

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 3
October 1, 2008

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

Can you believe we are into October? It seemed like yesterday we were just talking about the start of the new year and here we are moving forward. Our students are off to a great start.

I want to thank everyone that attended our Back-to-School nights. The teachers enjoyed the chance to share their programs and hear from you. I greatly appreciate the fact we had our PTA officers and several volunteers present at the different events.

I want to share some information regarding some topics of importance:

As you have heard there will be meetings held by Harford County Public Schools regarding school uniforms. The 2008 School Uniform Parent Community Meetings will be held in each high school in Harford County. Parents from feeder schools can attend the meeting of their choice. The locations, dates and times for the high schools for our attendance areas are:

Tuesday, October 7	Patterson Mill	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 14	Bel Air High	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 29	Fallston High	7:00-9:00 p.m.

Please try to attend one of these meetings to hear about the plan and share your ideas regarding school uniforms. There will be a presentation from a Uniform Committee Member, group discussions and question and answer time. The outcomes of these meetings will determine the decision of school uniforms in Harford County Public Schools.

On October 21 at our monthly PTA meeting, we are happy to have Mr. Joe Licata, Chief of Administration for HCPS, as a speaker. Mr. Licata will address a variety of topics and will answer questions from those in attendance. Such things as redistricting, the future for HWES, custodial staffing, as well as other topics of interest can be addressed. Over the past few years, he has joined us on at least three different occasions to address our school community.

I appreciate our PTA for scheduling speakers who can address various topics so we can continue to be well informed.

Mr. Licata will be addressing us at 6:30 p.m. prior to our business meeting in the Homestead Media Center.

Some Dates of Importance:

October 9	Schools closed for Yom Kippur
October 16	Kids Voting Parade - 9:15 a.m. - Celebration behind the Homestead building after the parade.
October 17	Schools closed for students - Maryland Teachers Convention
October 30	Wildcat Walk-a-Thon
October 31	Schools closed for students - Staff Development
November 3	Schools closed for students - Parent Teacher Conferences
November 4	Schools closed - General Election
November 6	Half Day Conference for Parents of PreK Students (Schools in Session)

As we move into the colder months of the year, do not drop your students off at school before 8:30 a.m. Our doors open and students are permitted in at that time.

Our individual student school pictures were taken on Friday and should be here in a few weeks. We will have a retake date scheduled soon so all pictures will be back for the Holiday Season.

New Students Get a Wildcat Welcome

The school counselors hosted Welcome Parties on September 19th for the 64 students who are new to our school this year (first through fifth grades). Mr. Laughlin and Mrs. Mack welcomed them, snacks were provided, games were played and every student received a T shirt donated by the PTA. Everyone had a great time!

Thank you to the PTA for the donation. Also, we appreciate Debbie Limpert, the teachers, custodial staff, cafeteria staff and the secretaries at both buildings for their support and cooperation with these fun events.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO HOMESTEAD-WAKEFIELD!

Brenna Sullivan and Cathy Wettlaufer

From the Homestead Building Nurse

Hearing and vision screening for all fourth grade students will be on Friday, October 3.

From the Art Department

Congratulations to Jordan B, Kaitlyn I and Homestead alumni, Diane N, for having their artwork selected for display at the Countywide Exhibit I.

October is Kid's Month In Downtown Baltimore. Every weekend there are family-friendly events and activities planned for the downtown museums and area attractions. There are special discounts offered, as well as special performances, speakers and exhibits. For more information, visit <http://www.kidslovedowntownbaltimore.com/>

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 months of August and September. 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: Vladimir C, Ian K, Abby M, Dominic O, Anna S, Jacob S, Anna S, Lauren Von B.

Grade 1: Claire P, Emily P, Young P, Sean R,.

Grade 2: Liam A, Elise R, Jillian S, Julian V

Grade 3: Sarah D, Veronica P

Grade 4: Carly B, Nick D, T.J. M, Daniel W

Grade 5: Alek V, Arzoo S

If your birthday is in October, 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!