

The Falcon Flier

Together We Empower

Today & Tomorrow

February 26, 2020

Message from Dr. Burks...

Dear Fulton Families,

We hope that everyone had a wonderful February! We began our February with our first ever unplugged night on February 7th. Students, families and staff engaged in a night without electronics- instead everyone played board games. Unfortunately, I had no voice so I was unable to attend but everyone has shared what a fun night it was. We will be sure to continue having unplugged night in the upcoming years. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this a great night!

I am so proud of our Student Government Association (SGA). They organized festive spirit days during Kindness Week, the week of February 10th, and ended the week by spreading the love to staff by showering them with candy grams. Throughout the week, staff engaged in Bingo, were treated to seated chair massages and grilled cheese lunches that admin cooked. It was fun week!

We also hosted our first tour for new families last week. It was exciting to meet new families who will be joining us next year. If you know of anyone who is moving into the area, please have them visit our website so they can RSVP for an upcoming tour. It is a great opportunity for new families to see Fulton in action and have some time with administration to answer any questions.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the PTA meeting last week. We are excited that Ms. Patricia Gunshore, Special Education Parent Liaison, will be joining us at our next PTA meeting on March 19th 7:00pm. If you have questions about Special Education services- please mark your calendar now.

Looking forward to a marvelous March. Please don't hesitate to drop by and say hi when you come to visit your child(ren) throughout the day.

Warmly,

Dr. Burks

Announcements

Unheard Perspectives

This Saturday, February 29, 2020 we have several of our 4th and 5th graders participating in Unheard Perspectives Showcase: Investigations of Underrepresented Voices. This is a performance-based voluntary opportunity sponsored by the Howard County. This Showcase will be held at Hammond High School and our first team (of 3) will begin at 9:00am. Fulton will be in room 116. During this time, students will showcase their knowledge of innovators whose voices have been underrepresented in American history. Please come out to support our students and learn more about underrepresented innovators.

HCPSS Budget Process

The BOE will now submit its budget requests to Howard County Executive Calvin Ball early March. Dr. Ball is scheduled in April to submit his proposed budget to the County Council, which will then adopt the Howard County budget in May. Either the County Executive or the County Council may not fully fund the request made by the Board of Education.

If you would like to share your opinions about the HCPSS 2020-21 budget, such as maintaining class size, ongoing support for all academic and operational areas or continuing instructional programs at current levels, please contact the County Executive and the County Council.

Please consider testifying before the County Executive to share your opinions about the HCPSS budget. Registration opens February 27; details linked below. If you can't attend the hearing, you can submit written testimony.

A reminder that the County does not fund specific programs (music, G/T, etc) so it's important that any testimony relates to County's overall funding of the Board of Education's requested budget, not support for specific programs.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Save the date to come to the County Executive public hearing on the budget. March 12 at the George Howard Building 6pm. Access online sign ups available February 27th, by clicking [here](#).

COUNTY COUNCIL: The first public hearing on the operating budget will take place on April 22. More details on registration will be available soon.

Kindergarten Registration

We are excited to begin registration for our rising kindergarten students! Online registration is now open for the 2020-2021 school year! Online registrations can be finalized in person beginning March 9, 2020.

Parents/guardians of children who will be five as of September 1, 2020 must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. We encourage families to begin registration online.

Parents may visit FES all week from March 9th-13th between the hours of 10:30 am and 2:30 PM to complete registrations. Additionally, we will be hosting extended hours on Thursday, March 12th from 4:30PM-7:30PM.

Registrations can be completed after March 13th by appointment only - please call 410-880-5957 if you need to schedule a time.

Read Across America Week - March 2nd -March 6th

Monday March 2nd- Buddy Reading- Students will have the opportunity to partner up with their buddy class to enjoy a good book.

Tuesday March 3rd- Dress as your favorite book character- Dress up as a character from a book.

Wednesday March 4th- Snuggle up and read- Wear pajamas or comfy clothes and bring your favorite book to read.

Thursday March 5th- Create a book cover- Students will create a book cover about themselves in class.

Friday March 6th- Read Across Fulton/Read me Day- Wear clothing with words on it so we can read your shirt. Students will line the hallways and read at the same time.

Yearbook Orders

You still have time!!!! Order your 2019/2020 Fulton Elementary Yearbook today! Online orders only. To order, simply go to <https://www.strawbridge.net/> and use the school code YB1120070. Choose a hard cover yearbook for \$28.00 or a soft cover yearbook for \$22.00. Don't miss out, order today.

Expert Expo

Who: Open to all Fulton Students. You can work with a partner or individually.

What: An opportunity to showcase a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) project at the Expert Expo.

When: Thursday, May 28th from 6:30-7:30 (Please plan to come at 6:00 to set up your project)

How: You'll create a project at home and bring it to Fulton on the night of the Expo for viewing. Think of a project proposal and fill out the sign-up sheet to reserve your display area at the Expo. Have fun! Be creative! This is open ended and we are excited to see anything you are excited to create!

For more information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/FESexpertexpo>

NEW Fundraising/Donation Process

We have received feedback that we are frequently requesting families to donate either monetarily or supplies. We appreciate your generosity! In attempt to organize and align our fundraising/donation efforts to HCPSS policies as well as respect your giving, we have created a Fundraising/Donation Process. If you would like to engage the FES community in a fundraising or donation activity, please contact Ms. Danise McEneaney to gain more information about our process. She can be reached at 410-880-5957 or via e-mail danise_mceneaney@hcpss.org, and would gladly help you through this process.

Congratulations to Our Young Artists

Congratulations to Faye Witt, Jake Polikov and Kaaash Dholakia on having their artwork selected to represent Fulton Elementary School at this years 1st Grade Showcase. The show runs through April 14, 2020, at the Department of Education Gallery, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Health Room News

FLU A, FLU B, STREP, and COMMON COLD

This season, the children of Fulton have experienced all of the above. They spread to others through airborne droplets. Only strep is a bacterial infection and needs an antibiotic.

What can you do to help your child not get one of these illnesses? Teach your child to wash hands with soap and water, keep hands off of face (these germs will enter the body through the eyes, nose, and mouth), and cover coughs and sneezes with elbow instead of hands.

If your child is sick and has a temperature over 100°, actively vomiting and/or diarrhea, keep home until fever free for 24 hours, able to eat and drink normally.

Inform health room staff if your child does have the flu and strep.

COUGH DROPS

The policy for cough drops is a note from parent giving permission to give and the cough drops. They will be kept in the health room, unless otherwise permission has been given by one of the health room staff.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

Reminder: if you have not already placed a change of seasonal appropriate clothes in a zip locked bag, please do so. Children have already needed to change clothes because of bloody noses, bathroom accidents, muddy/wet clothing and food spillage.

STUDENT INJURIES

If your child is injured, and has any physical restrictions, please notify the health room immediately. Doctor notes are **required** for any injury needing more than 3 school days. If a student is on crutches, walker of any kind, an evacuation emergency plan will be done by the school nurse. If you are not sure of any injury, please contact the health room.

Summer Program Opportunities

Each summer, HCPSS offers learning experiences and educational opportunities through a variety of programs and classes. For a preview of the each of the programs, please review [this document](#) and for more detailed descriptions of the variety of programs offered, please click [here](#).

Free Eyeglasses and Exams

Free eye exams and glasses will be offered at Howard High School on Saturday Feb 29 and Sunday March 1. Slots are limited. Services will be provided on a first come, first served basis, appointment preferred. In case of schools being closed due to inclement weather, the clinic make-up dates will be the weekend of March 7-8. To sign up, please call 301-693-4469.

Mark your Calendars

The 2020-2021 calendar has been approved. Please be aware, we will be starting school earlier than usual. Our first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year will be on August 25, 2020. Please keep this in mind as you schedule summer vacations.

Reservoir High School Yard Sale

May 30 - from 8 am to noon

The RHS Music Foundation's annual yard sale is coming up and promises to be a fun event! Individual and business vendors can [rent spaces for just \\$20 each](#) (the rate will increase after May 26). Please save the date, and tell your family and friends! Send a message to rhsyardsale2020@outlook.com for more information.

Summer Art Camp

Looking for a fun art making experience for your daughter and/or son? Come out and enjoy a week of **Art Camp** with Howard County art teacher Mrs. Wasilewski. These camps are designed to enhance the skill levels of each individual. Explore and learn about different mediums and techniques. Camp is open to everyone ages 8-13. Each camp offers unique art projects. Return campers will be delighted with all new experiences. Please email alisa_wasilewski@hcpss.org with any questions.

River Hill High School: July 6-10, 9am-12pm

Register at <https://riverhill.membershiptoolkit.com/summer-camps>

Reservoir High School: July 13-17, 9am-12pm

Register at <http://www.rhsboosters.com/camp/>

Curriculum Corner

English Language Arts

No matter if your child is in Kindergarten or 5th grade, it is important when they are reading independently- they are reading a book that is just right for them. Here are some helpful tips for the next time you visit the library or book store.

HOW TO PICK A JUST RIGHT BOOK...

Five finger rule

1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of or do not know.
4. If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.

Still think it may not be too difficult? Use the five finger rule on two more pages.

Choose a book that is a good fit for you!

Read two or three pages and ask yourself these questions:

Will it be an easy, fun book to read?

- Do I understand what I am reading?
- Do I know almost every word?
- When I read it aloud, can I read it smoothly?
- Do I think the topic will interest me?

If most of your answers were "yes," this will be an easy book to read by yourself.

Will this book be too hard for me?

- Are there five or more words on a page that I don't know or am unsure of?
- Is this book confusing and hard to understand by myself?
- When I read it aloud, does it sound choppy and slow?

If most of your answers were "yes," this book is too hard. You should wait awhile before you read this book. Give the book another try later, or ask an adult to read the book to you.

Rogers, K. (2008). Selecting Books for Your Child: Finding 'Just Right' Books. Retrieved November 7, 2008, from www.readingtogether.org (Links to an external site.).

Math

Last month we shared a resource that provided you insight on a variety of different strategies your child may be taught for specific concepts. Please view [this video](#), to gain more ideas on how to support you child(ren) in the area of math. John SanGiovanni, the HCPSS Coordinator of Elementary Mathematics discusses available resources.

Bully Buster Bulletin

Kindness Week and the Kindness Pantry supply drive were a huge hit! Thanks to everyone who donated and participated spreading kindness. Today, February 26th is Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is an anti-bullying initiative that began a few years back in Nova Scotia when a boy was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. Two other boys who witnessed the bullying organized the first Pink Shirt Day in support of the bullied student. Everyone they knew came to school wearing pink to show that they take a stand against bullying.

Also, we reached the top of the school wide mountain again for showing the 3Rs! We will be having our 2nd school wide celebration in March.

January/February lesson were completed by School Counselors. Kindergarteners listened to the book [Don't Squeal Unless It's a Big Deal](#). We discussed tattling vs. telling and ways to solve kid-sized

problems. First graders listened to [Heartprints](#) and then played 'Have a Heart Bingo' demonstrating using kind words and building relationships. Each second grade class created an alphabet kindness book. Each student within the class was assigned a letter of the alphabet, wrote a sentence, and drew a picture describing a random act of kindness. Third grade students listened to the story [The Empty Pot](#). Students brainstormed why it's important to be honest, even when telling the truth is hard. This is one way to show kindness and demonstrate trust. In fourth grade, we read the story [The Bad Case of Stripes](#). We discussed believing in yourself, peer pressure and ways to stand up to peer pressure. Students reviewed one of the 3R's, RESPECT. Students were placed into teams and decided if an example showed respect or not.

Upcoming

March 4, 2020	SGA Meeting, 8:45 a.m.
March 6, 2020	Interim Reports Issued
March 9-13, 2020	Kindergarten Registration, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
March 12, 2020	Kindergarten Registration, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
March 13, 2020	3rd Grade Immigration Authors' Tea, 2:30 p.m.
March 18, 2020	Coffee & Conversation Tour, 9:30 a.m.
March 25, 2020	PTA Spirit Night at Chick Fil A Bingo Night, 6:00 p.m.
March 26, 2020	4th Grade Maryland Science Center Field Trip
March 27, 2020	2nd Grade "The Little Mermaid" at Reservoir HS
March 30 & 31, 2020	4th Grade Living Wax Museum, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

[Full Calendar](#)

Connect with our PTA

Our [PTA](#) is a terrific partner to our school. Learn about the many ways they help support Fulton and strengthen our community- as well as how you can get involved.

Provide us Feedback

We always appreciate input on how we can improve. Please share your thoughts and suggestions [here](#). We love to hear from you!