

MWES News Week of 12-20-2021

December 13-21 - Scholastic Book Fair

December 21 - Spirit Day = Sweater Day: Wear your ugliest, prettiest or favorite sweater

December 22 - Spirit Day = Pajama Day!

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

January 12 - BMMS New Student Parent Orientation 6:30-7:30 pm (****Tentative**)

January 18 - MVMS New Student Parent Orientation 6:00-7:00 pm (****Tentative**)

A Note From Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Dear Manor Woods Families,

Tis the season to be jolly and we know of a lot of people (kiddos) that are ready for winter break. This year has been moving by swiftly and once the students became acclimated to the school-building and being with friends again, the learning kicked in and they've been going strong ever since.

As we move into January with many uncertainties, we want to encourage you to spend time with your family and maintain the safety protocols you've put into place for your family. We hope to come back to a successful new year with few disruptions and absences. We want to be with your students, and we are fully committed to giving them the best education we can.

As you gather with friends and family, we wish you a wonderful break, a terrific holiday, and a prosperous New Year. May the joy of the season full your heart.

Fondly,

Carol DeBord

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.

Very Important Reminder

Per the Maryland State Department of Education, masks are required in all Maryland public school buildings for all students, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. The state mandate reflects guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health, and is in alignment with an HCPSS masking directive that already was in place.

Masks also are required while on school buses. We have had several children coming off the buses in the mornings without a mask. Please make sure your child is wearing their mask when boarding their bus, and discuss the importance of keeping their mask on. Masks are not required for any students or staff while eating/drinking indoors. Masks are not required outdoors, however they are recommended for unvaccinated individuals.

New Information

From Our School Counselors

[The December 2021 Elementary School Counseling Newsletter](#) is a great resource for families that contains a variety of information including how to practice self-care, winter break ideas to connect with your children and learning about holidays around the world.

Maintaining Mental Health Through the Winter

Check out [The National Alliance on Mental Health \(NAMI\) bi-monthly newsletter](#) for ideas about maintaining mental health during the winter, monthly support groups and classes.

Ms. Heinlein (grades 1, 2, 4 & 5) and Mrs. Salapata (grades K & 3) are here to support our students. If we can be of assistance to you or your child, please contact monica_heinlein@hcpss.org or christina_salapata@hcpss.org.

From Our Music Department

Congratulations to our Mighty Duck musicians who performed beautifully on Saturday in the Howard County GT Sinfonia and Orchestra!

Josh Ahn, Avaneesh Alibilli, Jose Rodrigez Bosques, Sharon Cho, Grace Koh, Claire Krasnoff, Aly Lai, Kate Lee, Meghna Pillai, and Sherry Wei, we are so proud of you!

Maryland Reading Month

January is Maryland Reading Month! Our Theme is Read Across Maryland – MWES ELA Committee is eagerly planning special activities to celebrate reading. More specific details will be shared in January 2022. Please save the date for these special Fridays in January.

January 7th – It's Readable Shirt Day! Students are encouraged to wear a shirt to school with words on them for all to read.

January 14th – Wear Maryland Color's Day! Students are encouraged to wear Maryland colors to school. Maryland colors are red, yellow, white and black.

January 21st –Curl Up & Read - PJ Day! Students are encouraged to wear their PJs to school, bring a book, and a stuffed animal.

January 28th – It's Dress Up as Your Favorite book and/or Book Character. Students are encouraged to bring the book to school with them that goes with their character and/or book title.

CogAT Testing

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grades 3 and 5. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 and 5 will participate in the testing. No special preparation is required. Send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily. Please make every effort to schedule appointments on a non-testing day.

Grade 5 will be testing on January 11 and 12

Grade 3 will be testing on January 18, 20, and 21

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes.

PTA News

Yearbook Photo Cover Contest

[Details Here](#)

Staff Gratitude Gifts - END TONIGHT!

Online gratitude gifting will be open until midnight tonight! <https://mwespta.com/teacher-staff-gifts/>

This is a quick and easy way to express your gratitude to the dedicated staff that teach and nurture our children! The web store is set up to select the teachers/staff you would like to recognize and choose the amount you would like to give in increments of \$1. The PTA will tabulate the individual teacher/ staff totals from all contributions and will send out a single gift card to that individual member. Please note that any money dedicated to a teacher/staff will be given anonymously and will only go to that specific teacher/staff, not distributed among the entire list. As usual, there is no obligation or expectation, just a way to make gifting a little easier for those who would like to take part.

Room Parents

We will be seeking at least one room parent volunteer from each class. Be on the lookout for an email from your child's teacher with the request or you can email PTA

President Marva Booth at mwesPTApres@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer for that role

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

Repeated Information [Click Here](#)

Weather Guidelines

[Click Here](#)

Math in Action!

Manor Woods will be celebrating Math in Action in the new year and we are looking for your help. Each month from January through May we will be spotlighting a variety of mathematicians. While it's great to highlight successful mathematicians, we also want to encourage our students to see themselves as mathematicians!

We are asking each student to bring in one 4" x 6" printed photo of your family engaged in an activity involving math. Our goal is to display the photos, along with the featured mathematicians for that month, on a bulletin board outside of each team. (If you have siblings in our school, you can send in the same photo for each student since they will be displayed in different areas of the building.)

While you do not have to send in photos every month, you are welcome to send in additional photos throughout the remainder of the year. Remember, math is embedded in a lot of our daily lives (cooking, building, sewing, designing, shopping, getting gasoline, games, etc.), and we encourage you to be creative in your picture. You may

begin sending pictures in now, but the boards will not go up outside of each team until January. Photos should be turned in to your child's homeroom teacher.

Impact Aid Forms: Please share this information with your families via school e-newsletter. Questions may be directed to Kelly Powers. Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify to receive additional federal funding by [completing an Impact Aid form](#) by Dec. 31. Impact Aid supplements the HCPSS operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms.

Outdoor Dining:

This fall many students have elected to eat school meals in the outdoor dining tent that was put in place at each HCPSS elementary school as an additional health safeguard during the pandemic. Now that winter is on our doorstep, and we expect to have much colder temperatures and precipitation, the tents will soon be removed for the winter months, December through February. This is necessary to ensure the safety of our students and staff, because the tents are not designed to sustain heavy snow, wind or ice accumulation; they cannot be safely heated and lowering the sides that are currently left open would not allow adequate outdoor air ventilation to occur.

HCPSS plans to reinstall the tents outside all elementary schools at the beginning of March 2022, with the specific timing dependent on weather conditions.

We will continue to designate outdoor spaces at our school throughout the winter months where students may choose to eat their meals as weather conditions allow. As a reminder, please send your child to school dressed appropriately for weather conditions, especially if they plan to eat lunch outdoors.

Thank you for your support and collaboration in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

News From the Health Room

The vision and hearing screening will be occurring on January 12 and January 20. It is for all kindergarten and 1st grade students and new students coming from outside the State of Maryland. There will be a flier going out in a few weeks.

If your child has received both doses of the Covid vaccine, you can either send a copy of their card in with your child, fax to 410-531-1295, or email to the Health Room.

Any questions, please contact the Health Room at 410-313-8326 or laura_ruiz@hcpss.org or lynette_winde@hcpss.org.

Vaccine Information For Children

[Click Here](#)

[Letter From Health Officer Dr. Maura Rossman, County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball, and HCPSS Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano about COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5-11](#)

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.