



# Lake Elkhorn Middle School

## NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 3 , 2 0 1 7

### *Message from the Principal*

Greetings, Lake Elkhorn families:

It's time to clear a spot on the refrigerator again! Report cards were sent home with students today. Thirty-five per cent of all LEMS students made the honor roll for the second marking period. While I am happy for these students, I think we can do better. So, in response to a request at the last PTSA meeting, I will put what little hair I have on the line. If forty per cent of LEMS students make honor roll for third quarter, I will dye my hair. We will have a drawing for a student to determine the color. Students can enter Eagle Bucks into a drawing (the winner must be an honor roll student) and the winner will select my hair color. Thanks a lot, PTSA!

This past Wednesday night, we heard from Vince DeVivo from the Department of Justice, who informed parents about many dangers of the internet. He encouraged the audience to be wise consumers and gave tips to help parents keep on top of the electronic device usage. I am including the handout materials with this newsletter. Good luck to Science Olympiad, which will be practicing tomorrow and competing for the first time next weekend. Science Olympiad and Fisheries are our two newest enrichment seminars. I want to thank Mr. Bond for providing these new experiences for our students.

With Eagle PRIDE,

*Martin Vandenberg*  
Principal



### Save the Date!

- Jan. 30-May 11 - Bridges LEMS Scholars After School Program (Monday-Thursday 2:45-5pm)
- Feb. 1-28 Heart Month Activities
- Feb. 3 Report cards issued
- Feb. 6 Mocha with Marty @ 9 am
- Feb. 14 6th Grade Author Visit
- Feb. 16 Field Trip: Film Workshop (See Mr. Bond for more info)
- Feb. 20 President's Day - Schools closed for students/staff
- Feb. 21 Professional Learning Day - Schools closed for Students
- Feb. 22 School Store (during lunch)
- Feb. 22 Cradlerock ES Family Fit Night @ 6 pm



## Mocha with Marty

The next meeting is scheduled for **February 6, 2017** at **9 am in the Media Center**. See you there!!

### Respect Contest

Congratulations to the 7th grade students and team for winning our first phase of the respect contest with a difference of 47 positive office referrals!!! They will have 10 minutes of extra recess added to their regular recess once the weather gets better.

The contest continues and will now start over and go for 2 weeks starting today through February 7th. The reward for this 2-week time period will be 20 minutes of extra recess during a time of the grades choosing. We had a total of 121 positive office referrals written in one week which is awesome. Thank you for continuing to acknowledge when students are showing respectful behavior.



### Internet Safety

On February 1, 2017, the LEMS PTSA conducted their general meeting along with a special presentation on Internet Safety. A representative from the U.S. Department of Justice was present to discuss a program entitled "Innocence Stolen: Protecting our Children Online." You can read more about the meeting and presentation by visiting <http://lems.hcpss.org/news/2017/02/internet-safety-presentation>.



## G/T Advisory Seeks Nominations for Educator Recognition Due Feb. 24

The annual Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee Educator Recognition Program celebrates educators whose commitment to the needs of advanced-level learners and whose contributions to the Howard County G/T Education Program are exemplary.

- [Submit nominations](#) by February 24.
- Email positive comments about experiences with the GT program to [hcpssgtac@gmail.com](mailto:hcpssgtac@gmail.com)
- Attend educator recognition event on April 19.

Now through February 24, parents and students have the opportunity to nominate a G/T Resource Teacher, content or classroom teacher, or administrator whose efforts have enriched the educational experience of highly able learners. All nominees will be recognized at the annual Educator Recognition Event, to be held April 19 at 7 p.m. at Howard High School. All nominating families and students are invited to attend.

Nominations will be accepted in the form of an online submission form (to include a minimum 150 word description of the nominee's contribution). Information and submission instructions are available [online](#). Contact [gtteachrec@aol.com](mailto:gtteachrec@aol.com) with any questions.

In addition to nominations, you may also email positive comments about experiences with the GT program to [hcpssgtac@gmail.com](mailto:hcpssgtac@gmail.com). All comments will be used in a slide show at the Educator Recognition Event.



## Recycling Contest

The recycling contest runs from January 30th - February 10<sup>th</sup> and on February 10<sup>th</sup>, contest winners will be determined. The LEMS

Green Team collected plastic bottles and aluminum cans. We are pleased to participate in the PepsiCo Recycling Program and we have a goal of collecting 11,000 bottles this year. As of last week we have only collected 18% of our goal. We are thinking this could help us get closer to our goal and help emphasize doing a better job of recycling here at school and in our community. The winning grade gets 15 minutes of extra recess.



Please feel free to send students in with appropriate items to be recycled.





Health Room  
News & Information

## **Attention 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents New Vaccines Needed**

**Parents of Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Next Year (2017-2018 school year) Will Need the Following Immunizations**

- MCV4 (Meningococcal {**meningitis**}) vaccine
- Tdap vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis {**whooping cough**})

**(Bring a copy of your child's immunization record to your appointment)**

These vaccines are needed in addition to current school vaccination requirements.

**\*\* Please check with your child's doctor to see if they have already received them, and take a copy of the record to their school.\*\***

If your child needs these vaccines they can get them from his or her doctor or the Howard County Health Department

**Contact the Howard County Health Department for Free Immunization  
(with a scheduled appointment).**

For more information call, Beth Amstad, RN, at the Howard County Health Department, 410-313-7592, or visit: [www.hchealth.org](http://www.hchealth.org). Failure to provide proof of updated immunizations on the first day of school, or proof of an appointment to receive the vaccinations will result in your student being excluded from school.

## Pledge Camp

Howard County Police will offer a weeklong Pledge Camp. The purpose of the camp is to teach leadership, communication, teamwork, and decision-making skills, as they are essential for students in general and those entering high school. Camp enrollment and start dates are to be determined.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Department of Police, School Resource Officer Section at 410-313-6088 or Youth Section at 410-313-2613.



## Winter Weather



The winter weather is making its way and students should dress warmly for the colder weather. Please be sure to help the students remember their coats, a hat, pants, thermals, and some gloves as well as boots. This makes their time outside so much more enjoyable! Please note students are not able to wear coats in class but may wear light jackets and sweaters.

For more details on weather guidelines and recess procedures, please refer to page 33 in the HCPSS Student and Parent Handbook.

## Bright Minds and Comcast

Parents,

The Bright Minds Foundation and Comcast have partnered together to offer affordable Internet services.

Please see details in the attachment on how to apply for the Internet Essentials package. For more details visit <http://lems.hcpss.org/news/2016/12/brightminds-and-comcast>.



## School Store Donations Wanted

The school store at LEMS occurs every three weeks and gives students the opportunity to spend their eagle bucks, which are earned for following the school rules and displaying our **P.R.I.D.E.** (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, and Excellence) values. The school store is run solely on donations. If you would like to donate anything to the school store please provide the items to the Front Office and let them know that the item(s) are for the school store. Some items we would gladly accept are books, electronics, electronic accessories, games, toys, school supplies, and pretty much anything middle schoolers would like except food. If you have any questions please email







### **Early Dismissals**

Parents must report to the Front Office prior to proceeding to the Guidance Office to have student(s) called for early dismissal. A photo ID must be presented for you or the person picking up the student. Please note this procedure is mandatory for the safety and courtesy of our school staff and students. For more details, please refer to page 4 in the [HCPSS Student and Parent Handbook 2016-17](http://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/student-handbook/student-handbook.pdf) (<http://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/student-handbook/student-handbook.pdf>) as well as pages 24 in the LEMS Student Agenda/Handbook.

### **Emergency Cards**

Please stop by or contact the Guidance Office at 410-313-7635 to update your Emergency Card Information, today!

### **Student Absences and Attendance**

To report a student absence, please email [lemsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:lemsabsence@hcpss.org) or call Mrs. O'Connor in the Guidance Office at 410-313-7635. All notes must be submitted in person. All absences will be recorded and will be communicated via our school messenger system. For more details, please refer to page 4 in the [HCPSS Student and Parent Handbook 2016-17](http://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/student-handbook/student-handbook.pdf) as well as pages 24 in the LEMS Student Agenda/Handbook. Please note that due to the privacy and safety of your child and staff we are not able to verify attendance over the phone.

NOTE: *Parents may receive notifications on their child's attendance for (absentees and tardies) by subscribing to HCPSS Connect and select attendance notifications.*

### **Software Updates**

Please note HCPSS has fully migrated to using HCPSS Connect and Canvas early last school year. If you have any questions or need assistance with accessing your account, please contact Mrs. Woolls in the Guidance Office at 410-313-7635.

### **Mocha with Marty**

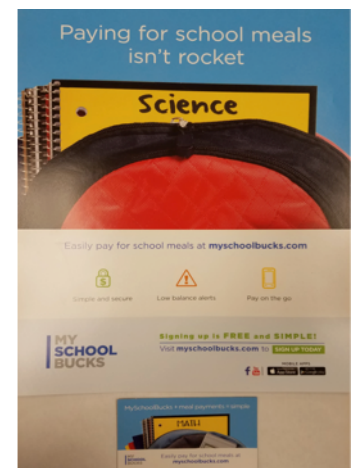
Every month, Principal Vandenberg sets aside time where parents/guardians have the opportunity to discuss various topics. We encourage your attendance and look forward to seeing you at the next scheduled time.

### **School Menu**

HCPSS students and their families can now view menus and nutrition and allergen information for meals served in all HCPSS schools through Nutrislice, a website and free smartphone app (Visit <http://hcpss.nutrislice.com/> for school lunch menu and <https://www.myschoolbucks.com> to reload student lunch accounts).

### **Online Payment for School Activities**

HCPSS has contracted with [Online School Payments, Inc. \(OSP\)](http://lems.hcpss.org/messages/online-school-purchases-osp-student-activities) (<http://lems.hcpss.org/messages/online-school-purchases-osp-student-activities>) in order to afford parents/guardians the ability to pay online for school activities that would otherwise have required payment by cash or check. OSP accepts credit and debit cards (Visa or MasterCard) through a secure web browser at



# COMMUNITY NEWS

For more updates, please visit <http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>

## **Winter 2017 edition of the Parent Pages – Howard County Government**

A newsletter designed for parents and families raising children in Howard County. Published by the Department's Office of Children and Families, the Winter issue contains articles about #OneHoward, activities to help your child become ready for kindergarten, behavior techniques for children and preparing your teens for life after high school. For more information please contact Lisa Rhodes, Family Engagement Specialist, 410-313-1440, or email [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

[Visit website](#)

## **Rock School – Drums, Keyboard/Vocals, Bass/Guitar-Howard County Government**

Are you ready to rock? Beginners and up, learn from professional working rock musicians while enhancing memory, self-expression, creativity and self-confidence. Instrumental sessions focus on instrument play, music theory and technique. Vocals class includes warm-up/warm-down exercises, proper breathing techniques. Bring your guitar/bass. Drums are available for use during class.(No class 2/17.) Schedule subject to change, visit [www.therockshopmd.com](http://www.therockshopmd.com). Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or [wbanks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:wbanks@howardcountymd.gov).

## **P.E.T. Club Kid Empowerment – Amazing Futures Foundation**

Winter 2017 classes begin end of Jan., after-school classes, grades 2 & 3, evening classes – Grades 2-5. Choose from 20+ HCPSS locations. Register at [www.smashingants.com](http://www.smashingants.com).

6 Classes/Session, \$159 (\$40 materials fee included). Questions: Michelle Schwelling, 410-292-2254 or [michelle@smashingants.com](mailto:michelle@smashingants.com).

## **Praxis® Math, Reading & Writing Test Prep – Howard Community College**

Are you a student teacher or a conditional teacher? Or are you looking to take the next step in your teaching career? Prepare for the Praxis math exam or the Praxis reading & writing exam for just over one hour per week at HCC's main campus in central Columbia. Praxis Core Review: Math Tests will be held on Mondays, Jan. 30 – Mar 20, 6 p.m.-7:20 p.m. Praxis Core Review: Reading & Writing Tests will be held on Wednesdays, Feb. 1- March 22, 6 p.m.-7:20 p.m. For more information, visit [the HCC website](#) or contact Kim Bohnet at 443-518-4982.

## **Howard County Diaper Bank – Howard County Government**

Donations are accepted Feb. 1-28, Howard County Library Systems branches, For questions please contact 410-313-CARE(2273) or [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov)

## **Joint Speaker Lunch – Brightminds Foundation**

Please register for the Brightminds and HCPSS Joint Speaker Lunch, register by Feb. 3, 2017

[www.brightmindsfoundation.org](http://www.brightmindsfoundation.org)

## **Intro to Piano/Piano II – Howard County Government**

Feb. 4, 12-1 p.m. and, 2-3 p.m., River Hill HS. Learn to play the piano in this introductory class. Play a variety of musical styles to gain confidence and develop musical skills. Learn and practice on your own keyboard.

Must have access to a keyboard to practice on outside class. (No class 2/18.) Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or [wbanks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:wbanks@howardcountymd.gov)

## **Dvorak and Ravel – The Columbia Orchestra**

Sat., Feb. 4, – 7:30 p.m., Jim Rouse Theatre, Columbia

The Bohemian flair and tuneful spirit of Dvořák are on full display in his sunny Eighth Symphony. Ravel's Concerto with its blend of Romanticism, Impressionism, and jazz is a perfect vehicle for talents of Rachel Franklin. We welcome Morgan State University composer James Lee III who celebrates Harriet Tubman by weaving the melodies and tumult of her time into a vividly cinematic score. Visit [columbiaorchestra.org/hcpss/](http://columbiaorchestra.org/hcpss/) for a special offer.

**European Dance Kaleidoscope – East West Cultural & Educational Center**

Performances by the Capathia Folk Dance Ensemble and Kalinka Dance Ensemble of Baltimore, Sun. Feb. 5, 3 p.m., Montgomery County Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave. Silver Spring, MD. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased at [Europeankaleidoscope.eventbrite.com](http://Europeankaleidoscope.eventbrite.com)

**Friendship Skills for School and Life Success – Howard County Government**

FREE, Social skills are at the top of the list of important school readiness skills. Parents can have a strong impact on their children's social/emotional development. Learn ways to intentionally impart this critical school and life skill. For parents of children 2-8 years old, Mon., Feb. 6, 6-8 p.m., Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center To Register Online, [www.howardcountymd.gov/familyinstitute](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/familyinstitute) or by phone (voice/relay): Call 410-313-1940

**Teen Parenting Strategies – Howard County Maryland**

Parenting a teen today can be extremely challenging and frustrating. Attend this workshop, Wed., Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m., Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center Classroom 9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD. Space is limited; pre-registration is required for Parents, Grandparents & Guardians. Registration Online [www.howardcountymd.gov/familyinstitute](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/familyinstitute) or By Phone (voice/relay): 410-313-1940.

**St. Louis Church**

Middle School CYM Fall Fun Friday Event, Fri., Feb. 10, 7-10 p.m., Cafeteria. Ticket Sales begin Wed., Feb. 1 and continue Feb., 2-3, Feb. 6-10, 9-4 p.m., PAC Building. For Information 410-531-6668 [psprinkle@stlouisparrish.org](mailto:psprinkle@stlouisparrish.org)

**Celebrating the written word – Howard County Poetry and Literature Society, HoCoPoLitSo**

Visit [HoCoPoLitSo.org](http://HoCoPoLitSo.org) to learn more about upcoming events such as the 39th Irish Evening with Belinda McKeon on Fri., Feb. 10, and the Blackbird Poetry Festival with Tyehimba Jess on Thurs., Apr. 27, Wilde Readings, with local poets & writers, take place on the second Tuesday of the month at the Columbia Art Center, Columbia, Md.

**Practice SAT Exam – Howard County Library**

Take a FREE practice SAT test with C2 Educational Centers. Return for your results and discuss test taking strategies, test options, and the college admissions timeline. Ages 13-19. Practice Test & Results Session will be held at the Glenwood Branch of Howard County Library System. Sat, Feb 11, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Results and strategies. Parents welcome.

Tue, Feb 14, 7-8 p.m. Registration required. Register: <https://goo.gl/zMXbRu>.

**Spring 2017 season – Girls on Run**

Registration for the Spring 2017 season of Girls on the Run opens Sun., Feb. 12, 12 p.m. Girls on the Run (3rd-5th grade) and Heart & Sole (6th-8th grade) teams meet at selected Howard County schools twice a week for 10 weeks starting Mar. 19. Girls on the Run programs combine training for a 3.1 mile run with lessons that build self-confidence, combat bullying, and encourage healthy lifestyles. The season concludes with a celebratory, non-competitive 5k run to be held on June 3, in Howard County, MD. Visit [www.gotrcentralmd.org](http://www.gotrcentralmd.org) to register, and for a complete list of locations, meeting days and times.

**Leadership U Class of 2017 Information Session – Leadership Howard County**

Leadership U is an exciting leadership, team building, and community service opportunity for current high school sophomores. Come to learn more and speak to some of our grads at our information session, Feb. 13 at Central Library or Mar. 2 at the Miller Library. All sessions are from 7-8 p.m. Parents and students are encouraged to attend. Additional information is available at [www.leadershiphc.org](http://www.leadershiphc.org) or email Meg Ignacio [mignacio@leadershiphc.org](mailto:mignacio@leadershiphc.org). Applications are due Mar. 16, 2017.

**HoCo FilmFest – Howard County Drug Free**

HC DrugFree is partnering with the student-run HoCo Film Festival and looking for film-savvy teens to create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) focusing on alcohol/drug free alternatives to dealing with stress. PSAs will be shared across Howard County. The 2017 HoCo Film Festival will be held on Fri., Mar. 10, 7 p.m. at the Charles E. Miller Library in Ellicott City. The deadline for films will be 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 18. For additional guidelines and information, contact Admin@hcdrugfree.org or visit HC DrugFree's website at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/hoco-filmfest/>



**After school cheerleading, SuperSquads**

Begins mid-Feb., practice once a week. Learn cheers, dance, tumbling, jumps, stunts & more plus perform! Register at [www.supersquads.org](http://www.supersquads.org), [supersquadsinfo@verizon.net](mailto:supersquadsinfo@verizon.net) or 410-796-2244.

**Summer Journalism Program – Princeton University**

An all-expenses-paid journalism and college preparation program, Princeton University for high school juniors from low-income backgrounds. In this program, students learn reporting skills from celebrated journalists, report and write their own newspaper, and are paired with a counselor who oversees their college admissions process. Our application process for the 2017 summer is now open. The application can be found at [www.princeton.edu/sjp/](http://www.princeton.edu/sjp/) and is due at 11:59 p.m. EST on Fri., Feb. 24, 2017.

**Women in Engineering Dream Conference – University of Maryland**

Registration is open for students, adults, and volunteers for the 9th annual Women in Engineering (WIE) DREAM Conference. Sat., Feb. 25, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Adele H. Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park. For more information and to REGISTER, please visit <http://www.wie.umd.edu/k12/dream-conference>

**Pancake Supper – St. Andrew Church**

Pancake Supper at St Andrew's Glenwood Episcopal Church, Rt. 97, Glenwood MD, Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m. 410-489-4035.

**Study Skills Classes – Healing Dimensions Foundation, Stressless Test**

Now is the time to register for the Healing Dimensions Foundation's Stressless Tests. The next class starts Mar. 7. The basic fee is just \$165.00 including the textbook. A payment plan is available at no extra cost. To register or read more information, you can email Betty at [Bcaldwell202@gmail.com](mailto:Bcaldwell202@gmail.com) or go to <http://www.stresslesstests.org/>

**Silas Craft Dinner – Howard Community College**

The Howard Community College Educational Foundation cordially invite you to the annual Silas Craft Collegians Dinner to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment and program. The Chinese dinner buffet will be served continuously from 5-8 p.m. on Mon., Mar. 13, 7091 Deepage Drive in Columbia. Tickets are \$45 per person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Development Office at Howard Community College, 443-518-1970 or visit [www.howardcc.edu/sccathunan](http://www.howardcc.edu/sccathunan)

**Young Peoples Concert – The Columbia Orchestra**

Young People's Concerts, Sat., Mar. 18, 10:30 a.m., & 1 p.m. The Jim Rouse Theatre, Columbia  
Narrator Greg Jukes and the dancers from Dance Connections join us for Prokofiev's immortal Peter and the Wolf along with music from Harry Potter and Stravinsky's Firebird. Children of all ages will enjoy this fun-filled introduction to the orchestra. Choose either the 10:30 or 1:00 concert and try your hand at playing instruments between the two performances at our free Musical Instrument Petting Zoo! 11 & under: Free; 12 & older: \$15. Visit [www.columbiaorchestra.org](http://www.columbiaorchestra.org) or call 410-465-8777.

**Spring Break Camp – Soccer Association of Columbia**

Spring Break Camp scheduled for the week of April 10-14. Both full and half-day sessions are offered. SAC also offers extended care from 4-6 p.m. for an additional fee. Contact [asksac@sac-hc.org](mailto:asksac@sac-hc.org).

**SAC Juniors Program – Soccer Association of Columbia**

Fun-filled introduction to Soccer, SAC offers six, one-hour weekday or weekend sessions for ages 3-4 throughout the year in Howard County. Players receive an Under Armour jersey. Topics include body awareness, agility, balance and ball control. Contact [asksac@sac-hc.org](mailto:asksac@sac-hc.org).

**Foundation Program – Ellicott City Soccer Club**

Our academies will provide a fun, challenging and age-appropriate training environment where players will develop the skills and techniques needed to become a successful soccer player. Our program is for player's ages 3-12 years old, and will meet Wed. and Sat. for a total of 12 sessions. The program starts on Apr. 6.

**FREE ‘Birth Year’ Soccer Clinic – Ellicott City Soccer Club**

April 26, We will offer a FREE clinic 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Rockburn Park for players born in the years 2005-2009.

**FREE Special Needs Program – Ellicott City Soccer Club**

Do you know a child with special needs who would love to meet new friends, exercise, and learn to play soccer? Ellicott City Soccer Club offers a FREE program that helps further develop youth physically, mentally and emotionally by bringing the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, who has an intellectual or physical disability.

**Spring 2017 Soccer Programs – Soccer Association of Columbia**

Spring 2017 season for the Clinic, Recreational and Recreational High School programs. Leagues are open to players with birth years from 1998 to 2012. Gender based teams meet for eight weeks beginning in April. Go to [sackick.com](http://sackick.com) to register.

**Young Entrepreneurs’s – Le’Chic Academy Foundation**

Invites students, ages 5-18, to participate in our annual Young Entrepreneur’s “Biz Kidz” Business Startup Workshop, Vendor Outdoor Market Day, “Dress For Success” Fashion Show and Award Reception (June 3-4, 2017). For online registration and detailed information, please call 410.530.4876 or visit

[www.lechicacademy.com](http://www.lechicacademy.com)