

# WAVE NEWSLETTER

November 23, 2023

## **Important Dates:**

Nov. 23 - 24 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday, Schools Closed

Dec. 4 - 8 ~ Book Fair

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:

During this season of thanks, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to our families and community members that partner with us in educating our children. We appreciate all that you do as we seek to ensure the well-being and academic success of our students. Thank you for trusting us with your children and supporting us in the hard work we engage in daily.

On behalf of the entire staff of Dayton Oaks, we wish you a restful, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

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

## **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - Grade 3**

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all Grade 3 students. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential. CogAT is a computer-based assessment.

The test is made up of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators better understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

The 23-24 CogAT will be administered to 3rd grade on the following dates:

- December 6, 7 and 8, 2023

We plan to administer CogAT to all Grade 3 students. Make-ups will be administered the week of December 11th-14th.

No special preparation is required for testing. Please plan to send your child to school ready to learn as you do each day.

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes. Students' individual scores will be reported to parents later this school year.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your child's involvement with the CogAT assessment.

Sincerely,  
Shari Lorch, Assistant Principal

### **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. Please drop off gift cards to the front office or utilize the black drop box in the front lobby of our school between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

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.

### **Spelling/Bumble Bees!**

Dayton Oaks' 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>. One winner and one alternate from DOES will move on to the HCLS Spelling Bee held in March at Hammond High School.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-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!

### **Let's Celebrate Our School of Fish Mural!**

Please join us on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for a small celebration to commemorate our School of Fish mural. The mural was finished in June of last year and now hangs in the media center. All K-5 students made a special ocean themed tile. We will have sweet treats and a brief talk about the process of making the mural at the start of the PTA meeting. Come see and celebrate this beautiful mural with us!

### **LGBTQIA+ at Plot Twist Horse Farm**

The HCPSS LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group is working to bring parents of LGBTQIA+ students together to allow for connections, information, and support. On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00pm, the advisory group will be holding their first LGBTQIA+ at Plot Twist Horse

Farm in Glenwood. Parents are welcome as well as middle and high school students who want to connect with peers. Registration is required to attend. Please see the flyer linked here for more information:

[Viewable/Downloadable Flyer](#)  
[Registration Form](#)

## **NEWS WORTH REPEATING**

### **Outdoor Dining**

As we look forward to the arrival of the winter season, bringing the possibility of snow and colder weather, we are also aware that this limits the availability of some of our other outdoor opportunities. Beginning December 11, 2023, outdoor dining will be closed. We expect to be able to resume outdoor dining in March 2024 with dates to be determined by HCPSS central offices.

### **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](mailto:kreel@howardcountymd.gov)

### **Employment and Volunteer Opportunities at Dayton Oaks**

Dear Dayton Oaks Community and Families,

Are you looking for a job where you can give back, pay it forward, or are you just interested in working with the most fantastic group of children? Great news! Dayton Oaks is currently seeking the positions below:

These include:

- Substitutes (Teacher, Paraeducator & Student Assistant)
- Lunch & Recess Monitor (New!)
- Temporary Employee (4 days a week, afternoons only in our RECC program)

If you are interested in becoming a Substitute at DOES, please apply below. Information on HCPSS pay rates is also included here:

[Substitute Employment \(Teachers, Paraeducators, Student Assistants, Lunch and Recess Monitors\)](#)

If you are interested in becoming a lunch and recess monitor or a temporary employee please reach out to our Assistant Principal, Ms. Shari Lorch at [shari\\_lorch@hcpss.org](mailto:shari_lorch@hcpss.org). She would be happy to speak with you further regarding this wonderful opportunity to support our students. Our Media Center is also requesting volunteer support for book shelving. They particularly need help on Blue Days. If you are able to help, please email [valarie\\_graham@hcpss.org](mailto:valarie_graham@hcpss.org). We hope to see you gracing our hallways soon!

### **Young Author's 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 11, 2023**. Contact Jennifer Hipp with any questions at [jennifer\\_hipp@hcpss.org](mailto:jennifer_hipp@hcpss.org). 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 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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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