

OAKLAND MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
October 23, 2014
FALCON TIMES NEWSLETTER

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Families,

I want to begin by thanking the teachers for all they are doing to provide engaging activities for the students during the day, and beyond! Teachers have been engaged in collaborative activities by content area and have had some extra opportunities this week to co-plan with their grade 6-8 content teams. In addition to that, many staff members are coming in early *every day* and staying late *every day* to provide intramurals like lacrosse, music, MESA, and art, *and* provide academic support! It's important to let our teachers know that we notice their extra efforts and applaud ALL that they are doing in support of our OMMS falcons! Thank YOU for encouraging your child to take advantage of these extended day opportunities!

-Kathy Orlando

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: IN EARLY NOVEMBER, home and school electronic communications will occur via a new system and will use the INFORMATION YOU ENTERED ON YOUR CHILD'S EMERGENCY CARD. If you have had any changes/ updates since you completed your card this fall, please send faria_nazrul@hcpss.org an email noting the changes. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- 10/24/14 Camp Letts/6th grade- extended day field trip
- 10/31/14 End of marking period
- 11/03/14 **Professional Learning Work Day/schools closed for students**
- 11/04/14 **General Election Day/schools and offices closed**
- 11/11/14 Grade 8 field trip to Terrapin Adventures - NEW***
- 11/12/14 Flu Mist Vaccinations - NEW***
- 11/12/14 Report cards issued

11/24-26/14 Parent/teacher conferences - *PickATime information will be sent home. *In order to access the program, you will need your child's Student ID number, which is on their progress report and report card. We hope each family will sign up for a conference.

11/24 & 11/25 All schools close 3hrs early

11/26/14 Parent/teacher conferences -All schools closed for students

11/27&28/14 Thanksgiving Holiday-Schools and offices closed

12/12/14 Interim Progress Reports Issued

12/24 – 01/02/15 Winter Break

01/05/15 Schools reopen

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM - FLUMIST CLINIC

FluMist consent forms went home today, please check your child's backpacks for the consent form. If you would like your child to receive the FluMist at school, please complete and sign the consent form. **Students are to return consent forms to the Health Room by November 5.**

We will need volunteers to help with this program. If you would like to help, or have any questions or concerns please contact the OMMS health room at 410-313-6941. Please ask to speak with Ms. Eldridge or Ms. Milton.

POLICY CORNER: A reminder that the full-text of policies can be found at <http://www.hcpss.org>

BULLYING, HARASSMENT OR INTIMIDATION

Howard County Public School system is committed to providing safe school environments as outlined in Policy 1040. In addition, as a result of legislation passed in 2008, the Board of Education developed Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment or Intimidation, which establishes expectations for maintaining a safe and respectful school climate where bullying, cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation are not tolerated. Policy 1060 requires compliance with the Maryland Safe Schools Reporting Act of 2005 which provides for any student, staff member, parent/guardian or close adult relative of a student to report any incident of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, on a school bus or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Reporting forms are available in all HCPSS main offices, school-counseling offices, the media center, and health services office. It can also be found on the HCPSS website. See Policy 1060 for additional information.

LOST AND FOUND

Students misplace an amazing amount of personal items. Please take a moment to write your child's name on items that he or she brings to school. ***Please be aware that we donate unclaimed items to charity on a monthly basis.***

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ARTS INFORMATION NIGHT - Parents and students in grades 5-8

Students and parents learn the means by which to keep fine arts courses on a high school schedule for four full years, and there will be student performances, presentations, and more. There will be an open time for questions and answers at the end of the presentation. Please join us for our third annual Middle School Fine Arts Information Night on November 11, 2014, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Rouse Theatre in Wilde Lake High School in Columbia.

'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER'

Every Falcon Newsletter will have fun facts about an OMMS staff member. Please read to get to know our staff member better, and then at the end of the newsletter you will find out the name of the staff member.

Staff Member #1:

Favorite foods: crabs, shrimp

College: University of Maryland, College Park

Pets: We have no pets. However, we have seen the following in our yard: deer, a fox, snakes, rabbits, a ground hog, a hawk, and an owl.

Fun fact: I attend University of Maryland men's and women's basketball games.

HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS

Recreation and Parks in partnership with HCPSS, invites you and your student to participate in the Teen Opportunities Fair. This FREE event Saturday, November 15, 11 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane; Columbia, showcases leadership, volunteer and recreational opportunities for 11-17 year olds. Visit more than 50 exhibitors and explore the great things to do in Howard County. Win great door prizes, try hands-on activities and connect with unique organizations. For more information, please contact Holly Harden at harden@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4625.

WINTER COATS

Do you need winter coats for members of your family? Come to one of the following free events in Howard County:

November 1st from 10 am - 12 pm Florence Bain Center 5470 Ruth Keeton Way Columbia, MD 21044

'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER' Answers:

Staff member #1 - Wanda Kochanek, Speech and Language Pathologist

"Community Notices" these events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS

Zombie Bash, grab a few friends and join us at the Roger Carter Community Center for music, dancing, games, prizes and more. The event will be held on October 31, 7:30-9:30 p.m. To register by phone, please call Recreation and Parks at 410-313-7275. For more information, please contact Kori Jones at kjones@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4609.

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Presents A Joyful Noise at the Hickory Ridge Building on Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m.-1p.m. Individual and family friendly opportunity to learn basic vocal techniques, connect your body, breath and voice and learn new, multicultural songs. Raise your voices together. Register at howardcc.edu/ConEd. For more information, call Rosemary Muir at 443 518-4404.

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