

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 12
March 17, 2009

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

As you know we are well into a very busy period here at HWES. The MSA testing is going full speed ahead in grades 3, 4 and 5. This is a time when all schools are evaluated on the students' performances on school, county and state levels. Our school has an outstanding past history in this testing program, and I expect much of the same this year. As I have stated many times in earlier messages, student attendance is very important and schools are held accountable for students absent on testing days. Please try your best to have your children here on time for their testing administration.

We have had several questions regarding the position HCPS has regarding full day and half day times for attendance. The position as listed in the HCPS guidelines reads as follows. Students are considered **present for the whole day** if they **are present "any" four hours of the day**. Students are considered **present for one-half day** if they are **present any two hours of the day**. On 2-1/2 Hour Elementary Early Dismissals students **must be in attendance from 9:00 – 1:00 to be considered present all day**, no exceptions. If students arrive **late or leave early for any reason, they are considered absent ½ day**. On 2 Hour Early Dismissals students **must be in attendance from 9:00 – 1:30 to be considered present all day**. If students arrive **late or leave early for any reason, they are considered absent ½ day**. If schools **open 2 hours late due to inclement weather**, students **arriving late or leaving early for any reason are considered absent ½ day**. These guidelines are set in place by HCPS.

Many people have requested and sent in registration information for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year, please call school (410-638-4175) and ask for Mrs. Coates and she will assist you with the process. Please share this information with anyone with a child of kindergarten age that may not have a student currently attending HWES.

All indications are that our second grades will be returning to the main building no later than April 6. The building and new rooms really are nice. I appreciate the students, teachers and parents for doing such an outstanding job working out of the relocatables for the past several months. I will share the specifics with the teachers and students as they are made available regarding their move back inside.

Our PTA Bingo Night was another great hit. It is always special to see so many people having fun together. It is activities such as this that help fund field trips and many other worthwhile activities here at HWES. Great job PTA! Special thanks to the 24 members of the HWES staff who were in attendance along with many of their friends.

As of today the last day for students will be Friday, June 12.

Summer School for HCPS will be held in centers this summer. The program will run from July 6 to July 31, and our school will be part of the cluster meeting at Prospect Mill Elementary School. Summer School is a suggested program for students who may benefit from it. It is not a required program.

A Few Dates of Importance:

March 20	Early Dismissal
March 27	Fifth Grade Science Fair
April 2	Fourth Grade Field Trip to Annapolis
April 3	Early Dismissal
April 6, 7	Closed for students, Staff Development
April 8-13	Closed for Spring Break
April 21	PTA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. – Homestead Media Center
April 22	Festival of the Arts - Homestead Building - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
April 24	Report Cards Out
April 28	Class Group Picture Day

They Say It's Your Birthday...The Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School Media Centers would like to welcome the newest Birthday Book Club Members for the month of February. The following people had birthdays recently and their

parents purchased books for the libraries in their honor. The books they selected display a special plate with their names on the inside cover. Happy Birthday and a big Birthday Book Club welcome to the following students:

Kindergarten: Kenneth D, Kendall D, Brooke E, Luke H, Maxwell H, Elizabeth M, Taylor O'D, Cora P, Angela S, Nicko S
Grade 1: Jeffrey A, Abbey K, Gracie M
Grade 2: Brooke A, John H
Grade 3: Ashlee B, Sarah G, Qadir I, Brianna MacC, Samantha S
Grade 4: Luke K
Grade 5: Morgan R

If your birthday is in March, NOW is your chance to join the Birthday Book Club. May will be the last Birthday Book Club of the 2008-09 school year. Ask your teacher or school librarians (Homestead Building: Mrs. Walker; Wakefield Building: Mrs. Miller) for an application today!

FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

Materials Needed –

A career exploration day is being planned for the Wakefield students. It will be held in the media center in May and in order to make this a great experience for our students we need your help. The plan is to make centers where students can do hands on activities. The following materials are still needed: play cash register, play money, boys blazers (need 10 of these!), weather map, and white short sleeved men's shirts (4). If you have any questions or could donate any of these items, please call one of the school counselors. Thanks.

Mrs. Brenna Sullivan, Homestead
Mrs. Cathy Wettlaufer, Wakefield

FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT:

*COMING SOON...
HWES Annual Art Show
on
Earth Day, April 22 (with a GREEN theme)
at
Homestead 6-8 pm.
Featuring art from ALL students K-5
also
activities, performances, arts/crafts.*

Students and their families are invited! Hope to see YOU there!

Museum Update and Special Exhibitions:

At the BMA...now until May17th:

"A Circus Family - Picasso to Leger" – more than 80 paintings, drawings, and prints.
Tickets are required--members of the BMA are free.

The World's Trade Center in Baltimore—Now through April 5th:

"Women's Art-Women's Vision"-- special exhibition features local artists throughout Maryland and select artwork from Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

Cost is Free. All Art is for Sale.

Benefits the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

From the Homestead Art Room:

Congratulations to Gwendolyn G, Allison T, Daylen G, Alissa M and Summer M for having their artwork selected for display in the Countywide Art Show.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS:

Middle School Registration:

5th graders planning to continue their instrument or chorus study in middle school MUST turn in a registration form for middle school music by **Friday March 27**. These forms and information about the middle school music program may be found on our school web site or students may obtain the form from the music teacher. Forms should be returned to their music teacher. School web site address: <http://www.homesteadwakefield.com/2006/>

Music dates:

May 6, 7 p.m. at Patterson Mill HS - Wildcat Chorus and 5th grade band and strings

May 27, 7 p.m. at Homestead gym - Jazz Band and 4th grade band and strings