

# MWES Newsletter-Week of 11/25/19

## NOVEMBER

**25** - Turkey Trot and 3 Hour Early Dismissal for students (dismiss at 12:15 pm Fall Conferences)

**26** - Young Authors' Entries Due!

**26** - 3 Hour Early Dismissal for students (dismiss at 12:15 pm Fall Conferences)

**27-29** - Schools Closed for Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

**3-5** - CogAT Testing for 3rd and 5th grade (see details below)

**9-13** - Classroom Spelling Bees

**10** - 7 PM Winter Band Concert

**13** - Quarter 2 Interims sent home

**23 - January 1st (returning January 2nd)** - Winter Break Schools Closed

## **MWES School-Wide Events Calendar**

If you would link to sync your phone to our website calendar, please click on the subscribe link on the MWES [calendar page](#) on our [MWES website](#) and follow the prompts.

## **Food Drive Update**

Thank you to all those who've donated to our food drive to benefit the Howard County Food Bank & local families in need. We've filled 25+ boxes of food so far! We'll continue to collect non-

perishable food items through next Tuesday, Nov. 26. Look for an update in early December about how many pounds of food the Manor Woods community donated. *Thank you for your kindness & generosity.*

### **Turkey Trot is Monday!**

The Annual Manor Woods Turkey Trot will be on Monday, November 25th from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during students Related Arts block. Volunteers are needed to guide students around the course and cheer them on as they cross the finish line. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up here <https://forms.gle/66pe8KCUccLBKAR7A> Questions? Contact Mrs. Peksa at [karyn\\_pekسا@hcpss.org](mailto:karyn_pekسا@hcpss.org) or Ms. Holocker at [allison\\_holocker@hcpss.org](mailto:allison_holocker@hcpss.org).

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

Dear Manor Woods Families,

The Board is scheduled to make final decisions about boundary changes for the 2020-2021 school year today, Thursday, November 21. Though the Board's final decision may not impact every Howard County school, the public process and conversations have impacted every community in some way. While these decisions are necessary to address crowding and inequity across many county schools, they are extremely difficult and followed many months of careful consideration, input and discussion.

I wanted to send this and assure you that as principal of Manor Woods Elementary School, I am following the Board's deliberation process and will be working with the HCPSS leadership team to ensure we support all families and students impacted during this process. This Friday, following the Board's decision, I will be meeting with HCPSS leadership to discuss our transition plans and engagement efforts.

Whether your child is staying at Manor Woods Elementary School, moving to a new school or simply progressing to the next level, there are supports in place to help your child with the change. Following Thursday's decision, you can view the changes approved by the Board [online](#). If our

community is impacted by the decision, I anticipate receiving confirmation of the names of any students moving to a new school by mid-December, at which time we will be in touch with all families who will be attending a new school next school year. All students will remain at their current schools through the end of the current school year.

I want to assure you regarding the continuity of care and attention that every child will receive. As part of our annual internal articulation process, your child's teachers, support staff and administrators will be working closely with colleagues in the grade or school your child will be attending next school year. They will share academic information, including learning progress and any special services or accommodations, so that instruction and support may continue seamlessly next school year. Additionally, teachers of students who receive special education or 504 accommodations will be contacted soon to begin to collaboratively craft a transition plan for your child.

Whether your child will be moving to a new school, or will remain at Manor Woods Elementary School, he or she may be concerned about interacting with new classmates, missing old friends, adjusting to new routines or may have been impacted by the community conversations that have occurred over the past several months. Administrators or staff at your child's new school will reach out to welcome you and your child into the new school community and host orientations, open houses, family nights, tours or other events to help you become familiar and comfortable with the new teachers and school environment. We will plan similar outreach to our new families, and we will take special care to involve students remaining here and support them in adjusting to these changes.

You can find more information about the transition plans [online](#) and I will continue to be in touch.

Sincerely,

Carol DeBord, Principal

Jennifer Zinn, Assistant Principal

Manor Woods Elementary School

## **NEW SCHOOL NEWS**

*Congratulations to the MWES 4th and 5th grade Choruses for two amazing concerts on Tuesday! It was such a pleasure to hear you sing your song selections. We were very proud of your performances!*

*Mrs. Phelps & Mrs. Rinaldi*

## **INFORMATION FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS**

### **Read With Me Program**

Read With Me is a program that provides free books to children from birth to 5 yrs. It is an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and is sponsored by the Bright Minds Foundation, Howard County Public School System, and the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Click on the link below to register your child(ren) to get a free book each month from birth to age 5.

[https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/find-my-program/?fbclid=IwAR1IxZ\\_AGcOea0rbZMnliclugYwdeXoTnLMN2HXEas2neczaqk3Gp1iv2xU](https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/find-my-program/?fbclid=IwAR1IxZ_AGcOea0rbZMnliclugYwdeXoTnLMN2HXEas2neczaqk3Gp1iv2xU)

### **CogAT Testing Information**

3rd and 5th grade students will be taking the CogAT test on December 3rd, 4th and 5th. 3rd grade will test at 9 am and 5th grade will test at 11am.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Trex Recycling Challenge**

Tired of throwing away all the soft plastic packaging and plastic bags in the trash because it can't be recycled? Send that clean, dry plastic to school! MWES is participating in the Trex recycling program.

[READ MORE](#)

[trexrecyclingposter](#)

[trexrecyclingchallenge](#)

The plastic then needs to be taken to a collection site nearby - one of the grocery stores on the [list](#). We need assistance from some parents or PTA members to help collect, weigh and transport the plastic. If you are available to help, please sign up through the link below.

[SignUpLink](#)

## **MWES 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade Bumble Bee Spelling Bee**

All students in grades first through third have an exciting opportunity to participate in the Classroom Bumble Bee Spelling Bee unless your child is absent. Classroom Bees will be conducted the week of December 9, 2019.

[READ MORE](#)

## **MWES 4th and 5th Grade Spelling Bee**

Classroom Spelling Bees will take place from sometime between December 9th through December 13th. Every student in 4th and 5th Grade will get to participate in the Classroom Spelling Bee unless your child is absent.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Reporting Absences**

Please use the following link to report your child's absence. Your child needs a note to return to school each time they are absent. Please be sure to state the reasons for their absence.

[MWESabsences@hcpss.org](mailto:MWESabsences@hcpss.org)

### **Updated Attendance Procedures**

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach for attendance supports and interventions.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Impact Aid Forms**

At HCPSS, Impact Aid supplements the operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms.

[READ MORE](#)

### **INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD**

**Boundary Review Update:** The Board of Education continues to hold [Public Work Sessions](#) to work towards a final plan on boundary adjustments that could impact communities in any of the 74 HCPSS schools for the 2020–2021 school year. The final Board Public Work Session is scheduled for November 18, at 6:30 p.m. The Board is scheduled to make a final decision on boundary

adjustments for the 2020-2021 school year on November 21 at 7 p.m. Updates and information can be found at the [Boundary Review](#) page.

**Board Approves 2020–2021 Academic Calendar:** The [next school year](#) will begin on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, for students and on Monday, August 17, 2020, for school staff. Winter break will be December 24–January 1, with schools reopening on Monday, January 4, 2021. Spring Break will run from April 2–9, 2021. The last day of school is scheduled for June 10, 2021.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS FROM OUR FEEDER SCHOOLS**

No news this week.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS AND PROGRAMS**

Find out what is going on within Howard County and surrounding areas. Notices are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

[READ MORE](#)

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

For Complete information on these Before & After School classes, including how to Register, please go to [www.howardcountymd.gov/afterschool](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/afterschool)