



Lake Elkhorn Middle School

NEWSLETTER

N O V E M B E R 1 1 , 2 0 1 6

Message from the Principal

Greetings, Lake Elkhorn families:

Congratulations to the 200 students who made the honor roll for the first marking period! On Tuesday, November 15, students will calculate their grade point average (GPA) during Advisory, when they will also receive their report cards. Before you proudly display the report card on the refrigerator, ask your student about their GPA.

This afternoon, sixth grade students returned from their Outdoor Education experience at North Bay. Feel free to ask them about vultures, deer scat, beavers, and fungi, in addition to bravely maneuvering a high ropes course and the "big swing". They will sleep well tonight! We appreciate the support from the Howard County Board of Education and our Superintendent, who funded a large portion of the trip, which allows us to enjoy the overnight experience.

I am happy to share with you that the LEMS website (<http://lems.hcpss.org>) has been upgraded and updated to provide you with the latest information. I am proud to say that we are one of the only middle schools who have students contribute to the site, and they do a fantastic job!

Here are some upcoming items of business:

- You are welcome to visit during American Education Week, which is November 14-18.
- Please sign up for parent conferences, which will be held November 21-23.
- Please be on the lookout for Federal Aid Forms, which are being distributed to students on Monday, November 14. These forms are required to be completed by parents and returned to school by Friday, November 18.
- The next PTSA meeting will be held Tuesday night, November 15, in the media center at 6:30 pm.

With Eagle PRIDE,

Martin Vandenberg
Principal

Save the Date!

Nov. 9-11	Grade 6 Outdoor Education trip to Northbay
Nov. 14	Mocha with Marty
Nov. 14-18	American Education Week
Nov. 15	PTSA Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Nov. 16	String-a-palooza @ 7:00 pm
Nov. 21	Turkey Trot
Nov. 21-23	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 24-25	Schools Closed for Thanks Giving Holiday
Dec. 21-22	Winter Music Concerts



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.

Sign up for Parent Conferences opens Thurs. Nov. 10th

Conference dates and time:

November 21st : 12:30-4:15 PM, 5:30-08:00 PM

November 22nd : 12:30- 6:00 PM

November 23rd : Some teachers may be available- please check for their availability on Canvas.

Sign-Up Begins on Thursday, Nov. 10th @ 9:00 a.m.

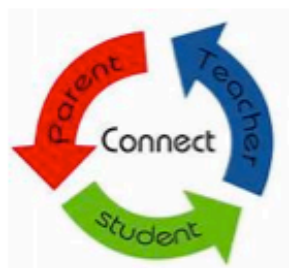
HCPSS will be using Synergy Conference Management to schedule parent-teacher conferences. Synergy Conference Management provides a simple user interface and easy navigation. Starting 11/10/16 at 9:00 a.m., parents can log into HCPSS Connect to view and select from the time slots provided by their child's teacher for the conference. Conference scheduling will close at 4:00 p.m. on 11/18/16. See directions below. Please contact the Guidance office at 410-313-7635 if you have any questions.

1. Log into [HCPSS Connect](#).
2. In the Navigation Panel, select Conference. The Conference Summary page will display showing any conference history.
3. Click the Parent Conferences link in the top right corner to schedule conferences.
4. Select a time option for each class listed. The conference will be saved automatically. Once you select a time option, all other time options for that class will become unavailable.
5. To select a different time option, clear the first checkbox and select a new option.
6. If you have more than one child, select the next child in the banner across the top.
NOTE: Keep in mind the conference times you selected for your first child when selecting conference times for any additional children.

Change Conference Times

1. In the Navigation Panel, select Conference. The Conference Summary page will display showing any conference history.
2. Click the Parent Conferences link in the top right corner to schedule conferences.

Note: We are asking that you limit your conference requests to 4 teachers during this Conference Week. You may schedule a phone conference with any additional teachers or schedule a meeting through the Guidance Secretary for the following week. **Help:** estelle_oconnor@hcpss.org



8th Grade Field Trip to Washington, DC
...As told by Kevin Jeudy, 8th Grade

On Wednesday, November 2nd 2016, the Eighth grade at Lake Elkhorn Middle School went on a field trip to Washington D.C, to explore four of the many museums that the District of Columbia has to offer. The purpose of the trip was to view primary sources in history at the Smithsonian Museums. Their choices were the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, the National Air and Space Museum, and the National Museum of the American Indian. The students had the choice of going to any of the museums in any order they wanted. Many chose to go to the Museum of Natural History first.

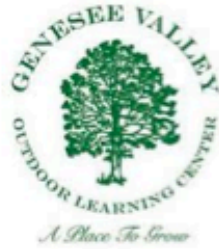
In my group we decided to go in order of distance. We first went to the American History Museum, then the Natural History Museum, then finally the Air and Space Museum. In the first museum we explored the basement, and found out about early computers and rare U.S. mint like a \$100,000 bill. In the next, we had lunch and explored the mysteries of Earth's oceans and the cultures of African tribes. In the Air and Space we explored the planets and all sorts of space and aircrafts which were used in decades past. Also, we were definitely not doing dares or pranks... Definitely. Overall, this field trip was a fun and enriching experience and I would absolutely go again given the chance.

**Mocha with Marty**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2016 at 9 am and the 1st Monday of every month.

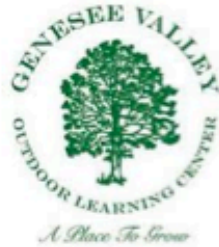
Ladies First Visit to Genesee Valley

The Field trip on Monday was about interacting with your girls and they with each other in another setting. Facing challenges, team and leadership building is the goal. Each year we are blessed to meet a group of awesome young ladies that are full of great potential. Each one comes with a hidden treasure inside that they have yet to tap into. Each year we are blessed to have a group of awesome women as mentors willing to give them a treasure from within themselves.



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2016-2017 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

ESSAY CONTEST

ESSAY QUESTION

**"DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
HAD A DREAM.....
WHAT IS YOURS?"**

STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO WRITE AN ESSAY ABOUT THEIR OWN DREAMS
FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY AND A BETTER WORLD AND WHY
THEY ENVISION THEMSELVES DOING.



CONTEST RULES

- Must be Howard County middle school or high school student.
- Essays must be typed, double spaced and in the Microsoft word format.
- Include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, name of school and grade.
- Essays must be submitted individually.
- Winners will be notified by email and mail.
- Middle school essays must be 300 to 750 words.
- High school essays must be 750 to 1000 words.
- Essays will be judged on content, connection to Dr. King's work, spelling, grammar and sentence structure.
- Students with disabilities may submit essays using other media, poems, pictures, etc. Include the student's name, address, telephone and school.

PRIZES

High School Students: 1st place-\$200 2nd place-\$200 3rd place-\$100
Middle School Students: 1st place-\$200 2nd place-\$100 3rd place-\$100
Prizes will be awarded at MLK celebration, Sunday, 2:00 PM, January 16, 2017
at Long Reach High School.

DEADLINE

Essays must be submitted via email by 5:00 PM, November 11, 2016 to
admissions@hccps.org
Winners' names and schools will be posted on the Howard
County MLK webpage at [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/
Human-Rights/Boards-and-Commissions/Contests](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Human-Rights/Boards-and-Commissions/Contests)
Questions: Fishem (she), Office of Human Rights (410) 313-6467 or email fishem@howardcountymd.gov

For more information, please visit <http://lems.hcps.org/news/2016/11/martin-luther-king-jr-essay-contest-deadline-extended-to-122> for more information and official contest rules.

Deadline to submit essay has been extended to December 2nd at 5pm.



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.

Reminder!

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!

attendance
MATTERS

hcpss
connect

 Synergy
Education Platform



Drawing Techniques – Howard County Government

Roger Carter Community Center, Nov 5, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Strengthen your drawing skills as you focus on different media including graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, pastels and watercolor pencils. Techniques include modeling, color transitions, gesture style, blending and wet-on-dry. Materials are provided but you are encouraged to bring a sketchbook. (No class 11/26.) Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or wbanks@howardcountymd.gov

Animal Stories – The Howard County Conservancy

Animal Stories: From Heroic Pups to Imperiled Pandas and Macaques with Jennifer Holland,

Thurs., Nov. 10, 5 p.m., 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, MD.
hccconservancy.org/upcoming-events.

Sister Cities Summer 2017 High School Student Exchange – Columbia Association

Interested in traveling to Cergy-Pontoise, France or Tres Cantos, Spain this summer? Students studying French or Spanish, level III or above, have the opportunity through Columbia Association's Sister Cities program to spend two weeks with a French or Spanish host family, then host a French or Spanish teen for two weeks upon returning home. Program fee: \$700 for Columbia residents, \$850 non-Columbia residents, plus airfare. Information sessions will be held on Nov 10, Nov 30, and Dec 8 at CA headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, Columbia 21046. For more information, visit ColumbiaAssociation.org/TeenExchange or contact Laura Smit 410-715-3162 or International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Lively Arts for Little Ones – The Other Barn

Kidsinger Jim, Fri., Nov. 11, 10 a.m., at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia.

A "POSITIVE-ly Fun Rock Concert. It is all about Kidsinger Jim's signature performance will have you singing through original songs about nutrition, physical fitness, reading and so much more.

Tickets are \$5.00 (ages 2 and up). To purchase, visit The Other Barn, visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2564668>, or buy at the door. For more information, call 410-730-4610.

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. Our next delivery date is Sat., Nov. 12, 11 a.m., in Ellicott City. We have 10 volunteer slots available. To volunteer, e-mail us at foodonthe15th@gmail.com

To learn more about what we do, visit our website at www.foodonthe15th.org/

Voice-Overs – Howard Community College

Now is Your Time – Have you been told you have a unique speaking voice? Join Dan Levine to explore the possibilities of breaking into the voiceover business, a lucrative and entrepreneurial opportunity. Offered at HCC's Gateway Campus on Sat., Nov. 12, from 1:30-4 p.m. or the Laurel College Center on Sat., Nov. 12 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.howardec.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/index.html> or call Rosemary Muir at 443 518-4404.

Teen Advisory Council – HC DrugFree

HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council is open to all Howard County high school students and community service hours are available. The next meeting will be on Mon., Nov. 14- 5:30-7 p.m. at The Barn (Teen Center) in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Free pizza provided. Teens need to RSVP to admin@hcdrugfree.org.

Study Skills Classes – Healing Dimensions Foundation/ Stressless Test

Now is the time to register, the combined Middle School and High School classes start Nov., 15, meeting for four Tues. evenings at Burleigh Manor Middle School, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The basic fee is just \$165.00 including the textbook. A payment plan available at no extra cost. To register or read more information, you can email Betty at Bealdwel1202@gmail.com or go to <http://www.stresslesstests.org/>.

Teen Opportunities Fair – Howard County Government

11-17 yrs, Long Reach HS. Connect with other teens through leadership, volunteer and recreational programs.

Info: Holly Harden, 410-313-4625 or harden@howardcountymd.gov

Nov 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., \$40 (Business Exhibitor), Nov 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20 (Non-Profit Organization).

Food Pantry – The Glenelg United Methodist Church

Open every 3rd Sat. of the month, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Upcoming dates: Nov. 19; Dec. 17; Jan. 21; Feb. 18; Mar. 18; Apr. 15; May 20; June17; July 15 and Aug. 19. Glenelg United Methodist Church, 13900 Burntwoods Road, Glenelg, MD, 410-489-7260, glenelgumcpantry@gmail.com

Speaking for Success – Howard Community College

Impromptu Speaking Skills – Practice preparation, delivery and impromptu speaking skills in this informative, entertaining course. Whether you are a novice or an experienced presenter, this one day class will improve your confidence and skills. Offered at HCC's Gateway Campus on Sat., Nov. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.howardcc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/index.html> or call Rosemary Muir at 443-518-4404.

Floral Design, Thanksgiving Centerpiece – Howard Community College

Create a unique centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table. Class is taught by a professional designer and in addition to a finished product, you will learn other floral design skills. Offered at Centennial High School on Tues., Nov. 22, 7-9 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.howardcc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/index.html> or call Rosemary Muir at 443 518-4404.

Babysitting Fundamentals

11-14 yrs, Wilde Lake MS, Nov 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Course emphasizes child development, safety, security, first aid, understanding, patience, and other necessary skills. Class includes intro to hands-only CPR & AED, but does not include CPR certification. Registrants must be at least 11 years old by the first class. Receive a certificate upon course completion.

Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or wbanks@howardcountymd.gov