

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 5
December 17, 2009

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

This will be my final issue of the *Wildcat Watch* for the 2009 year. Our school system has welcomed a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Tomback. He has been to HWES, visited with our students at Harford Glen, and will be joining the PTA for a meeting in the spring. We look forward to working with him as HCPS moves forward into the new year and beyond.

Our scope study was approved by the Board of Education at their November meeting. The plan is to have a new building attached to the current Wakefield building where all students in grades pre-K to 5 will be housed. The Homestead building will be eventually torn down to make way for the John Archer building which will be built between the current Homestead building and Bel Air Middle School. There is not a specific timeline for this project. It is expected to be a few years before funding can be designated for it. I greatly appreciate all the input from parents and staff for what will be a great new facility.

The redistricting committee has not yet met for the 2009-10 school year. This is a county driven initiative and the dates and times for future meetings will be set by HCPS, and those on the committee will be notified by the school system. Now that construction has begun on the new Red Pump Elementary School site, it is expected that this committee will meet in the immediate future.

As we look back on 2009, we all celebrate the fact that our students continue to excel in the classrooms, in the arts, and on the playing fields. Once again HWES has supported many people in need as well as our men and women in the military over the holiday season. There is outstanding cooperation between parents and teachers, and our PTA continues to do wonderful things for the staff and students on a regular basis.

We will do everything possible to help make 2010 the best year yet for everyone, and we must never forget that the children here at HWES are and will continue to be our number one priority.

On behalf of the students and staff I want to wish everyone the Happiest of Holidays and a Wonderful New Year!

We often have questions about the use of cell phones and cameras in our buildings by visitors. The policy is simply this: When someone enters a building, we would want to be sure phones are on vibrate so the ringing does not distract or interfere with the learning process in any way. Cameras cannot be used in a classroom or school setting and taking pictures of students and staff is not permitted for security reasons. If there is a public invited event such as the Winter Concert or Spring Fling, pictures and recordings can be made. We try to make the safety and security of all students our top priority.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

December 23	Close at 1:00 p.m.
December 24 – January 3	Closed for Winter Holidays
January 4	Reopen after Winter Holidays
January 12	PTA Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Wakefield Media
January 15	Close 1:00 p.m. - Early Dismissal
January 18	Schools & Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
January 19 & 20	Closed for Students – Teacher Professional Development



MSA dates for 2010

Third grade:	March 11 and 12	Reading
	March 16 and 17	Math
Fourth grade:	March 9 and 10	Math
	March 16 and 17	Reading
Fifth grade:	March 9 and 10	Reading
	March 11 and 12	Math
	April 21 - May 11	Science online

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 November. 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:

Grade K: Faith M

Grade 1: Johnathan B

Grade 2: Travis K, Brenna P, Nathan V

Grade 4: James C, Bryce L, Grace F, Corey J, Veronica P

Grade 5: Olivia L

If your birthday is in December, NOW is your chance to join the Birthday Book Club. May will be the last Birthday Book Club of the 2009-10 school year. Ask your teacher or school librarians (Homestead Building: Mr. Robertson; Wakefield Building: Mrs. Miller) for an application today!