



Lake Elkhorn Middle School

NEWSLETTER

D E C E M B E R 9 , 2 0 1 6

Message from the Principal

Greetings, Lake Elkhorn families:

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago. That's why this week our entire school joined in on the largest education event in history: The Hour of Code. During Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 5-11), our students were amongst over 2 million worldwide spending one hour learning the basics.

Your input is needed on school start times. I want to make sure that Lake Elkhorn parents and students have a say in this decision that will impact our community. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so at this link: <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/opening-and-closing-times/committee/next-steps/>

Finally, please remind students to bring coats to school, leave them in their lockers until lunch time, return them to lockers after recess, and bring them home each day. We want students to be warm outside, but do not permit coats, hats and hoods to be on inside the building. Incidentally, if they are missing a coat, have them check the lost and found as more items have accumulated since the purge at Thanksgiving.

With Eagle PRIDE,

Martin Vandenberg
Principal



Save the Date!

Dec. 21	7:00pm @ OMHS—6th Grade Treble Choir, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra
Dec. 22	7:00pm @ OMHS—7th & 8th Grade Concert Choir, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Last day of school before Winter Break
Jan. 2	Students return to school
Jan. 9	Mocha with Marty @ 9:00 am in the Media Center
Jan. 16	Schools and offices closed
Jan. 26	Last day of the 2nd quarter, schools close 3 hours early
Jan. 27	Schools closed for students
Feb. 3	Report cards issued



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

Mocha with Marty

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2017 at 9 am in the Media Center.



Electives Fair

Attention Parents/Guardians of 8th graders attending Oakland Mills High School next year:

OMHS will host an 8th grade parent orientation and Electives Fair on **Thursday, January 12th**. More information to come!



Ben Carson Scholarship

Time is running out!

Nominate a student by 5pm ET, Wednesday, December 21, 2016!

- Do you know a student at your school who deserves a \$1,000 college scholarship?
- Are they in grades 4-11?
- Do they have at least a 3.75 GPA and humanitarian qualities?

More details can be found by visiting

<http://lems.hcpss.org/news/2016/12/ben-carson-scholarship-1221>.



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.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Brights 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>



to everyone that assisted in various activities:

Northbay
Turkey Trot
Smithsonian Museums
American Education Week
String-A-Palooza
Ladies First (Genesee Valley and the Applied Research Lab)
Medieval Times



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

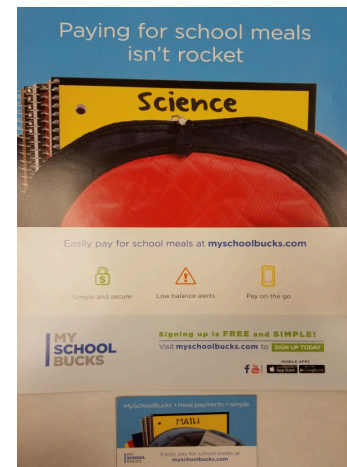
Every month, Principal Vandenberg sets aside time where parents/guardians have the opportunity to discuss various topics. We encourage your attendance and look forward to seeing you at the next scheduled time.

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

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

Volunteers-National Institute of Mental Health

Currently seeking healthy volunteers, 5-25 years old to participate in the study. Brain Imaging of Childhood Onset Psychiatric Disorders, Endocrine Disorders and Healthy Volunteers. Compensation is provided. More information: contact Jonathan Blumenthal, MA at jb364e@nih.gov or 301-435-4516. Read about the study at <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/labs-at-nimh/join-a-study/trials/healthy-volunteers-89-m-0006.shtml>

School's Out Rock Climbing & Swimming – Howard County Government

Build confidence and make new friends while participating in rock climbing and team building games, then relax in our indoor pool, ages 9-13, no experience necessary. Full details available at howardcountymd.gov/adventure.

Teen Advisory Council – HC DrugFree

Teen Advisory Council is open to all Howard County high school students and community service hours are available. The next two meetings will be on Mon., Dec. 12 and Mon., Jan. 9, 5:30-7 p.m. at The Barn (Teen Center) in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Free pizza provided. Teens need to complete the 2016-17 online registration form and RSVP to admin@hcdrugfree.org.

Cell Phone and Tablet Photography – Howard Community College

Take your selfies to a whole other level. Professional photographer Walt Calahan will give tips, practice and critique on photographic elements to let you create the best memorable images. Offered on Sat., Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., in room 165 in the Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center at HCC. For more information visit [HCC's site](#) or call Rosemary Muir at 443 518-4404.

CA's Tema Sister City Summer 2017 Exchange Program – Columbia Association

Students in grades 10-12 interested in spending two weeks with a host family in Tema, Ghana then host their partner, Ghanaian teen for two weeks upon returning to the US are invited to attend one of three information sessions held on Dec 13, Jan 4 from 7-8:30 p.m., at CA headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, Columbia. Program fee: \$700 for CA residents, \$850 for non-CA residents, plus airfare (approximately \$1400-\$1600). For more information, contact Laura Smit at International@ColumbiaAssociation.org

How to Pay for College – Office of Congressman Elijah Cummings

Congressman Elijah Cummings' 20th Annual How to pay for college seminar.

Monday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m., Coppin State University Physical Education Complex 2523 Gwynns Falls Parkway Baltimore, Maryland. Students and parents can RSVP by calling the Office of Congressman Elijah Cummings at (410) 685-9199 or rsvp online at www.cummings.house.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Philisha Lane at (410) 685-9199 or Philisha.Lane@mail.house.gov

Floral Design, Holiday Wreath – Howard Community College

No store bought wreaths for you, create your own decoration, assisted by a professional floral designer. Have the best looking door on the street. Offered at Centennial High School on Tues., Dec. 13, 7-9 p.m. To register, visit [HCC's site](#) or call Rosemary Muir at 443 518-4404.

Winter Camp at The Rock Shop – Recreation and Parks

Be a rock star for a week, Learn vocals, guitar, bass and keyboards from real rock musicians. Morning clinics in musicianship, equipment knowledge, marketing and promotion are followed by afternoon lessons and rehearsals. Camp culminates with a live performance on Friday for parents and friends. Guitar and bass students should have electric instruments. Keyboards and drums provided. Drummers, bring drum sticks and practice pad. Supplies and learning books provided. Bring a nut-free lunch and beverage. Registration: 410-313-7275. Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or wbanks@howardcountymd.gov.

- The Rock Shop, ages 6-10, Dec. 26-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., M-F, \$299
- The Rock Shop, ages 11-19, Dec. 26-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., M-F, \$299

Volleyball Classes – Howard County Recreation and Parks Department

Volleyball classes and leagues for all ages and skill levels starting this Jan., you can view all of the programs and get more info at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/volleyball>. For questions, please contact Carson Nickell at cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4720. To register, call 410-313-7275. Sign up now to reserve your space.

Preschool Open House – Mount Zion Christian

Preschool open house & registration, Mount Zion Christian Preschool in Highland offers morning classes for children 2 to 5 years old, including a Pre-K class, Registration for the 2017-2018 school year starting soon. Please join us for an Open House on Jan. 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m. to meet our teachers and see the preschool classrooms. Children are welcome. Call the preschool office at 301-854-2387 for more information.

www.mtzionhighland.com/preschool Phone: 301-854-2387

Email: mcps@verizon.net

Hip Hop Dance – Howard County Government

Roger Carter Community Center, Jan 21, 5-6 p.m.

During this fast-paced, high-energy class, focus on choreography, perfect your skills and learn hip-hop, popping and break dancing techniques. Wear comfortable clothes; jazz shoes or sneakers required. Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or wbanks@howardcountymd.gov.

Drawing Techniques – Howard County Government

Jan 28, 10:30 a.m.-12, Laurel Community Center, 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. Info: William Banks, 410-313-4609 or wbanks@howardcountymd.gov.

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.

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. SJP alumni have gone on to jobs and internships at The New York Times, The New Yorker, NPR, and many other news outlets. Our application process for the 2017 summer is now open. The application can be found at www.princeton.edu/sjp and is due at 11:59pm EST on Fri., Feb. 24, 2017.

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.

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.

Spring 2017 Clinic's – 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. Contact asksac@sac-hc.org.