of providing every child with a quality public education and to celebrate the strong partnership between home and school. This year’s theme, *“Together for Safe, Just & Equitable Schools,”* emphasizes the essential role that educators, parents, students, and communities play in building exceptional public schools.

To commemorate American Education Week, we’ve planned several school-wide activities:

- **Monday, November 18, 2024: American Education Week Kickoff Day**
- **Tuesday, November 19, 2024: Family Day**  
Families are warmly invited to join their student(s) for lunch during the scheduled times:
  - RECC: 11:45-12:15
  - Kindergarten: 11:05-11:35
  - Grade 1: 12:05-12:35
  - Grade 2: 11:35-12:05
  - Grade 3: 12:35-1:05
  - Grade 4: 1:35-2:05
  - Grade 5: 1:05-1:35
- **Wednesday, November 20, 2024: Educational Support Professionals (ESP) Day**  
Let’s show our appreciation for our Educational Support Professionals! Students are invited to bring in posters or cards to thank our ESPs for their dedication and commitment.
- **Thursday, November 21, 2024: Educator for the Day**  
A day to highlight the role of educators and the impact they have on students every day.
- **Friday, November 22, 2024: Substitute Educators Day**  
Join us in recognizing and celebrating our wonderful substitute educators.

In addition to the schoolwide activities, we're excited to welcome families to visit during the instructional day, offering a firsthand look at a typical day at Dayton Oaks Elementary. Each grade level team has identified specific days and times for families to join in classroom activities and experience the learning journey with their child.

Grade	Date of Activity	Time	Location	Description of Activity	Content Area Focus
RECC-PK3 <i>Richardson and Faupel</i>	Thursday 11/21	9:15 - 10:15	Classroom	Center Time and Circle/Read Aloud	Social Foundations & Language/Literacy
RECC-PK4 <i>Richardson and Faupel</i>	Thursday 11/21	1:15-2:15	Classroom	Center Time and Circle/Read Aloud	Social Foundations and Language and Literacy
RECC-MINC PK <i>Borgfeld</i>	Monday 11/18	9:15-10:15	Classroom	Table Time, Circle Time/Read Aloud, and Centers	Social Foundations and Language and Literacy
RECC-MINC EL <i>Battle and Guameri</i>	Monday 11/18	9:30-10:30	Classroom	Circle, Snack, Connect, half small groups	SEL
Kindergarten	Thursday 11/21	10:45-11:35	Cafetorium	Community building activity followed by lunch	SEL
Grade 1	Tuesday 11/19	10:40-11:30	Classrooms	Reading Group Rotations	Reading
Grade 2	Wednesday 11/20	10:45-11:30	Classrooms	Parents are invited to come to watch their students perform a readers theater play	Reading
Grade 3	Monday 11/18	10:45-11:30	Classrooms	Writing Activity	Writing
Grade 4	Tuesday 11/19	All Day	Field Trip	Please feel free to join us at the Museum of Natural History for our field trip (as a selected chaperone or meet us there). Since this is the day assigned for lunch visitation, please feel free to come in on Thursday to have lunch with your student instead.	Science
Grade 5	Thursday 11/21	10:35-11:55	Math classes	Math Activity	Math

If you're unable to attend the planned activity for your child's grade, you're welcome to visit any day during American Education Week! Just email your child's teacher to let them know when you'll be coming.

To help keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, please follow these guidelines:

- **Visitors:** Only adult family members are permitted to visit during the school day.
- **Sign-in & ID:** For safety and security, please sign in at the front office and be prepared to show identification.
- **Cell Phones:** Silence cell phones. If you need to make a call, please step out to the

front lobby.

- **Food & Drinks:** No food or drinks are allowed in the classrooms.
- **Photos:** Per HCPSS policy, visitors may not photograph students during the school day. You may only take photos of your own child(ren).
- **Young Children:** Please note that younger children are not allowed in classrooms during visits.
- **Respectful Observing:** Unless invited by the teacher, please refrain from conversing with the teacher or students during the visit. Limit conversations with other parents as well.
- **Teacher's Instructions:** Some teachers may invite you to assist students, while others may ask you to observe. Please follow the teacher's instructions.

Prior to your visit, please review the [HCPSS Volunteer Information](#) page, which includes the completion of the Visitor Confidentiality and Child Abuse and Neglect certificates. Please note that the requirement to "provide 24 hours advance notice" does not apply during American Education Week. If you have already completed these forms for the current school year, there's no need to submit them again.

Thank you for joining us! We hope you enjoy your visit and discover something new!

Educationally yours,

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

## **Counselor's Corner**

Dear Families,

Throughout Quarter 2, the School Counselors are facilitating classroom lessons around the topics of effort, persistence, and developing what we call a "Growth Mindset."

*What is a Growth Mindset?* Imagine your brain as a muscle. Just like your muscles get stronger when you exercise, your brain gets smarter when you learn new things and face challenges. A Growth Mindset means believing that your intelligence and abilities can grow over time with effort and practice.

*Why is this important?*

- **Encourages Effort:** Students learn that working hard on something is important to success
- **Embraces Challenges:** Students learn to see challenges as opportunities to grow
- **Persevere:** We are all faced with challenges in life, but we can learn to use strategies to help us through instead of giving up
- **Learns from Mistakes:** Students view mistakes as valuable learning experiences

This same language can be used to support your child at home. Try praising effort over intelligence, encouraging a positive attitude towards challenges, and modeling a growth mindset yourself by embracing challenges and talking about the mistakes you've learned from.

By focusing on these skills through classroom lessons, we hope to empower children to become lifelong learners! Please reach out to one of the school counselors, Mrs. Dix or Mrs. Hannan, if you have any questions!

We are thankful for your continued support,

Mrs. Dix and Mrs. Hannan

### **Play and Learn Series for HCPSS PK3 Students**

In partnership with Early Childhood Programs and Early Intervention Services, the Howard County Family Support Center (FSC) will offer a **FREE** three-week Play & Learn series for HCPSS PK3 (Preschool, MINC-PS) students and their families.

Intended to complement the 4-day PK3 program, the series is held on Wednesdays. Families can select a morning or afternoon session; *registration is required*.

- Children will participate in play groups and skill-building activities;
- Parents will attend hands-on educational workshops;
- Sessions will end with activities for parents to engage in with their child.

Family Support Center Play and Learn Series.pdf -

<https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/748/files/69916466/download>

### **Diwali Celebration**

Diwali Celebration (FREE) on November 16, 2024 from 4pm -10pm, Marriottsville High School

<https://allevents.in/marriottsville/cats-dussehra-and-diwali-celebration/200027333005244>

## **NEWS WORTH REPEATING**

### **DOES Fall 2024 Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher Conferences provide teachers and parents with a wonderful opportunity to discuss progress made through the first quarter and identify areas for growth. Conferences will be scheduled in 15-minute increments, focusing on ELA and scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher. GT Math Teachers will conference with Grade 4 families for fall conferences. Below, please find the dates that teachers will be hosting in-person and virtual parent-teacher conferences:

- Monday, November 25, conferences will be hosted **in-person**
- Tuesday, November 26, conferences will be hosted **virtually**
- Wednesday November 27, conferences will be hosted **virtually** (based on teacher schedules)

Beginning Friday, November 8, at 8:00 a.m., and continuing through Thursday, November 21, at 4:00 p.m., you can log on to HCPSS Connect at [www.hcpss.org/connect](http://www.hcpss.org/connect) to access the Synergy Conference Management System. You can then select your desired 15-minute conference time based on the teacher's availability. [Click here for directions](#) to schedule your conference. Parents needing assistance with scheduling a conference should contact the DOES front office staff at 410-313-1571.

#### **Tips for Scheduling Conferences:**

- Parent Teacher Conferences will be scheduled in 15-minute increments.
- Conferences will focus on ELA and will be scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher.
- You will use your [HCPSS Connect/Family File](#) account to schedule Parent Teacher Conferences.

- It is suggested that you include a 15-minute buffer between conferences to allow for travel time within the building for in-person conferences. Teachers will not be able to accommodate additional time beyond the scheduled 15 minutes.

More information will be forthcoming including virtual conference Google Meet Codes for virtual conference days. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the DOES front office at 410-313-1571.

### **DOES Family Academic Night**

Ready, set, GLOW! Mark your calendars for the DOES Family Academic Night on November 21st from 6:30-8 pm. Learn how to help your student shine bright like a glow stick by engaging in interactive stations and make-and-take activities to support ELA and Math learning at home. Families are invited to participate in activities with students, siblings are welcomed. Don't forget to bring an old book to exchange it at the Book Swap! Our staff is looking forward to sharing resources that will help students Glow and Grow!



# WINTER Coat Giveaway

We will have new and gently used coats for children and adults.



Date: November 25 & 26  
Time: From 6-8 PM

Pick Up Location:  
Harriet Tubman Cultural Center  
8045 Harriet Tubman Ln,  
Columbia, MD 21044



## **Attention Parents of Rising Kindergarteners: Don't Wait for Summer to Address Developmental Concerns!**

If you have concerns about your child's development - whether it's their speech, motor skills, social skills or learning - it's important to act now. Waiting until the summer for a referral can delay crucial support that your child may need before starting kindergarten. Contact us today to schedule a screening. Let's work together to ensure your child has the best possible start in kindergarten! Call 410-313-7046 or email [ChildFind@hcpss.org](mailto:ChildFind@hcpss.org).

## **Maryland Accreditation of Pre-K Programs at DOES**

Our Pre-K program at Dayton Oaks Elementary School will participate in Maryland Accreditation during the 2024- 2025 school year.

Maryland Accreditation is...

- A way for programs to demonstrate their commitment to providing high-quality learning environments.
- A process for demonstrating and verifying program effectiveness and continuous improvement using the [Maryland Accreditation Standards](#).
- A process in which programs commit to and demonstrate continuous quality improvement to benefit children, families, and staff.

As part of this process, we are building a self-appraisal team that consists of teachers, administrators, and community members to help us take a deeper look at the quality of our program through a self-appraisal process. We will be sharing updates throughout the process with our school community.

## **Reminders About Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

To ensure a smooth and safe arrival and dismissal for our students, please read the information below.

**SCHOOL HOURS:** 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

### **ARRIVAL TIMES:**

9:00 a.m. First bell rings/students may enter the building.

9:15 a.m. Second/late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

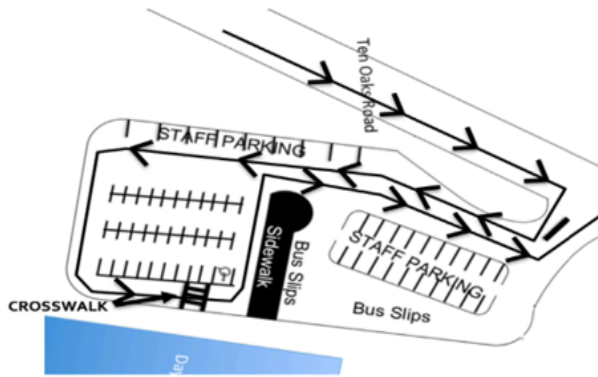
**Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time.** Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

All children who are late must be accompanied by a parent and be signed into school in the front office.

**DISMISSAL TIMES:** Dismissal begins at 3:45 pm.

If you have to make a change to your student's dismissal, please send a note and/or email to their teacher, and notify the front office. If you have to make a change during the day, after your student has arrived at school, please email your child's teacher AND email the front office staff at: [doesfrontoffice@hcpss.org](mailto:doesfrontoffice@hcpss.org). **No students will be released from the front office for early dismissal after 3:30pm.** This will help to ensure the safety of our students and cut down on confusion at the end of the day as afternoon dismissal begins.

**Arrival and Dismissal Procedures and Expectations:** Please see the visual below for the flow of our car loop. Below the visual are the expectations and instructions for making arrival and dismissal of your student(s) as efficient and safe as possible.



### Reminders for arrival and dismissal:

Use the car loop to drop off students. When you enter the parking lot, you must make the full loop around.

- There is NO PASSING in the carpool loop, unless directed by a DOES staff member.
- Never leave a car unattended in the carpool loop/line.
- Pull up as far as possible (to the peninsula sidewalk) before letting your child exit the vehicle. Please make sure there are no spaces between cars.
- Children will be let out of the passenger side of the vehicle only. Staff will assist children with getting in and out of the car. Parents should NOT get out of the car.
- Do not turn left to enter the bus loop area between 8:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. or between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.
- It is extremely unsafe to walk behind or between buses in the bus loop. Take the extra minute in line to ensure everyone's safety.
- Parents should avoid parking and walking in unless they have an appointment within the building. The car loop area is safer with less pedestrian traffic and fewer cars moving within the parking lot.
- If you need to park, you must park in the larger lot by the carpool loop. This is the only area with a crosswalk to ensure safety when walking toward the building.
- The parking spots parallel to Ten Oaks Road are designated as Staff Parking during arrival and dismissal. Entering or exiting your vehicle is unsafe from these parking spaces while traffic from the car loop is flowing.
- All traffic must flow in one direction.
- If you are leaving a parking spot during arrival or dismissal, follow the directions of school staff. You may need to wait for cars to continue through the car loop before you are directed to pull out of the lot. The priority is to keep the car loop flowing.
- Please be courteous and respectful to both staff and other families.

### **2025 MLK Jr. Holiday Commission Contests**

This year, there will be several exciting opportunities for students to engage with Dr. King's vision of equality, justice, and community service. Additionally, all the awards come with cash prizes.

#### **The contests include:**

**Oratory Contest:** Open to Middle and High School students, this contest challenges participants to express their understanding of Dr. King's message through the art of speech.



**Essay Contest:** Also, for Middle and High School students, this competition invites students to articulate their thoughts and reflections on Dr. King's impact and teachings in essay form.

**Poster Contest:** Open to Elementary, Middle, and High School students, participants can visually express their interpretation of Dr. King's dream through creative poster designs. Additionally, we are hosting a Living the Dream Award Contest for individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to making Howard County a better place, embodying the principles that Dr. King championed. We believe that these contests not only honor Dr. King's legacy but also inspire our students to think critically about their roles in serving the community.

For more information, including deadlines and submission guidelines, please visit <https://bit.ly/2025MLKContests> Thank you for your support in promoting these meaningful contests.

Together, we can inspire our students and community to reflect on Dr. King's dream and vision for a better tomorrow.

### **The Young Authors' Contest**

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 1-5 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called **The Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the attached [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to [jennifer\\_hipp@hcpss.org](mailto:jennifer_hipp@hcpss.org) by December 20, 2024. Contact Mrs. Jennifer Hipp with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#).

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

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

The Media Center is looking for volunteers to help with shelving and other small projects. Please consider signing up to volunteer by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4AAEAE29A0FE3-51264532-media>

### **Health Room Reminders**

Any medications required during school hours including prescription, "over-the-counter" (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure.

#### [Medication form](#)

- Have a student with allergies? Learn more about [ordering an epipen and our allergic reaction protocols](#).

School health room staff administer medications, store medications in the school's health room and keep records of when medications are taken by the student.

#### **Approved Non-Medications:**

The items below are not considered medications. Students may bring the items to school without a medical prescription. Health Services requests that a parent/guardian note accompany the item to serve as permission to bring to school.

- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Hand lotion
- Non-medicated cough drops
- Saline contact solution

Sunscreen must be supplied by an individual student and is not to be shared with other students due to potential allergens and skin reactions.

Please contact the health room at 410 313-1575 if you have any questions.

### **Immunization Clinics:**

The Howard County Health Department is hosting clinics for students that are in need of immunizations for the start of the school year.

[Childhood Immunization | Howard County \(howardcountymd.gov\)](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/childhood-immunization)

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

[HCPSS Policy 8080 Links to an external site.](#) - 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **2024-2025 School Meals Information**

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

Pricing for school meals for 2024-25:

- 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.

### **Community News**

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