

## OAKLAND MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 11, 2014

### FALCON TIMES NEWSLETTER

#### From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Families,

A reminder that tomorrow is a professional learning day for staff and that schools are closed. I always like to take the opportunity to let parents know about the important work we are engaged in when schools are closed for staff learning days. As I shared last night at Back to School Night, we have four focus areas this school year: Performance, Rigor, Student Engagement and Staff Engagement. Tomorrow we are continuing our work with rigor- with several activities centered on understanding what rigor is, and some time will be spent doing "vertical articulation"- collaborating with grade levels above and below to understand the strengths and needs of our students. We have such a talented staff! I am looking forward to seeing the fruits of our year-long professional development plan for increasing rigor in everyday instruction. -Kathy Orlando

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

**9/12/14** Professional Learning Day/schools closed for students

**9/16-18/14** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade visit days -7:50-10:39 - REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, PHOTO ID OR PASSPORT TO SIGN IN TO THE NEW LOBBY GUARD VISITOR SIGN IN SYSTEM.

**9/25/14** Rosh Hashanah/schools and offices closed

**10/02/14** Interim Progress Reports issued

**10/9/14** PA Renaissance Faire 7<sup>th</sup> grade extended day field trip/ 6:30am-5:00pm

**10/20/14** School picture retake day

**10/24/14** Camp Letts/6<sup>th</sup> grade- extended day field trip

**10/31/14** End of marking period

#### FROM THE HEALTH ROOM...

**Urgent Message to parents/guardians of all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students -**

**New vaccines needed for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students!**

Letters were sent home in June this past year notifying you that the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has issued a list of new immunizations requirements for the 2014-2015 school. This letter notified you of the immunization that your student needs to be in compliance.

Failure to show proof of these needed immunizations will result in exclusion from school effective Monday, September 22, 2014. This means your child will not be allowed to attend school until these records are received. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Oakland Mills middle school health room at 410-313-6941. Please ask to speak with Ms. Eldridge or Ms. Milton.

**The last free Walk-in immunization clinic for school requirements will be held on Friday, 9/12/14** at Howard County Health Department 8930 Stanford Blvd Columbia, Md 21045, from 830am-11:30am and 1:30pm – 4:00pm.

For more information call, Lorraine Quarrick at the Howard Co Health Department, 410-313-7592.

**EMERGENCY CARDS AND PARENT PORTAL/ ASPEN HELP:** Last night, we were able to help several families during back to school night. We have collected “help needed” green sheets from you and are in the process of dividing up the families that need help among the secretaries and administrators, as we did last year to assist you. Your patience is appreciated as we make in person or phone appointments to help you access HCPSS items.

## **STUDENT SERVICES CENTER...**

School counselors are here to help your student get the most out of school and life! Sometimes barriers arise which make it difficult for students to learn. Learning difficulties, peer relationships, or family crises are a few examples. You and your student are invited and encouraged to speak with a counselor whenever you have questions or concerns by calling 410-313-6940.

Ms Bunkley - for students with last names A-K

or Ms Scott - for students with last names L-Z

## **MAKE-UP PICTURE DAY...**

Make-Up Picture Day will be held on Monday, October 20. Students may have pictures taken if they were absent, or need a retake.

## **‘STAFF MEMBER INSIDER’ – new feature- suggested by a parent!**

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

### **Staff Member #1:**

**Favorite food:** Enchiladas  
**College** JHU with a Bachelor's Degree in English  
**Pets** She has a ‘niece’ puppy, Rosie – black lab/ bull mix

### **Staff Member #2:**

**Favorite food:** Carolina BBQ with a mustard base  
**College:** Augusta State University – Master of Education  
**Pets:** “Father” to new male kitten, to be named soon!

**POLICY CORNER:** As we did last year, each newsletter will include a summary of HCPSS policies. A reminder that the full-text of policies can be found at <http://www.hcpss.org>

## **CIVILITY POLICY**

### **(Policy 1000)**

The Board of Education of Howard County values diversity and commonality and is committed to a culture that fosters free and open communication. The Board believes that an environment of mutual respect and civil conduct between and among students, school system employees, parents, volunteers, and the general public is critical to the achievement of students and staff. To that end, the county encourages the following behaviors:

- Respect and courtesy in language, demeanor, and actions.
- Moderate tone and volume of voice.
- Active and respectful listening.
- Respectful acknowledgement of cultural differences.
- Respect for the personal, civil, and property rights of others.
- Appropriate and courteous use of telephones, public address systems, two-way radios, and any other verbal communication devices.
- Appropriate and courteous written communication, including notes, letters, email, and text messages. Individuals who feel they have been subjected to uncivil conduct, such as rude, insulting, or demeaning language, unreasonable demands, intrusive or interruptive behavior, ill temper, harassment, intimidation, threatening and/or abusive gestures and behavior, are encouraged to resolve the concern/issue with those directly involved when appropriate.

## **LOST AND FOUND...**

Students misplace an amazing amount of personal items each quarter. Please take a moment to write your child's name on items that he or she brings to school each day. Please be aware that we donate unclaimed items to charity on a regular basis. If your child is missing something, the lost and found shelves are in the cafeteria by the café entrance door.

## **'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER' Answers:**

Staff member #1 - Ms. Giffuni, English teacher

Staff member #2 - Mr. Pointer, science teacher

## **2014-2015 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ESSAY CONTEST: “The Fierce Urgency of Now”**

**Essay Question:** “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is ‘What are you doing for others?’” Consider a time when you aided or helped someone. Relate your essay to the work of Dr. King.

**Deadline:** Essays must be postmarked or delivered by **5pm, Wednesday, November 5, 2014** to MLK Student Essay Contest, c/o Howard County Office of Human Rights, **6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 239, Columbia, MD 21046** or email: [SubmissionsMLK@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:SubmissionsMLK@howardcountymd.gov)

Winners’ names and schools will be posted on the Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. web page at [www.howardcountymd.gov/mlkholidaycommission.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/mlkholidaycommission.htm). **Questions:** Mary Toth at the Office of Human Rights, 410.313.6467 or email: [mtoth@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mtoth@howardcountymd.gov)

### **LET’S GO HOCO...**

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is excited to host Let’s Go HoCo, its inaugural 5K race and 1 mile fun run on Sunday, October 12 in Columbia. The race is a great way to bring together students, families, staff and Howard County community members to promote health and wellness. The race will include beginners, intermediate and professional level athletes.

View event information and register today at [www.hcpss5k.com](http://www.hcpss5k.com).

### **Oakland Mills Middle School**

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