

Falcon's Eye View



October 5, 2018

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"TOGETHER we EMPOWER our today and tomorrow."

School Website: www.fes.hcpss.org

PTA Website: www.fes.org

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From School Administration

Dear Fulton Families,

It has been a fantastic new beginning at FES! It was wonderful to see so many of our families at the back to school nights last week. Our staff enjoyed having you learn more about our instructional programs. You can find the Administration's presentation on our website.

We are also thrilled that so many new parents joined us for the September PTA meeting! It's great to see new families who are excited to get involved at FES. If you have not yet joined us for a PTA meeting, we encourage you to do so.

Congratulations to Our Music Students!

We are delighted to share that four of our students have been selected to participate in the county-wide GT orchestra this year. This includes two of the four first chair positions. The students were selected from among ALL HCPSS orchestra students. Quite the accomplishment! Congratulations to Josiah Luo, Tevin Son, Elijah Ko and Alexis Phansaithong.

Important Dates

October 9	Interim Reports Issued
October 19	Professional Work Day Schools Closed for Students
October 25	PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Media Ctr.
October 31	Halloween Activities
November 5	End of Marking Period
November 6	General Election Day – Schools Closed
November 7	Professional Work Day Schools Closed for Students
November 12-16	American Education Week
November 19	Early Dismissal at 12:55 p.m. Parent Teacher Conferences
November 20	Early Dismissal at 12:55 p.m. Parent Teacher Conferences
November 21-24	Thanksgiving Holiday

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th. FES kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with Latin Zumba dancing on Tuesday's Morning Announcements! We're excited to continue celebrating with more fun activities the rest of the month.

Celebrating Our Partnerships

This past week, the Howard County Public School System celebrated the many outstanding educational partnerships that the school system has with area businesses at the Annual Business Partnership Celebration. Business partnerships benefit our school in many ways, such as providing staff recognition, fundraising opportunities, and programs for our students. As our school benefits from these partnerships, the organizations also benefit from their collaboration with our school. Please support the organizations that partner with our school. We would like to thank Pump It Up, Elkridge, Howard County Library, Central Branch, Okinawan Karate Dojo, Maple Lawn Business Association for their commitment to our school.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

FLU CLINIC will be next Thursday, 10/11/18 and we are in need for about 2 volunteers. It will probably start around 10am and continue until everyone signed up receives their vaccine. If you can help, please either call the Health Room at 410-880-5966 or email at laura_ruiz@hcpss.org. Health Room staff have not become aware of injuries your child sustained outside of school until later. Please send notes and doctor notes to the health room, call the health room at 410-880-5966, or email at laura_ruiz@hcpss.org. The purpose is to make your child's teachers aware of the injury in case any accommodations are required, such as a legal excuse for not participating in phys. ed. or for standardized testing. REMEMBER to make sure your child or children have a change of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear, socks) in a zipped lock bag. There are many reasons why your child may need to change clothes because drinks, soups spill, mud and puddles happen. THANK YOU.



Halloween and Non-Halloween Activities

This year we will be holding our Halloween and Non-Halloween Activities in a different way due to our large student body. We welcome parents to join us on October 31, 2018 for the Primary Parade at 10:00am and our Intermediate Parade at 2:15pm. Please sign in, grab a badge at the tables that will be set up outside and gather along the identified parade route for the parade.

If there is rain on this day or if the school grounds are too wet and muddy the parade will be canceled and will not be rescheduled.

Currently, we have 925 students enrolled at Fulton Elementary. In order to maintain a safe environment during the activities, and due to the fire code and building capacity, we will be unable to accommodate visitors with in the classrooms before or after the parade. Each team will have a Halloween snack after lunch sometime in the afternoon.

Students should be able to slip their costumes over clothing. Students will not be able to change clothes for the parade. All costumes must follow the dress code of HCPSS. When selecting a costume for your child, please be reminded that the systemic policy does not permit violent or gory outfits or masks. Students may NOT bring toys that resemble weapons such as guns, knives, or swords. Make-up and hair dye cannot be applied at school. Please be sure that your child can see clearly if wearing a mask as part of a costume. Additionally, if you join us for the parade and decide to wear a costume, please follow the same guidelines provided for students. Dogs may not be on school property during the school day. Due to cultural, religious or personal beliefs, not all students participate in Halloween activities. As a result, we will offer an alternate non-Halloween activity.

We will send more information regarding Halloween and the Non-Halloween Activity soon.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and support. We are looking forward to a fun day.

Attendance is key to Success!

Over the past three years, Fulton Elementary has maintained a 96% attendance rate. While this is good overall, a 5% schoolwide absence rate at FES represents over 5,000 days missed by our students collectively.

The state of Maryland considers chronic absenteeism at 10% or 18 days of school. To stay on track in school, students need to be present every day. Missing 18 or more days of school in a year puts a child's high school graduation at risk according to AbsencesAddUp.org, a national chronic absenteeism prevention campaign. Being absent for just two days every month of the school year can put a child behind academically. Students with regular attendance are more likely to read well by third grade and score higher on tests. They also tend to be more engaged in school and feel better about themselves.

Put your child on the path to success with these attendance strategies.

Make school a priority. Every absence (excused or not), can impact a child's academic achievement. Talk to your child about how important their education is. Make daily routines for homework and waking up on time for school.

Maintain communication with teachers and keep an eye on your child's academic progress.

If your child seems disconnected from school, try signing him or her up for an after-school activity. A report by the University of Minnesota found that students in an after-school program attended 18 more days of school and missed nine fewer days than their peers.

Make a plan. If your schedule or transportation situation makes getting your child to school a challenge, ask for assistance. Make a carpool or transportation plan with other parents or family members.

Report In. Know your school's attendance policies. If an absence or early dismissal is unavoidable, contact your school.

The Maryland State Department of Education has defined full and partial day attendance as follows:

A student is counted present for a full day if the student is in attendance for four hours or more of the school day.

A student is counted present for half day if the student is in attendance for at least two hours of the school day, but less than four hours.

A student scheduled for less than a full day is to be counted present based on the amount of time he/she is scheduled.

A note from the parent must be submitted to the school within two school days of the student's return, indicating the date and reason for tardiness or absence from a regular school session. A doctor's certificate is required in cases of long-term absence due to illness. A note should also be submitted to request early dismissal or exclusion from activities (e.g. physical education). Chronic absences are referred to our Student Services Team at FES.

Carefully weigh sick days. If your child is sick, they should stay home. Students should be fever free for 24 hours. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (for example, after 24 hours of antibiotics).

Schedule wisely. Know your school's calendar, and arrange doctor and dentist appointments after school, on weekends, or during holiday breaks, if possible. Resist the urge to schedule vacations when students will miss school. This gives students the impression that school is not a priority. We hope this helps you and your family plan to make every school day count.

Breakfast Is Available

The HCPSS Food and Nutrition Office supplies breakfast to any student who wishes to purchase breakfast. The cost is \$2.00. Breakfast is available in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. Students eat the breakfast in their classrooms. You can view the menu at www.hcpss.org



An Enchanted Forest is coming to Fulton!! Our annual BOOK FAIR is scheduled to begin on October 26th and run through Nov. 2nd. We will be open from 10:00 to 4:00 every day but Wednesday when we close at 2:00. We will have extended hours on Thurs. Nov. 1st from 5:30-8:30 pm. We are in need of volunteers to help make this a successful event. Please visit

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daeab2da1f85-book> to sign up to volunteer. For more information about the Book Fair and online shopping visit <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/fulton>

Thanks for your support!!
The Media Staff
Book Fair is Coming!

Other News from the Media Center!

All 5th grade classes have learned about the Battle of the Books!

This exciting partnership with the Howard County Public Library and Howard County Public Schools promotes reading, teamwork, vocabulary and good sportsmanship.

Teams of five students and one adult coach each read the same 13 pre-determined books. Selected by HCLS instructors and HCPSS media specialists, titles include a wide range of reading levels and subjects. Thanks to generous sponsors, all teams receive a set of books. In addition, copies of each year's titles are available for borrowing at Howard County Library System.

There are informational meetings offered on **October 18, 2018 and October 22,, 2016 at 7pm at HCLS Miller Branch.** The Media staff can also answer any questions you might have. If you are interested in coaching a team please contact Mrs. Cerand (lcerand@hcpss.org) or Mrs. Fischer (margaret_fischer@hcpss.org) so they can support your enrollment in this great program.

More information can be found by visiting.
<http://hclibrary.org/a-students-teachers/battle-of-the-books/>

Don't Delay, Join Your PTA!

The 2018-19 membership rates are \$20 for a family!

Consider all the programs your PTA brings to the school -- Cultural Arts assemblies, after school classes, field trip support, the Falcon Follies, International Night, Fall Festival, etc., etc., etc., and support your PTA!

Family File – Emergency Contact Information

Thank you to all the families who have completed their Family File. All families must update this in [HCPSS Connect](#) each school year. Please check the accuracy for ALL sections of the Family File including address, phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, and emergency dismissal procedures and HIT SUBMIT after each section. This is the most important part of the back to school process!

2nd Grade News

It was wonderful to see all of our parents at Back to School Night! Our students continue to build their stamina across the Daily 5 block each day. We just kicked off our first Science unit called Properties of Matter and the kids are beginning to write their own personal narratives. We are aspiring scientists and writers! Enjoy the weekend!

3rd Grade Monarch Conservation Effort

Third grade would like to celebrate successfully completing a Monarch/Animal Life Cycle study in science! Our citizen scientists observed, studied, and carefully raised 3 Monarch butterflies (from 6 starting larvae) to their adult stage! We released them onto the school property, where we hope they come back to visit us!

Artist In Residence

The Art Department would like to welcome Resident Artist, Nancy Charmella! Mrs. Charmella will be working with our 4th and 5th grade students on a collaborative weaving. Students will also make an individual woven pouch during the residency.

All students were able to meet Mrs. Charmella in a school-wide assembly. She shared the history of weaving, examples of her work, as well as beautiful textiles from around the world. Our students were engaged and asked intriguing questions.

We would like to thank our wonderful PTA and parent volunteers for making this program possible. A special thank you to Mrs. Amin for her work in writing the grant. Our grant was awarded from the Howard County Arts Council through a grant from Howard County Government.

Mrs. Stroter, Mrs. Wasilewski & Mrs. McClelland

From the *BULLY BUSTERS*!

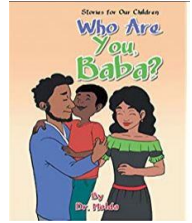
Over the past few weeks, the Bully Busters have had Lunch Bunches with students new to Fulton this year in grades 1 through 5! We love getting to know our students and ensuring that they feel welcomed and supported at school.

Phone and E-mail Contact - if you have a question that does not require an urgent response, you may call the school to leave a message for your child's teacher, send a note to the teacher, or e-mail the teacher (all e-mail addresses are posted on our school website) - staff will respond within 48 hours of receipt of your message. If you have an urgent matter, such as change in dismissal procedure or a family crisis situation, please call the school directly rather than sending an e-mail as this will assure that the information is passed to appropriate staff in a timely manner.

Who Are You, Baba?

We are excited to celebrate Dr. Amy Holda Gueye, who recently published a new book *Who Are You, Baba?* Dr. Holda Gueye also has a student attending Fulton Elementary. *Who Are You, Baba?* is a beautiful story of an African orphan boy whose African history is retold to him by his multicultural adoptive family, symbolizing the world. When he asks, "Who am I?" the answers that follow page after page will awaken the wonders in any young reader.

We thank Dr. Holda Gueye for donating this book to our school. *Who Are You, Baba?* is the first book in the *Children Series* by Dr. Holda Gueye.



Wellness Wednesdays are back – with a twist!

This year EVERY Wednesday is a "Wellness Wednesday" in which we encourage students and staff to wear fitness clothes to school, eat healthy foods and move more throughout the day!

*In addition to our weekly Wellness Wednesdays, we will also have a **special** Wellness Wednesday once a month, where we will have a Wellness focus!!*

*Our first Wellness Wednesday will be
October 10th
Our special focus will be
WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!!*

Walk to School Day Details

Fulton's Wellness Team is organizing a group walk! Students are encouraged to walk to school on this special day! We hope you and your student(s) can participate!

Where: Meet in Harris Teeter Parking Lot (see map for details)

Date: Wednesday, October 10th

When: 9:00am

What: We will walk to school using the path that leads from Harris Teeter to Reservoir High School and then across the street to Fulton!

Who: Fulton students with an adult*

Why: To start our day in an active and healthy way!

FYI: Students that walk to school will earn a special token of recognition!

**If you would like your child to partake in our group walk, to ensure the safety of all our students, please have an adult accompany them.*



Wellness Wednesday Resources

Suggested Fitness Clothes:

Sneakers or tennis shoes

Running or exercise outfits

Athletic clothing

Sports jerseys or t-shirts!

Here are some resources to add movement on Wellness Wednesdays:

9. **GoNoodle** = <https://www.gonoodle.com/>
10. **Stories in Motion** = <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition/learning-tools-nutrition/stories-motion-physical>
11. **Task Cards** = https://www.healthiergeneration.org/_asset/336fvp/14-6346_PATaskCards.pdf
12. **Increase Physical Activity** = https://www.healthiergeneration.org/live_healthier/get_moving/increase_physical_activity/
13. **Zumba Fitness Videos** = https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take_action/schools/physical_activity/classroom_physical_activity/fitness_part_y_with_zumba/



Come meet your 2018 Board of Education Candidates! A roundtable discussion is scheduled for this coming **Thursday, October 11** beginning at **6:30** in the **River Hill High School cafeteria**. The format will provide for small group interaction with each candidate so that you will have the chance to ask each one of them questions about their positions on the issues most important to you. Don't miss this opportunity to be up close and personal with those who will represent our interests on the Board of Education!

Candidates in attendance include:

Vicky Cutroneo
Danny Mackey
Chao Wu
Robert Miller
Bob Glascock
Sabina Taj
Jen Mallo
Anita Pandey



Fulton Fall Festival

Friday, October 12th, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

The 2018 Fulton Fall Festival is sponsored by the PTA and is a wonderful event for the entire family. The evening features a Huge Inflatable Slide and Obstacle Course. Plus Exciting Stations including Carnival Games, Cake Walk, Face Painting, Sandy Candy, Great Food provided by The Truck of Deliciousness, Kona Ice and More!

Now is your chance to save money and purchase wrist bands/tickets in advance and AVOID standing in line the day of the festival! Simply fill out the form below and have your child bring it in with the payment (cash or check payable to Fulton PTA) in a sealed envelope marked Fall Festival. You will receive the wrist bands/tickets via your child's backpack within a few days. The last day to send in pre-event ticket orders is Wednesday, October 10th.

This event will be held rain or shine. If the weather is good it will be in the Fulton Elementary bus lot. If we get rain the night of the event, it will be held inside the school.

New Advance Festival Pricing:

(Best Deal) \$14 wrist band (\$15 Day of Event) This Wrist Band includes **UNLIMITED** use of the inflatables/Games and **ONE VISIT** to **ALL** Fall Fest Stations including Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, Sandy Candy and Cake Walk. For more visits to the Fall Fest Stations, additional tickets can be purchased.

Tickets -5/\$1.00 (4/\$1.00 Day of Event) All Inflatables, Games and Fall Fest Stations will require tickets. Select the stations that your child will want to visit. Tickets do not include any food items.

- ❖ **Plan to Have Dinner at the Festival!** The Truck of Deliciousness will have a selection of delicious food at reasonable prices! Please stay with your children at all times. No rollerblades, skateboards, scooters, Heelys or bikes are permitted.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are a big part of the success of Fulton's Fall Festival. PLEASE consider volunteering for a 45 minute block to help us! We need help with set-up, clean- up, games, pumpkin decorating, Cake Walk, Cake Walk Baked Good Donations (Store Bought Only), Sandy Candy and ticket sales, Please go to our Sign Up Genius link at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48A5AD28A5FC1-fultons> to sign up today. Thank you in advance for your help!

Ticket Pre-sale Order

Student Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Number of wrist bands \$14 each _____ Number of tickets 5/\$1.00 _____ Total Order \$ _____

_____ The cost of tickets purchased by October 10th is 5/\$1.00, those purchased at the door will be 4/\$1.00
