

# MWES News - Week of 11-8-2021

**November 10th** - Report Cards Issued in Synergy ([access directions below](#))

**November 22 - 24th** - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences/**3-Hour Early Dismissal for students (12:15 pm)** ([scheduling directions below](#))

**November 24** - Schools closed for students

**November 25-28th** - Schools and Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## A Note From Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Hello Manor Woods Families,

### Parent-Teacher Conference Registration Begins **MONDAY November 8th!** Conferences will be held virtually!

Parent-Teacher Conference online registration will begin at **6 am on Monday, November 8th and go through 11:59 pm on Thursday, November 18th**. No conferences will be scheduled on November 19th as the window closes on the 18th. Directions on how to schedule a conference with your student(s) Language Arts teacher are [attached](#). School-wide math conferences will be held in February; however, **4th Grade GT Math** conferences are available at this time as well. All conferences will be held via Google Meet on November 22nd - November 24th. If you find it necessary to meet face to face with your child's teacher, please email them directly. (HCPSS vaccination protocols must be followed. Any vaccine/testing verifications process in place at that time will apply to in-person conferences.)

### Below is a summary of the attached directions:

- Login into [HCPSS Connect \(Parent Account\)](#) Go to the **navigation pane (left side)**, **Select Conference**, then **Select Parent Scheduled Conferences (upper right-hand corner)**.

- You should be able to see all your students in the top, left corner of the screen.
- Conferences will be 15 minutes in length (30 minutes for ELL only). Please keep this in mind when selecting a slot for additional children. It is best not to select back-to-back time slots due to the virtual setting.

Once you have completed your conference registration(s), you can see the schedule in your **parent connect access account** by selecting **More Options, Conference Scheduling, View My Conference Schedule in the navigation pane (left side)**.

Sincerely,

Carol DeBord and Jennifer Zinn

**ABSENT NOTE EMAIL REMINDER** When your child is absent, please send an email on the day your student returns to the following address: [MWESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:MWESabsence@hcpss.org)

**Please do not send changes in transportation to this email, as we will not see the changes. Any time there is a change in transportation, and any time your child has an after school activity, you must send a note into your child's homeroom teacher.**

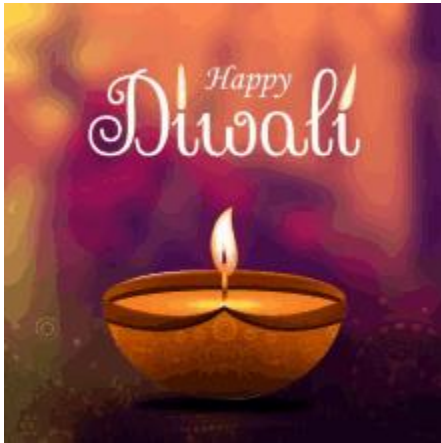
## **New Information**

### **Accessing Quarter 1 Report Cards**

Report cards will be issued Wednesday, Nov. 10 and accessible via HCPSS Connect Synergy. Parents/guardians may access them following the [instructions for accessing report cards online](#). Answers to [frequently asked questions on grades and testing](#) can be found online.

## Happy Diwali to Those Who Celebrate!

Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists, notably Newar Buddhists. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. Let's celebrate the festival in the true sense by spreading joy and light up the world of others. Happy Diwali!!!!



**The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Parent Team** would like for you to join them for a meeting on Wednesday, November 17th at 7pm. Location: MWES Media Center.

Free Food and Drinks!!!

*"DEI is a space where people can come share, learn, and listen."*

Looking for more information on cultural events and celebrations. Take a look at the DEI webpage: <https://mwespta.com/dei/>

If you don't see your cultural celebration/holiday, or would like something added, please contact DEI Chair DD at [demikajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:demikajohnson@gmail.com).

[Meeting Flyer](#)

## **Manor Woods Elementary Restaurant Nights are back! - TUESDAY NOV. 9TH**

This year, Manny wants to take you for a trip around the world and introduce you to new cultural cuisines. Up first is a classic American Cuisine night at the Phoenix Upper Main. Eat in or carry out and 20% of your bill will be donated to our school by mentioning MWES to your server or putting MWES in the online special instructions box! Join us at the Phoenix Upper Main (8308 Main Street Ellicott City, Maryland 21043) on Tuesday, November 9 from 4:00PM to 10:00PM. Carry out orders can be called in to (410) 313-8141 or you can order online at [phoenixuppermain.com](http://phoenixuppermain.com) For those dining in, convenient parking available in lots D, E, and F.

If you have suggestions or connections for our next Restaurant Night around the world, please contact Allie, Restaurant Night Committee Chair at [mwesrestaurantnight@gmail.com](mailto:mwesrestaurantnight@gmail.com).

## **SPIRITWEAR**

Thanks to everyone who ordered spirit wear this year! Spiritwear not only helps build our community but a portion of every sale goes directly back to the PTA, so thank you for your support. We should expect orders to be delivered in about 3 weeks.

## **MANNY'S BOO-MAZING PARADE**

A huge thank you goes out to our Social Committee for all of their hard work to put on the parade this year. It was so great to see our Manor Woods community out and about to celebrate. And another thank you goes to our teachers and staff who participated, we can't thank them enough for taking time out of their busy schedules to join in the fun!

## **Important Reminders From Past Newsletters**

Repeated Information [Click Here](#)

### **MWES Food Drive is Back!**

Nov. 1 - Nov. 10 Manor Woods will sponsor a food drive to support the Howard County Food Bank. Non-perishable items can be placed in the collection bin located outside of the main office. Items most needed include grains, pasta & sauce, canned vegetables & fruit, peanut butter, canned beans, tuna, baby food and hot & cold cereal. The HoCo Food Bank has seen a significant increase in the need for services. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. Thank you for making a difference for others in need!

### **Picture Retake Day**

Picture retake day will be on November 17th for students who were absent, or who didn't care for the first set of photos . Picture proofs are delayed due to shipping delays; however, parents will receive proofs prior to 11/17. Please see the attached links for the retake flier and picture envelope.

[Retake Flier](#)

[Envelope](#)

### **Dress For Colder Weather**

Please make certain your child has a light-weight jacket or coat for recess on colder days.

## Speaking of Jackets...

There are ALOT of jackets, water bottles and lunch boxes in our lost and found. Please encourage your student(s) to check the lost and found! If they need help doing so, they can come ask in the front office.

## Here are a few important highlights from our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion School Committee.

### Native American Heritage Month

“November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.

### **Howard County Library Native American Heritage Month Celebration**

<https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/events/native-american-heritage-month-celebration-0>



**HOWARD COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
Public Education for All

[Native American Heritage Month Celebration |  
Howard County Library System](#)

Celebrate Native American Culture and Resilience. Featuring dancing, singing, drumming, storytelling, children's crafts, vendors, Navajo Tacos and more, including:

[howardcounty.librarycalendar.com](https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com)

Flyer - PDF

[https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/sites/default/files/2021-10/Native%20American%20Heritage%20Mo%202021%20Flyer\\_0.pdf](https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/sites/default/files/2021-10/Native%20American%20Heritage%20Mo%202021%20Flyer_0.pdf)

## Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 1-5 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called The Young Authors' Contest . Please see the attached [YAC Flyer](#) Announcing Contest for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to Mrs. Moy by January 24, 2022. Contact Mrs. Moy [maria\\_moy@hcpss.org](mailto:maria_moy@hcpss.org) with any questions.

Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#) Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

## How To Get Parent Notifications in Canvas

Stay on top of happenings in your student(s) individual classes by signing up for Canvas notifications. For information about **Parent Notification Preferences in CANVAS**, [click here](#).

## Parent Information Resources [Fridge Fact Sheet](#)

- *To opt-in to HCPSS Text messages, text "YES" to 67587 from the device on which you would like to receive messages.*
- *Be sure to click on the "Calendar" link at the top of our website for important dates throughout the school year.*
- *View the breakfast and lunch menus [here](#). Please keep in mind that items on the menus are subject to availability.*

## Update Your Family File

**Please make certain your Family File is up-to-date. We will be using these to dismiss your student(s) on unexpected closing days.**

HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to supply emergency information. If you haven't done so already, [please verify and/or update information for your child\(ren\)](#) for the 2021-22 school year.

## **FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

### **5th Grade Student Leaders Program**

This year, forty-two students have joined the 2021-2022 Student Leaders group. Our 5th grade student leaders volunteer their time and serve as teacher helpers, assist with the Ho. Co. Food Bank Food Drive, welcome new students and assist with Green School Initiatives. We're grateful for their service and the leadership they demonstrate at Manor Woods.

### **Mindfulness at Manor Woods**

This school year, Ms. Heinlein and Mrs. Salapata are teaching and leading mindfulness activities during classroom lessons. Students have begun adding the strategies they practice into a "Mindfulness Toolkit". Students are encouraged to use these mindful strategies in and out of school. Being mindful can help children when they might need to take a break, calm down or refocus and reset. Please ask your child what they've learned about mindfulness and to teach you about the mindfulness strategies they've learned & practiced so far.

[NAMI Howard County](#) is a local affiliate of The National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. All NAMI services and programs are free. Visit [Support and Education](#) for more information.



Please reach out to Ms. Heinlein (grades 1, 2, 4 & 5) or Mrs. Salapata (grades K & 3) if we can be of assistance to you or your child. [monica\\_heinlein@hcpss.org](mailto:monica_heinlein@hcpss.org); [christina\\_salapata@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_salapata@hcpss.org).

## **FROM OUR HEALTH ROOM**

### **Vaccine for Children Ages 5-11**

The CDC authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11. Parents should check first if their child's pediatrician is providing the COVID vaccine. If not, an appointment can be made with another vaccine provider ([listed on the website](#)) or with the Health Department. Registration for HCHD COVID pediatric vaccination appointments will begin today (November 4, 2021) after 5:00pm with links released on the HCHD website [HERE](#)..

Here is some additional information about the COVID pediatric vaccine:

#### **Safety and Efficacy**

- Since the start of the pandemic, about 1.9 million children ages 5-11 years have been infected (with COVID-19), about 9% of all U.S. cases. More than 8,300 have been hospitalized and 94 have died, according to federal data. The death toll in the past year puts COVID in the top 10 causes of death for this age group.
- Clinical trials in children ages 5-11 years found the vaccine to be 90.7% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19.

#### **Dosage and Side Effects**

- The pediatric vaccine is given in two doses administered 21 days (3 weeks) apart. The dosage is one-third of the adolescent and adult dose.
- Safety data from the trials found the most common reactions were pain at the injection site, fatigue and headache. Reactions were mostly mild or moderate. (There were no serious adverse events related to the vaccine, including myocarditis or anaphylaxis.) Most side effects went away within one to two days.

#### **Availability**

- HCHD and 14 providers received the initial shipment of 9,300 doses of vaccine for Howard County. This supply will fully immunize only 4,650 children.
- Parents should check first if their child's pediatrician is providing the COVID vaccine. If not, an appointment can be made with another vaccine provider ([listed on the website](#)) or with the Health Department.
- Vaccine demand outweighs current supply, but it is anticipated supply will become more readily available in upcoming weeks.
- HCHD clinics will operate five days a week from 3-7 pm at HCC's Duncan Hall. Registration is required. Visit [vaccine.howardcountymd.gov](http://vaccine.howardcountymd.gov) for more information.

HCHD will hold children ONLY clinics beginning on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> by appointment only at Howard Community College's Duncan Hall. Health Officer Dr. Maura Rossman wrote an open letter to the community outlining HCHD's plan for vaccinating our younger children. Her letter can be read [HERE](#)

Thank you parents for keeping your children home when they are experiencing various illnesses. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the health room, either calling 410-313-8326 or email school nurse at [laura\\_ruiz@hcpss.org](mailto:laura_ruiz@hcpss.org). If you want to test your child, please don't go to the ER unless their child is having difficulty breathing.

[mobile covid testing sites](#)

## **Community News**

### **An Opportunity to Help Make the Holidays Brighter**

Hi community! We wanted to share this message from Homewood School. Perhaps you and your coworkers or friends and neighbors can team up to brighten a child's holiday.

“More than 90% of Homewood students qualify for Free and Reduced Meals and we do not have a PTA. We need new items to stock our Treasure Sale so our kids can choose holiday gifts for our loved ones. Thank you for supporting our [#HomewoodFamily!](#) This year, we need our friends, families, and community more than ever. We have a goal to collect over 1,000 new items using the Homewood Treasure Sale Wish List. Amazon will ship your donation directly to Homewood Center. Thank you for your consideration and making this a special December to remember for a young person.”

Shop here: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QKXEC3NXA3PN...>

## Mental Health Resources

- [Foreign-Born Support Services/Bilingual Support Services](#) - **Updated Resources**
  - Bilingual Mental Health Professionals
    - [Asian American Health Initiative \(AAHI\) Mental Health Providers Youth](#)
    - [Chinese](#)
- [Grief & Loss](#) - **New Resource**
  - [Stella Maris \(Links to an external site.\)](#) - Individual and family grief counseling services are available to anyone in the community (including Howard County) and they are offering both in-person or telehealth sessions. To request counseling, please contact us at 410-252-4500 ext. 7291. Free "Grieving During the Holidays" (virtual presentation) for older teens and adults on Monday, November 15, 2021. 7-8:30 p.m. To register or for more information, please call Stella Maris directly or email [hbenassi@stellamaris.org](mailto:hbenassi@stellamaris.org). New [Fall Calendar \(Links to an external site.\)](#) of Grief support programs also available online.

**Stay up-to-date on vaccine clinics, Covid testing and more.**

[Link to the Howard County Health Department](#)

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.”

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit [community-programs.hcpss.org](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org).

## **HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES**

[Flier Attached](#)