

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 2
September 12, 2008

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

I am pleased to again let you know how great a start our children have made this school year. As I walk in the classrooms and hallways, it is really special to be principal of a school with such a great group of children. They have settled in to the new environment and have adjusted to the new routines quite rapidly. I cannot say enough about the staff that once again went above and beyond what was expected of them to insure a smooth start for everyone.

I want to thank the PTA for the two Back-to-School nights they hosted last week. We had wonderful turnouts both nights, and there were many positive comments shared about the classroom meetings and the displays shown by the PTA. On behalf of the entire staff, I want to thank the PTA for the wonderful goodies provided for everyone in both buildings on the weeks back to school. Be sure to join us for our first PTA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m., in the Homestead Media Center.

I am really impressed with how well the new drop-off area of the Wakefield building parking lot has been working. Let's continue to follow the rules set regarding dropping off and picking up students at both buildings. Also, remember that parents and visitors cannot go beyond the lobby areas without first picking up a visitor's pass in the office.

Please refrain from bringing pets (dogs and cats) with you when you are waiting for your children before and after school. We have children with pet allergies and should not pet or have direct contact with animals. It is also a concern that with so many children leaving the building at the end of the day, an animal could be easily frightened and could snap at or bite a child trying to pet it. Thanks for understanding.

School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 26. Information regarding the pre-pay program will be coming home soon.

I want to make everyone aware of a special event that will take place at HWES on Thursday, October 16. Our Kids Voting Parade will be held (weather permitting) at 9:15 a.m. on that day. The parade will be led by the Bel Air High School Marching Band, followed by the students and staff as well as PTA officers. It will begin in front of the Homestead building and will proceed to the Wakefield Building where the students from Wakefield will join the Homestead students as they march down the hill on Cross Campus Drive and around the circle in front of the Bel Air Middle School and back to the playground behind the Homestead building.

We have invited special guests to join us for the celebration. Prior to the day of the parade, the students will vote on some different school contests, and the winners will be announced at the voting celebration. Parents are encouraged to join us for this event. In past years, we all marched to the Bel Air High School, however, due to the construction the stadium is unavailable. We will be sending out permission slips for parents to sign prior to the event. If for some reason you do not wish to have your child participate, there will be a staff member with those children in the media center during the event.

This is an early dismissal day and students will be coming home at 1:00 p.m. We are closed the next day for the Teachers Convention.

As you know, our secretaries do an outstanding job answering the phones and doing the normal office duties on a daily basis. They cover all phone calls between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. every school day. If you are calling between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m., the calls will be received by Mr. Richardson, our Teacher-in-Charge. If you call between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m., the calls will be taken by Mr. Lashof, our other Teacher-in-Charge. What this means is that there is phone coverage each school day between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

If you are planning to go to any classroom during the school day, make sure that you stop in the office first so the secretaries can give you a visitor's badge. Also, if you are signing anyone out, be sure to have the necessary identification to present to the secretaries.

Upcoming Dates of Importance

Tuesday	September 16	PTA - 7:00 p.m. - Homestead Media Center
Thursday	September 25	HWES Night at Chuck E. Cheese's
Friday	September 26	School Picture Day (Specifics to be sent home next week.)
Monday	September 29	Early Dismissal - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday	September 30	School Closed for Rosh Hashanah

A special *Wildcat Salute* to Melissa G, a fifth grade student here in Mrs. Manners' class. She won the title of World Strutting Champion in the novice division at the 2008 USA Twirling Championships in July. She was among hundreds of twirlers in the competition. Great job Melissa! We are proud of you.

Every year HWES needs substitutes to fill in on days when our classroom support personnel (Instructional Assistants and Inclusion Helpers) are absent. If you are interested in substituting in either of these positions, please contact Mr. Lashof by email or message - Mark.Lashof (at) hcps.org. Substitutes are paid for their work, can indicate which days they would be available and can work 1/2 days if desired.

From our Nurses

The Harford County Health Department is pleased to partner with Harford County Public Schools in offering free Flu Mist vaccinations for all eligible elementary students. The dates of vaccination will be October 21 and 24; with second doses given as needed on December 9. Information will be sent home soon.

From the Art Department

Parents, remember, art days can be messy ones. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child for Art .

Congratulations to the following Wakefield students whose artwork will be on display at the Countywide Art show at the beginning of October... Nathan H, Ellen V, Emma E, Keilob B, Caitlyn M, and Hannah T. Great job!

HWES students will be producing a lot of new art this year, as in past years. It might be helpful to designate a large storage box or art portfolio for work that is brought home. Or better yet, put it up on the wall, bulletin board, or even the refrigerator. You just can't buy better art than the works your children produce. It's good for self-esteem, too.

Museum Update:

At The Walters:

Sept. 27-Nov. 30th- "Autumn Colors"- beautiful selection of Japanese paintings from the Feinberg Collection.

Oct. 19th- Jan. 4th, 2009-"Bedazzled-5000 Years of Jewelry"- more than 200 pieces from collection of world famous gemologist Ben Zucker. Many never before on display.

At The BMA: Now-Dec. 7th- "English Watercolors and Prints"-25 works featuring landscapes in the 18-19th centuries.

Every Sunday: Free Family Sundays: featuring sketching tours, hands on activities, workshops, and gallery tours. ALL FREE!