

Falcon's Eye View



September 7, 2018

Volume 22, Issue 2

“TOGETHER we EMPOWER our today and tomorrow.”

School Website: www.fes.hcpss.org

PTA Website: www.fes.org

Highlights In This Issue...

- School Safety
- Early Dismissal Procedures
- Water Testing
- Volunteer Requirements
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Absence Procedure

Important Dates

September 24	Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m. Grades Kdg, 1st & 2nd
September 25	Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m. Grades 3rd, 4th & 5 th , GT & Band
September 28	Picture Day (Individual)
October 1	1 st Gr. Cedar Lane Greenhouse 10:00 a.m. (Bezy/Ritter)
October 2	1 st Gr. Cedar Lane Greenhouse 10:00 a.m. (Prather/Coletta)
October 3	Professional Work Day Dismissal at 12:55 p.m.
October 4	1 st Gr. Cedar Lane Greenhouse 10:00 a.m. (Stamper)
October 5	1 st Gr. Cedar Lane Greenhouse 10:00 a.m. (Kirby/Xia)
October 9	Interim Reports Issued
October 19	Professional Work Day Schools Closed for Students
October 25	PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Media Ctr.

From School Administration

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. The current weather event with Hurricane Florence illustrates how natural disasters can significantly impact a region. Whether a disaster is natural or not, we all need to be prepared at any time for the challenges that an emergency might cause. How we prepare for and react to situations as adults will help reassure and keep our children safe.

We encourage you to visit ready.gov and take advantage of so many planning resources for families.

Additionally, please review how we prepare for a variety of emergency situations as a school community by [viewing Fulton Elementary's safety procedures and protocols.](#)

There is more information of school safety on the HCPSS website at <https://www.hcpss.org/safety/>

Registration for band and orchestra is now open! Please see www.mrtwiggmusic.weebly.com to sign your child up. Contact Mr. Twigg at richard_twigg@hcpss.org with questions. The registration deadline is September 26th.

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.

Early Release of a Student

In order to minimize disruptions to the classroom, the early release of students should be limited to emergency situations and unavoidable circumstances. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling non-related school activities that conflict or interfere with FES's regular dismissal times.

Students may not be released from the office after 3:30 p.m. Once dismissal starts, your child will depart as scheduled by either taking their assigned bus home or exiting the building as a walker or car rider.

In order for your child to be released to anyone other than the parent/guardian, that person **MUST** be listed on the emergency card in the Family File and present photo identification to the Front Office. Please be sure that you have siblings listed as picking students up in the event of an emergency in the Family File.

Parents of student bus riders must provide **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION** to have their children dismissed with the walkers or car riders.

Everyone's cooperation in this regard is important to ensure safe and smooth school operations.

Photographing, Video Taping or Audiotaping

Parents have a right to expect a certain level of protection and privacy for their children while they are in the care of HCPSS. As a protective measure, parents and others who are not school employees who intend to photograph, videotape or audiotape students in school or on school grounds during the regular instructional day using smart phones, cell phones or other devices must have prior approval from the building administrator. This does not apply to photographing, videotaping or audiotaping during extracurricular activities, such as public concerts and athletic events.

Absent Note Procedures

When your child is absent from school, please send in a written note or email to the teacher stating why your child is absent. If emailing, please cc: Susan McPherson in the front office. For the absence to be excused, we must have one or the other.

The note/email should include the child's **FULL NAME** and the reason why the child is absent. Illness and doctor appointments are excused absences. No details need to be provided. Also, you do not need to phone the school if your child is absent. An email/note is sufficient.

If your child is going to be absent for a length of time due to travel, there is a form titled Extended Absence/Discretionary Absence form that must be filled out. The form can be downloaded from the main Howard County Public School website - extended leave form or you may pick one up in the office.

Any questions, please call Susan McPherson in the front office.

[Extended Absence/Discretionary Absence form](#)

Volunteer Information

In order to volunteer in the school or chaperone field trips you must complete the training required by the Howard County Public School System. There are 2 PowerPoint presentations that you must view. After viewing you will need to print out and complete certificates for each presentation.

Once the training certificates are completed and signed, they should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher. These certificates are kept on file throughout the school year and must be completed each new school year. Teachers must have **BOTH** certificates on file to allow parents, guardians or other family members to volunteer in any capacity. Volunteers must be 18 years old or older.

Below are the links to both trainings.

Child Abuse and Neglect Training:

PowerPoint:

http://www.hcpss.org/f/employees/childabuse_ppt.pdf

Certificate:

http://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/abuse_certificate.pdf

Confidentiality Training:

PowerPoint:

<http://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/parent-volunteer-confidentiality-training.pdf>

Certificate: <http://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/parent-volunteer-confidentiality-certificate.pdf>

From the **BULLY BUSTERS!**

We are off to a great start earning Falcon Feathers and moving Freddie up on the classroom and school-wide charts! All of the students have been practicing how to be responsible, ready, and respectful.

The Bully Busters are so proud of how the students have been earning those Falcon Feathers and have been putting them into their grade level bins for a chance to win prizes on prize cart Friday! We are happy to see students being so welcoming and friendly towards their peers at the start of the school year!

Joining Us for Lunch

We warmly welcome parents to eat lunch with their children. As a reminder, during the school year, younger siblings are not permitted for lunch in the cafeteria.

Due to space constraints and overlapping lunch shifts, we ask that parents do not eat lunch with their children on early dismissal days.



The Kinder Scoop

Kindergarten students have had a great start to the school year! During the first three weeks, we have begun to learn about The 8 Habits of a Happy Kid and have been introducing and reviewing the 3 Rs. Don't know what the 3 Rs are? Ask your student!"

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

Second Grade News

Team Two is busy working on Daily 5 routines. We are in the process of building our stamina in the areas of Read to self, Work on Writing, and Read to Someone. Ask your child about his/her favorite Daily 5 activities. We just finished up our first health unit learning about emotions, stress management, and decision making. It all ties into our 8 Habits of Happy Kids so well! Looking forward to seeing you all at Back to School Night on Monday!

Testing for Lead in Drinking Water

HCPSS is will begin to test all schools for the presence of lead in school drinking water during September 2018. The testing is being conducted to comply with a new state [regulation](#) requiring lead testing of drinking water outlets in all Maryland schools and not because of any concerns with drinking water in Howard County schools. The state regulations apply to all Maryland school systems.

The testing applies only to water outlets where water is intended for consumption including drinking fountains, cafeteria sinks, etc. Signs will be displayed on any non-drinking water outlets not subject to the water sampling such as those in custodial sinks or science classrooms. The presence of a sign indicates only that a particular faucet has not been sampled; it does not indicate that a particular water supply is, or suspected of, lead contamination.

HCPSS will sample and analyze water from all drinking water outlets in every school during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Schools serviced by well water are not required by the state to be tested; however, these schools will be included in HCPSS testing.

[Details](#) about the test process, schedule, sampling, reporting procedures, other information and answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#), are provided on the HCPSS website.

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 web site) - 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.

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!

From the Media Center

We are looking for a few people to assist with shelving books in the media center. Contact Liz Cerand (liz_cerand@hcpss.org) or Maggie Fischer (margaret_fischer@hcpss.org) to volunteer. Thank you!

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!



Offering instructional programs specifically designed to engage and expose elementary and middle school girls to computer science.

Foundations of Computer Science introduces computer science concepts in an interactive, exciting environment.

Scratch programming helps the girls apply basic coding concepts by creating stories, games, and animations.

Tynker programming includes a lifetime license to Tynker.com where girls work through fun coding adventures using drag and drop programming.

WeDo Robotics offers experience with the engineering process using the physics of simple machines while building and programming robots.

For Information and to Register, visit
www.HowGirlsCode.com

School: **Fulton Elementary**

Course: **WeDo 2.0 Robotics**

Dates: **Oct 1 - Oct 29, 2018** (No Class 10/3)

Day of the Week, Time: **Mon & Wed, 4:00-5:30 PM**

Instructor: **Wendy Kanter & Katie Howell**

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: If after school activities are cancelled for HCPSS, HowGirlsCode classes will be cancelled as well. One class per session will be rescheduled in the event of and inclement weather cancellation.

HowGirlsCode is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides computer science instructional programs to girls in Howard County, Maryland.

This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.

Registration is **OPEN** for our Fall 2018 HowGirlsCode classes! Learn more at www.howgirlscode.com

The **Reservoir High School Music Foundation** will sponsor the RHS Yard sale on Saturday October 6th from 8 am to 12 noon (rain date: October 13, 8am to 12 noon). Why not rent a space to get rid of all that extra stuff? For just \$20 (early bird registration) you will receive plenty of space on our school's parking lot to sell your items. We do the advertising. We provide a super location. You clear out the clutter and make some money. It's a win-win for everyone. Use the link to complete your space rental form. <https://goo.gl/forms/UoikzYzIAJk55GPm1>

OR if you just want to clear the clutter out of your home, gather the items and donate them to the RHS Music Foundation. Bring the items to the school on 9/21, 24, 26, 10/1-10/5 from 7:00 am to 7:30 am or 10/5 from 2:10 pm to 7:00pm.

Please contact Davita Alston at senoraalston@gmail.com with any questions. See you on October 6th!

From the PE Dept:

All students in grades K – 5 are required to wear sneakers for Physical Education (PE) class. Children should not wear boots, slippers, backless shoes (including backless sneakers), shoes with heels, flip-flops or sandals to PE class because of the safety concern. **To ensure your students' participation in PE class, it may be a good idea to pack extra sneakers on PE days.** Also, please remember that your child should wear clothes appropriate for movement. Wearing skirts, dresses, baggy clothes or loose jewelry can be dangerous and uncomfortable. **Thank you for your understanding that learning in a safe environment is our top priority.**

In case of student injury or illness, parents/guardians will need to adhere to the following physical education guidelines to ensure your child's health and safety. Please send the following documentation to the Health Room:

1. **Write a note** indicating the reason your child needs to be excused from the physical activity portion of PE class for **1-3 consecutive days** (i.e. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).
2. Provide a **physician's note** for more than **3 consecutive days**.
3. Provide a **physician's note** when **returning** from a **long-term illness or injury**.

