

**OAKLAND MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**October 9, 2014**  
**FALCON TIMES NEWSLETTER**

**From the Principal's Desk:**

Dear Families,

Last week you received your child's progress report. The purpose of the progress report is to communicate with you about how well your child is doing in all subjects. We want each student at OMMS to be successful, and want each student to be able to identify "what is going well" at school as well as identify areas for growth. Parents, if you want to touch base with your child's teacher(s), and feel that waiting until a formal conference time in November is too far away, you may consider setting up a phone or in-person conference with your child's teacher. Here are some ways to communicate with school:

**Email the teacher(s)** directly and inquire about any questions or concerns. All staff emails can be accessed from our school website, <http://omms.hcpss.org>

**Call the school** and leave a message for the teacher to call you, with a good number and time that you can be reached. (It is possible that the teacher may not be available at that time because he or she is teaching, so you may consider leaving a message for a phone number that can be reached after 2:40 @ dismissal).

**Call the Counseling Center** to speak with your child's counselor @ 410-313-6940. Did you know that you can request a "group conference" and meet with more than one teacher at once? You can request this to be set up through the conference center.

**Partnering with you is our priority!** –Kathy Orlando

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR...**

**10/13/14** Falcons Fly Session 1 starts (Falcons Fly is a before and after school program for invited students. There are some openings for the academic program- please email [Regina\\_coleman@hcpss.org](mailto:Regina_coleman@hcpss.org) to see if your child is eligible to attend.)

**10/16/14** Hearing and Vision rescreening- **Volunteers needed for rescreening**

**10/17/14** MSEA Convention/Professional Work Day-schools closed for students

**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

**11/03/14** Professional Learning Work Day/schools closed for students

**11/04/14** General Election Day/schools and offices closed

**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 the progress report and report card.

**\*\*\*\*\*ANNOUNCING TWO NEW STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

**MESA**

**MESA (Math, Engineering, Science) Club with Mr. Wright. For more information, please contact [philip\\_wright@hcpss.org](mailto:philip_wright@hcpss.org) What is MESA? Maryland MESA, a 3-12 STEM initiative, works to identify and encourage students to continue their education in STEM subjects beyond their middle school career. MESA works to prepare our students to matriculate and graduate from a two-year and/or four-year college or university with a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. We welcome ALL students who have in interest in STEM subjects. However, we seek to target students who are traditionally underrepresented in these fields—specifically minority and female students. Through participation in Maryland MESA, students**

**develop academic and leadership skills, improve their academic performance, and gain confidence in their ability to compete professionally.**

### **SET**

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT TEAM with Mr. Lowe. Do you have School Spirit? Join a team of students who, like you, motivate others. SET the tone for students at OMMS. Help to encourage your peers to be as successful as they can be. Be a voice for your grade level. Students will help plan spirit weeks, help with Falcon store, and more! To participate, please contact Mr. Lowe for an application form and return the completed form to Mr. Lowe by October 15.

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

### **Student Dress Code (Policy 9210)**

Student dress and appearance are the basic responsibility of students and their parents/guardians as long as they are consistent with the school system's responsibility to ensure that school environments are healthy, safe and conducive to student learning. It is a violation of this policy for any student to wear attire that interferes with the educational mission of the schools, is disruptive to the school environment, or that could endanger the health or safety of that student or others during school hours and school activities. This includes, but is not limited to, attire that:

Unduly exposes or reveals skin or undergarments. This may include: tank tops; halter tops; tops that are strapless, low cut, or expose the midriff; pants worn low or loose that expose skin or undergarments.

Causes or is likely to cause a substantial or material disruption to school activities or the orderly operation of the school. This may include buttons, display bands, armbands, flags, decals or other badges of symbolic expression.

Covers the head, including hats, sunglasses, bandanas, hoods and visors, or head coverings of any kind.

Depicts profanity, obscenity, the use of weapons, or violence.

Promotes use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products.

Promotes, implies or contains sexually suggestive messages.

Depicts gang affiliation.

Contains language or symbols that demean an identifiable person or group or infringe on the rights of others.

Contains rude, disrespectful, or discourteous expressions inconsistent with civil discourse and behavior.

May damage school property.

Attire worn for medical reasons or required in practicing a religious belief is permitted.

Student attire will support a healthy and safe academic school environment. Any student failing to comply with the direction of an administrator is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy 9200 Discipline and the Student Code of Conduct

### **GIANNI'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER**

The Music Department launched their annual Gianni's fund-raiser to aid in decreasing the cost of our Music in the Parks trip to Hershey Park (which will occur on May 22.) There are a variety of products available such as the Gianni's pizza kits, Mrs. Fields cookie dough and Auntie Anne's pretzels!

Products can be frozen for up to 3 months and will be delivered on Monday, November 24. Thanks, as always, for your support!

**WINTER COATS** - Do you need winter coats for members of your family? Come to this free event in Howard County:

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

**'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER' – new feature- suggested by a parent!**

Every Falcon Newsletter will have three fun facts about 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:** Macaroni & Cheese

**College:** Western Michigan University & McDaniel College

**Pets:** Dog named Indiana Jones

**Fun fact:** I love marching bands

**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.

**FROM THE HEALTH ROOM-Volunteers needed for rescreening**

Hearing and Vision rescreening will be done at Oakland Mills Middle School on Thursday, October 16, 2014, by the Howard County Health Department. We will need volunteers to help with this program. If you would like to help, or have any questions please contact the OMMS health room at 410-313-6941. Please ask to speak with Ms. Eldridge or Ms. Milton.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ARTS INFORMATION NIGHT** - Parents and students in grades 5-8 are invited. 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 pm at the Rouse Theatre in Wilde Lake High School in Columbia.

**HOWARD COUNTY G/T PROGRAM PARENT ACADEMY** - October 15, 2014

Interested parents and community members are invited to attend...

The Howard County Gifted and Talented Education Program Parent Academy on Wednesday, October 15 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Hammond High School. For more information, please email to [hcpssgtac@gmail.com](mailto:hcpssgtac@gmail.com) or call 410-313-6800

**FALL STUDY SKILLS CLASSES**

Now you can help your student get off to a strong start for the school year with new skills and renewed confidence. Registration is now open for the Fall Study Skills Classes. Middle School Classes choose between starting dates of October 13 or November 17. Classes meet for four Wednesday evenings at Burleigh Manor Middle School. To register, go to [www.Stresslesstests.org](http://www.Stresslesstests.org). For more information, contact Betty Caldwell at 410 740-4659, or [Bcaldwell@comcast.net](mailto:Bcaldwell@comcast.net).

**'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER' Answers:**

Staff member #1 - Jennifer Hamilton, our media specialist

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