



Lake Elkhorn Middle School

NEWSLETTER

S E P T E M B E R 3 0 , 2 0 1 6

Message from the Principal

Greetings, Lake Elkhorn families:

It was so nice to see the large number of parents who came to Back to Music Night! We are excited to see how our students will grow as musicians this year. Thank you to Ms. Bilal, Mr. Rea, and Ms. Retterer for organizing and leading the event.

I am very pleased to share a couple of good news items with you. First, although PARCC scores statewide stayed relatively stagnant, this was not the case at LEMS. The percentage of students who achieved "college and career readiness" status increased by 5% in English and 4.3% in math. We are very proud of the effort the students made to meet the high expectations our teachers are setting. In other news, one of our students, a former student and a parent appeared on WBAL-TV news recently. Check out the piece here: <http://www.wbal.com/news/boy-scout-troop-receives-ravens-honor-rows-recognition/41884222>

Please make sure to update your emergency information on Family File through HCPSS Connect (<http://www.hcpss.org/connect>). Forty-eight percent of our families have updated family file this year. Please check to make sure yours is updated. It takes ten minutes or less to complete. Feel free to call the school to double check if you are not sure. Thanks!

If you are a parent of a sixth grader, please ask your son or daughter about Outdoor Education at North Bay! Information was distributed to each 6th grade student and the deadline for payment and permission slips is coming soon! I would like for all 6th graders to attend. If you have any questions, please call us or email the 6th grade team leader (tracey_bailey@hcpss.org).

Finally, as we move to the midpoint of the first marking period, I want to encourage students and parents to make sure that you are using Canvas often to complete and submit assignments, use the resources available, and keep tabs on grades. Teachers have asked me to share a reminder to check agenda books for homework and to encourage students to study for tests and quizzes, also.

With Eagle PRIDE,

Martin Vandenberg
Principal

Save the Date!

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| Oct. 3 | Schools and offices closed |
| Oct. 12 | Schools and offices closed |
| Oct. 13 | PTSA Monthly Meeting @ 6:30 pm |
| Oct. 17 | Dental Clinic |
| Oct. 18 | Flu Clinic |
| Oct. 27 | 6 th Grade Outdoor Ed Parent Chaperone Meeting @ OMMS 6:30 pm |
| Oct. 31 | Professional Learning Day – School closed for students |



Volunteers Needed

If you or someone you know has FREE time with a flexible schedule, please contact the LEMS Front Office. Our Media Center is looking for a few volunteers to assist as needed throughout the school year.



Mocha with Marty

The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2016 at 9 am and the 1st Monday of every month.

Reminder: Eagles Basketball Begins!

Each year our school runs an Intramural program AND a Team Basketball Program during the fall and winter months. Eagles Basketball is a great way for our boys AND girls to learn the game and have fun. Students will tryout and be selected for Team Basketball. If they are not selected for Team Basketball, they are invited to play in our Intramural program which continues for 9 weeks on Fridays.

Tryout dates for Team Basketball are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

Tuesday, October 4/ Wednesday, October 5
Tuesday, October 11/ Wednesday, October 12

(PLEASE NOTE: There is a fee of \$70 for returning players to Team Basketball and \$100 for new players. Fee goes for league play, uniforms, and equipment)



For any questions, please contact **Ms. Valentine, Mr. Jerome Jefferson, or Officer Cliff Macer.**

Back to Music Night

The LEMS Music Department wishes to give a big thank you to all who came out for Back to Music Night. We had a great turnout of parents, as well as some awesome student performances! If you were unable to make it out and you have questions regarding your child's music ensemble, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Retterer, Mrs. Bilal or Mr. Rea.



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 Michelle_Dugan@hcpss.org.



Health Room
News & Information

October 17, 2016- Dental Clinic (offered by Chase Brexton) More information to come.

October 18, 2016- Flu Shot Clinic (offered by Maryland Partnership for Prevention) Please check all student's backpacks for consent forms and information pertaining to the flu shot offered to all students!!!



LEMS Scholars After-School Program

The LEMS Scholars Afterschool Program begins on October 4 - May 11 from 3 pm to 5 pm. There is still space available if interested.

If you are interested in signing your student up for the program, please stop by the Front Office to pick up a form today! All forms must be turned in and reviewed before the student may begin. The program is FREE of charge.



The Lake Elkhorn Middle School Scholars Afterschool Program is designed to provide students with academic support in the forms of instruction and homework assistance as well as exposing students to enrichment opportunities that tap into their natural talents. Students participate in Homework Club or Reading/Math Support for the first hour. The second hour is designed for students to experience things that they select. The LEMS Scholars Program offers a wide range of activities for students to enjoy and explore activities of interest.



If you have any questions please contact Ms. Waters at Erica.Waters@hcpss.org or Mrs. Glenn at Stacey.Glenn@hcpss.org for

Reminder: Testing Dates

Please note the testing schedule for this school year.

Testing Dates 2016-2017

Test	Who?	Test Date	Time/Period
MAP – Fall	All students	10/4-5 – 8 th grade 10/6-7 – 7 th grade 10/10-11 – 6 th grade Make-ups in the afternoon each day	8:15 – 9:47
Gallup Student Poll (GSP)	All students	10/13 – 10/20	ELA classes
MAP - Winter	All students	1/9-10 – 8 th grade 1/11-12 – 7 th grade 1/18-19 – 6 th grade Make-ups in the afternoon each day	9:48 – 11:33 12:10 – 1:50 11:15 – 12:55
MSAA	ALS Students	3/13 – 5/20	TBD
ACCESS	ELL students	1/8 – 2/17	TBD
PARCC	All students	4/25- 5/12	TBD
MSA Science	8 th Grade Students	3/13 – 3/24	TBD
MAP - Spring	All students	5/15-16 – 8 th grade 5/17-18 – 7 th grade 5/23-24 – 6 th grade	TBD TBD TBD
ALT MSA Science	ALS Students	10/28 – 3/2	TBD



Early Dismissals

Parents must report to the Front Office prior to proceeding to the Guidance Office to have student(s) called for early dismissal. 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 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://www.osp.com) (<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 your convenience, 24 hours a day. You can even use your iPhone or tablet!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Last Modified 9/14/16

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

Election Judge-Howard County Board of Elections

Sign up to work as an election judge! Earn \$195.00, meet new people, and participate in the American democratic process. The Judge Department, Howard County Board of Elections, 410-313-5820, dawn.sinclair@maryland.gov.

Volunteer Opportunities-Food on the 15th

We offer volunteer opportunities for students, they must be supervised by their parent or guardian. Students receive community service hours for volunteering. We collect, sort and deliver free non-perishable groceries directly to low-income Howard County senior citizens. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at www.foodonthe15th.org/. To volunteer, e-mail us at foodonthe15th@gmail.com

Boy Scouts weekly meetings-Boy Scouts of Central Maryland

Come to one of our weekly Wednesday night meetings 7-8:30 p.m., at Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City. If interested, please contact Eileen Gattis at 410-740-0155 or email Eileen.gattis@gmail.com.

Kid Empowerment – Smashing ANTs, Amazing Futures Foundation

Fall 2016 classes begin mid-October, After-School Classes – Grades 2 & 3, Evening Classes – Grades 2 – 5

Choose from 20+ HCPSS locations. Register at www.smashingants.com

6 Classes/Session (Classes now 1½ hours each – 9 hours total), \$159

Questions: Michelle Schwelling, 410-292-2254 or michelle@smashingants.com

Social Media Workshop-Howard County Government

There's an APP for That Parent Workshop, **Thurs., Sept. 29, 6-8 p.m.**, Bain 50+ Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD. Workshop is designed for parents and guardians only. Registration: 410-313-1440 or www.howardcountymd.gov/familyinstitute. Information: Lisa Rhodes, 410-313-1440 or lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov.

Free concert – Columbia Festival of the Arts

Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m., Columbia Lakefront. Bring your blanket, lawn chairs and enjoy. www.columbiafestival.org

The Great Snipe Hunt- Howard County Government

Sat., Oct. 1, 7-9 p.m., Come gather around the campfire; take a hayride through the woods; and hear a story about the infamous, hard-to-catch Snipe. Bring a flashlight for this catch-and-release event, register by Sept. 29, at 410-313-7275.

Fall Festival- Howard County Conservancy

Sun., Oct. 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Howard County Conservancy.

HCPSS Alumni Association- Brightminds

Interested in joining a district wide HCPSS Alumni Association? The Bright Minds Foundation is seeking volunteers to be part of a task force to help create one. A preliminary survey and feasibility study has been completed by a team from the 2016 Howard County Leadership Essentials class and will be used as a starting off point. We will hold our first meeting **on Oct. 5**, 4 p.m., Department of Education building.

To participate, send your contact information to Pat Sasse at pat@brightmindsfoundation.org to receive an invitation and agenda.

STEM Day-Cub Scouts Pack 1111

Meetings are Thursdays and are open to boys in grades 1-5, **Oct. 1, Fall Camping at Calvert Cliffs Oct. 7-9 and Pack meeting Oct. 20**. Email elkridge@gmail.com for more information.

Oakland Mills Fall Festival-Oakland Mills Village Center

Sat., Oct. 8, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m., bring your family, friends, and neighbors, rain or shine. For schedule of events and details, call 410-730-4610.

Open House-University of Maryland

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) **Open House is on Sat., Oct. 8, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, Central Maryland Research and Education Center – Clarksville Facility, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. For more information, visit <http://agnr.umd.edu/openhouse> or contact Cindy Mason at cmason@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 x350.

Beethoven and Saint-Saëns-Columbia Orchestra

Sat, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. Jim Rouse Theatre

Young American composer Adam Schoenberg offers a 3-minute thrill ride to kick off our 39th season opener. Visit columbiaorchestra.org

Women in Engineering – Girl Scouts

Girl scout **Sat., Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**, University of Maryland, College Park Computer Science Instructional Center, 8169 Paint Branch Dr., College Park, MD. For more information, please contact Julia Anderson by email at jander03@umd.edu or by phone at 301-405-0315.

Board of Education Candidates' Forum- Villages of Columbia

The ten Villages of Columbia will sponsor a Board of Education Candidate's Forum for the six candidates running for the Howard County Public Schools Board of Education. The forum will be held on Thurs., Oct. 13, 7 p.m., The Other Barn, Oakland Mills Community Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD.

Sponsoring villages include Oakland Mills, Dorsey's Search, Harpers Choice, Hickory Ridge, Kings Contrivance, Long Reach, Owen Brown, River Hill, Town Center and Wilde Lake.

Family Matters, Strengthening families in Unsettling Times- Columbia Association

Oct. 15, this day long conference will uncover the day to day stressors and realities that threaten the stability and health of families created from Domestic and teen violence. Chisha Johnson, CEO and President of the Jacaranda Center will help answer the tough questions. To learn more or register for the workshop call 410-674-4604 or info@thejacarandacenter.org

Chamber Concert One-Columbia Orchestra

Piano Trio Sun., Oct. 23, 3 p.m., Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

Tickets for adults ages 18 and up are \$5 each and will be sold only at the door.

Basic Course-NAMI Howard County

Parents of school-aged children, Basics Course beginning **Mon., Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m.** NAMI Basics is a six-week education program for parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents living with mental illness that provides resources and practical insights for families. It is offered at no cost to participants. Please call 410-772-9300 to sign up.

Women in Engineering-Girl Scouts

Sat., Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., University of Maryland, College Park Computer Science Instructional Center, 8169 Paint Branch Dr., College Park, MD

For more information, please contact Julia Anderson by email at jander03@umd.edu or by phone at 301-405-0315. For elementary and middle school students.

STEM Shark Tank Competition and Biz Kidz Fair-Le'Chic Academy Foundation

Le'Chic Academy Foundation invites boys and girls (Ages 5-18), to participate in our annual Young Entrepreneurs Shark Tank Competition (**Oct. 8, from 12-3:00 p.m.**) and "Biz Kidz" Vendor Exhibit Fair (**Nov. 5, from 12-3 p.m.**) For online registration and detailed information, please call 410-530-4876 or visit www.lechicacademy.com.

Mental Health Film Festival-Horizon Foundation

Tues., Oct. 25, 5:30-8 p.m. at UA Snowden Square Stadium in Columbia

Get your tickets for this free event that aims to build awareness and compassion for members of our community facing mental health challenges. Choose from one of four films, each followed by a panel discussion <http://bit.ly/HCMHFFfler>.