

## OAKLAND MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 26, 2014

### FALCON TIMES NEWSLETTER

#### From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Families,

THANK YOU: We would like to say thank you to the many families who donated food for staff lunches today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month! Gracias! The food was delicious!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: As you may remember, we have four school improvement focus areas: student performance, student engagement, increased daily instructional rigor and staff engagement. I will continue to share in newsletters some highlights of our school's efforts to date. Mrs. Lublin and I are very busy meeting with teachers about their SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes). Teachers are asked to identify two learning goals to collect data on re: student progress. Some samples of SLO areas are: argument writing, citing text-based evidence for written responses, demonstrating math practices, and more. Our staff works really hard and we are really pleased with the increased rigor of this year's SLOs.

I can't believe next month is October already! Please take a look at the calendar below for important dates. –Kathy Orlando

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

09/30/14	4:30-6pm Fall Festival @ OMMS
10/02/14	Hearing and Vision screening
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
10/16/14	Hearing and Vision rescreening
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

#### 'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER'

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: Five Guys

pets: 6 fish & 1 snail

college: Johns Hopkins

fun fact: left the banking industry to teach

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

favorite food: pasta of any kind

pets Kingston- cat

college: Towson University

fun fact: I am a HCPSS graduate, from Glenelg HS! I am also in the process of building a house!

**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>**

### **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

### **Measures of Academic Performance**

Our school will be administering the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) between September 29 and October 22. Although the tests are not timed, the typical length of time for the MAP test is approximately one hour per content area. The MAP assessments are computer-adaptive tests. As a student responds to questions, the test responds to the student, adjusting up or down the difficulty of the questions presented. MAP assessments measure a student's growth over time in reading and mathematics. MAP assessments let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in specific instructional areas. Teachers use this information along with the results of a variety of other assessments, and their own observation of student performance, to help them guide classroom instruction. After the test is administered, you will receive information about your child's score. If you have additional questions, please see the school system's website at <http://www.hcpss.org/academics/mapinfo>.

**Emergency Cards**

We still need emergency cards completed for our students. We have field trips coming up and students will not be able to attend without an updated emergency card. The front office is available to assist you if you need help. Thank you! Call 410.313.6937.

**NEW VISITOR SIGN-IN:** The new system has been working really well for us. A reminder to bring your driver's license when you come to school.

**OMMS FALL FESTIVAL**

**Oakland Mills Middle School would like to invite you to...Our Fall Festival!**

**September 30, 2014 from 4:30-6:00pm**

Join your OMMS community members for food, games, sports, entertainment, prizes and more! There is no cost for this event. This is a joint school/PTSA sponsored event, and there will be pictures and videotaping. Howard County Code of Conduct and Policies will be enforced, alcoholic beverages are not permitted, and students will be expected to follow the 3R's at all times.

If you would like to join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new year, please return the permission slip to your child's 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher by **September 26th, 2014**. A parent/guardian must accompany every student.

**FROM THE HEALTH ROOM:**

Hearing and Vision screening will be done at Oakland Mills Middle School on Thursday, October 2, 2014, by the Howard County Health Department. Students being screened include all 8th graders, new students with no previous Hearing and Vision record, and any referrals from parents or teachers. Rescreening will be done on Thursday, October 16, 2014. Please remind all students who wear glasses to bring them to school on the day of screening.

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.

**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.

**LET'S GO HOCO... (Please join Ms. Orlando!)**

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).

**'STAFF MEMBER INSIDER' Answers:**

Staff member #1 - Mr. Hobson, our Gifted and Talented teacher

Staff member #2 - Ms. DiBenedetto, gr. 6 science and social studies 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**

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)

## **Oakland Mills Middle School**

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