

MWES News - Week of 11-22-2021



November 22 - 24th - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences/3-Hour Early Dismissal for students on 11/22 and 11/23 (12:15 pm) (scheduling directions below)

November 24 - Schools closed for students

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

December 22 - Spirit Day = Pajama Day!

December 23 - January 2 - Winter Break Schools Closed (Return 1/3/2022)

A Note From Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Hello Manor Woods Families,

In keeping with our on-going theme of kindness, we'd like to offer your family an optional homework activity, just for fun to complete over the November break. Please feel free, at your convenience, to complete one or more of the 25 activities listed below. If you can take a picture and share the experience, please do so. We'd love to see our MWES families showing their appreciation and kindness. Please send your photos to jennifer_zinn@hcpss.org.

25 Easy Random Acts of Kindness Ideas for Thanksgiving

1. Send an "I'm Thankful For You Because..." card. Better yet, have your kids sign or send a card.
2. Invite them to share your Thanksgiving meal.
3. Invite them over for dessert.
4. Volunteer for a meal delivery service.

5. Give that friend a ride to the airport, or wherever they need to go.
6. Donate Thanksgiving food items (like pumpkin puree) to your local food bank.
7. Rake leaves for the seniors in your neighborhood.
8. Pay it Forward at the drive-thru (paying for the next person in line's order).
9. Babysit for a friend who needs a break, or time to prepare for her own Thanksgiving celebration.
10. Forgive someone you have a grudge against – let it go for good.
11. Send a thoughtful text.
12. Make time to video chat with far away friends and relatives.
13. Donate your air miles.
14. Clean a friend's house.
15. Donate crayons and coloring books to your local hospital.
16. Volunteer for reading time at your library or nursing home.
17. Give a genuine compliment to the person waiting in line next to you.
18. Leave quarters in the grocery store toy machines.
19. Open your home as a place to stay for traveling friends, or family of friends.
20. Let someone cut in line, or pull out in traffic, ahead of you.
21. Leave the front parking spaces for others.
22. Send a care package to someone serving overseas.
23. Share the family recipe.
24. Let someone help you – letting others feel useful is a huge gift.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday,

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

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.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Late Arrivals

If you arrive at 8:45 AM or after, you **MUST** park your car in the big parking lot, and walk your child to the building to sign in with a staff member. This is for the safety of your child. Tardies are tracked on your student(s) report card.

- School opens at 8:30 am. *If your student isn't in their classroom by the late bell (8:45 am), he/she is considered late.* You must accompany your child to and from the building each time your child has a late arrival or early dismissal. You must bring a photo ID.

Early Dismissals

- If your student has an early dismissal, please make certain he/she is picked up **before** 3:00 pm to make certain you are out before our buses begin to arrive. **Early dismissals cannot be conducted after 3:00 pm. If you arrive after 3:00pm, you will need to wait in the car loop line until our regular dismissal begins. It is best to alert your child(s) teacher and the front office regarding early dismissals ahead of time.**
- We would also like for you to provide a note each day your child has an after-school activity. This helps the teacher and your child remember the activity on a weekly basis.

New Information

FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

[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.

[The November 2021 School Counseling newsletter](#) contains a variety of information for parents and students including ways to show gratitude during National Gratitude Month, Native American Heritage Month, meditation and more!

Food Bank Update: Thank you to all our families and staff who donated food to support the Howard County Food Bank. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated. You are difference makers! Visit [Howard County Food Bank](#) for more information about how to support those in need.

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 or christina_salapata@hcpss.org.

Read the Rainbow Virtual Book Club with Authors Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

[Click Here to Register](#)

Picture Retake Orders

If your child had their photo retaken, and you did not send in payment, proofs will be delivered to school for distribution with an opportunity to order at that time. Questions can be directed to School Pictures, Inc. s.p.i@comcast.net

Trex Recycling Program

MWES will participate in the Trex Recycling program as we have done in years past. It is a competition to collect as much plastic as we can (by weight), and we compete in a category against other schools in the MD, PA, VA, WV region. MWES has not yet won the grand prize of a bench made of Trex decking materials, however, we have received smaller prizes made of Trex material. A display table will be set up in the lobby so students can see what the plastic turns into, using the smaller prizes we have received. The overall idea is not to win, but to change habits by recycling soft plastic. Collection will end on Earth Day, April 22.

There are 2 Trex collection boxes in the front area of school. Three more are expected to arrive, along with a magnet for each student to take home.

Please watch this updated, animated, and very informative video! It's only 3 min. long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDNFXtMu6M0&t=1s>

If you don't like YouTube, here is the Trex website. Please show only the video titled "Learn how your recyclables can become a Composite Deck with NexTrex."

<https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>

Parents, if you would like to volunteer to deliver our collected soft plastic, please email alison_sorkin@hcpss.org. Whenever you make a trip to these stores, take some of the weighed plastic:

[Food Lion, Giant, Harris Teeter, Kohl's, Martins, Redner's, Safeway, Wegmans, Weis](#)

It will be bagged in small sizes for easy delivery and will be left outside the 4th grade pod at the end of the service road. Even stopping to take one bag will help!

PTA News

2nd Vice President Needed

The PTA is in need of a new 2nd Vice President! If you're interested in becoming a board member please reach out to PTA President Marva Booth at turner_marva@yahoo.com to learn more.

Yearbook Photos

If anyone has photos from restaurant night, field trips, Manny parade, or the camp out that they would like to share for the Yearbook please email Manorwoodsyearbook@gmail.com

Save the date! Snowflake Fun Run!

MWES PTA Presents our first Snowflake Fun Run on December 11th. Save the date and stay tuned for more details soon!

Homewood Treasure Sale Donations

Each year, before winter break, Homewood School has a Treasure Sale. Homewood is a Howard County public school for kids that have trouble operating in a traditional school environment. All students use their grades to "purchase" presents for loved ones and have them gift wrapped. It's often a temporary school for children so it does not have a PTA. Over 90 % of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch so it's a community in need and this sale is a big highlight.

Due to Covid, all items for this year's Treasure Sale must be either new or re-gifted items. To make things easier, they have created an Amazon Wish List. If you would like to donate, please see the link below.

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

For more information, contact Suzi Young at suzi_young@hcpss.org

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

Repeated Information [Click Here](#)

Weather Guidelines

[Click Here](#)

Accessing Quarter 1 Report Cards

Report cards were 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.

Calendar Updates

In order to provide school-based staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education approved [updates to the current academic year calendar](#). Three-hour early dismissals now will take place on the following days:

- December 15, 2021
- January 19, 2022 (previously a 3-hour early dismissal for high school students only)
- February 16, 2022
- March 16, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 18, 2022

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 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.

FROM OUR HEALTH ROOM

Vaccine Information For Children

[Click 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. 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

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**

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 for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

[Flier Attached](#)