

# TVMS Newsletter

## March 31, 2017

### Important Dates

<b>April 3-7</b>	TVMS Spirit Week
<b>April 4</b>	Spring Picture Day
<b>April 4</b>	PTSA Meeting
<b>April 6</b>	TVMS Spring Play: Alice @ Wonderland
<b>April 7</b>	3-Hour Early Dismissal (End of Third Quarter)
<b>April 8-17</b>	Spring Break
<b>April 27</b>	TVMS Volunteer Appreciation Reception
<b>April 27</b>	TVMS Health and Wellness Night
<b>May 16</b>	Howling with PRIDE Night

### A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

Next Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, marks the end of the third quarter. Students have been working diligently and will celebrate their hard work by participating in Spirit Week next week and engaging in activities on Wolf Pride Day, Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Elizabeth Andrew states, "*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.*" Volunteers are an integral part of a school's success. If you have volunteered for any TVMS event this year, YOU are being celebrated on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.! Please come to a reception in your honor and allow us to show our appreciation for all you give to TVMS!

On Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, over two hundred students attended Thomas Viaduct's first dance. I am happy to report ticket sales brought in \$625.75, and these funds were donated to the United States Fund for UNICEF, an organization that provides humanitarian aid for children. Ninety (90) percent of every dollar spent by UNICEF goes directly to help children. Thank you for your support!

Encourage your student over spring break to reflect on the first three quarters of the year and set goals for fourth quarter. PARCC testing will begin for students on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The test schedule will be provided after spring break so families can plan ahead for scheduling appointments.

With spring break quickly approaching, I want to wish our TVMS students, staff, and community a safe and enjoyable spring break.

Regards,  
Shiney Ann John, Principal

### TVMS Spirit Week – April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

Show your TVMS school spirit and PRIDE:

**Monday:** Sports/Jersey Day  
**Tuesday:** Animal Appreciation  
**Wednesday:** Wacky Tacky Day

**Thursday:** Throwback Thursday  
**Friday:** Battle of Colors  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Gray  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Light Blue  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dark Blue

## Spring Pictures – April 4<sup>th</sup>

Spring Pictures will be taken on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. A reminder flyer will go home with your student on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please note, there are three options regarding Spring Pictures:

- If you would like to purchase **all** of the pictures, keep the picture package, and send payment to school with your student.
- If you would like to purchase **some** of the pictures, remove pictures from the package that you would like to keep, and send payment for the pictures you are keeping as well as the pictures you do **not** wish to keep, to school with your student.
- If you do not want to purchase **any** of the pictures, send the **entire** picture package to school with your student.

## Alice @ Wonderland – April 6<sup>th</sup>

The Thomas Viaduct Drama Department and Beyond the Wolf Den proudly present *Alice @ Wonderland*, an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*. *Alice @ Wonderland* showcases the folly of the 21st century colliding with the madness of Wonderland in this musical adaptation that remains fairly faithful to Lewis Carroll's original tale. The twist? Alice is a texting, tweeting and Googling girl of the modern digital era, yet she finds herself in the Wonderland of old. This musical imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasured growing up.

Join us **on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.** in the TVMS auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for school-age children and are available for purchase at the door.

## PTSA News

### PTSA Quarter & Silent Auction on April 8<sup>th</sup>

Please support our PTSA with our biggest fundraiser of the year. Our Quarter Auction will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at Ridgely Run Community Center (8400 Mission Road in Jessup). This is a family friendly fundraiser with a lot of fun activities taking place. Read more about what a quarter auction is and how to pre-purchase your paddles [here](#).

We are also holding a \$50.00 gift card raffle for those who pre-purchase their paddles from that site!

If you have any questions, please contact Becky McKirahan at [tvmsptsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:tvmsptsa.president@gmail.com).

**Next PTSA Meeting:** April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## Volunteer Appreciation Week – April 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

The TVMS Staff would like to thank our wonderful 2016 – 2017 volunteers with a small reception on **April 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.** If you have volunteered for any TVMS event, YOU are being celebrated! Please come and allow us to show our appreciation for all you give to TVMS!

Please RSVP to Mrs. Mackall, at [michelle\\_mackall@hcpss.org](mailto:michelle_mackall@hcpss.org), by April 24th.

## Health and Wellness Night – April 27<sup>th</sup>

The Third Annual Health and Wellness night will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at Thomas Viaduct. Join us for health and wellness activities, games, and prizes for the entire family to enjoy.

## Howling with PRIDE – May 16<sup>th</sup>

Save the date! TVMS is proud to present our 2017 Howling with PRIDE night on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us for this wonderful event that showcases outstanding student work completed this year. Throughout the evening, students will share highlights from the various activities done over the past year through exhibits, presentations, and interactive sessions. Come watch a live debate, view original student films, examine creative writing and photography, and much more. Come and see our talented students, stay connected to your student's school, and learn how your student can be involved.

This is designed as a family event; therefore, parents/guardians should plan to accompany their student. See the school [website](#) the week before the event for a complete schedule of activities.

## Grow Strong

### Parent Participation in Grow Strong

How do you see your child's strengths at home? We are asking parents to send a picture and a hashtag highlighting strengths at home or in the community. For example, send a picture of your child starring in a play. The hashtag could read: #superstar. If you don't know your student's strengths, ask them! They use one of the ten strengths every day.

Please use the link below to participate. We will be showing the video at the Honor Roll Assembly in May. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Harig, Counselor at [aharig@hcpss.org](mailto:aharig@hcpss.org) or 410-313-8247. [Link to Survey](#)

### Discoverer

Throughout the school year, students learn about their strengths' themes and how to use their strengths toward personal success and goals. Although students have each of these strengths within themselves, certain themes have been identified as their top three strengths. We will be highlighting the ten strength themes in order to allow you to become more familiar with each--achieving, caring, competing, confidence, dependability, discoverer, future thinker, organizer, presence, and relating.

**Students especially talented in the Discoverer theme tend to be very curious and like to ask, "Why?" and "How?"** Seventh grade students at TVMS just finished reading Julia Alvarez's novel, *Before We Were Free*. In the story, the main character, Anita, describes her classmate Oscar as the kid who "is always asking questions." Because Oscar is full of questions and curiosity, he becomes knowledgeable about the strife and trouble brewing within their country. As a result, he is able to advise Anita, who is struggling with confusion. It is safe to say that although Oscar is a fictional character, he would certainly have the strength of a Discoverer.

Grow Strong has made it possible for students to clearly "name" their positive qualities, which helps them build their confidence in and out of school.

We look forward to continuing to "Grow Strong" together this school year!

## Yearbooks are on Sale

Order the TVMS 2016-2017 yearbook featuring color photographs, which highlights the students and events celebrated throughout the year! Soft cover yearbooks start at \$25. Simply click on the link below to learn about all available options: paperback, hardcover, personalized, etc.

Preorder your yearbook today online at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) (yearbook ID code: 12257817). Orders will also be accepted in the front office.

## TVMS Debate Team

The TVMS Debate Team competed on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Howard County Middle School Debate Competition. In the first round, our affirmative team debated Hammond Middle School. It was a tight battle with Hammond coming out on top by just a couple of points.

In the second round, our negative team debated Murray Hill Middle, and after another tough battle, TVMS came out as the victors! The students demonstrated PRIDE in both rounds by being gracious and professional. They showed true sportsmanship to their opponents.

The students learned a lot to apply to next year's competition! Mrs. Miller and I are proud of all the student participants.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

Lela Ayaba  
Carol Ceasar  
Stephanie Okoma

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

Afua Atta-Poku  
Garrett Coleman  
Joey Polimeni  
Diya Rahi

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Kofi Atta-Poku  
Madison Barrett  
Danielle Gilbert  
Joseph Griffin  
Jady Howard  
Siddarth Patil  
Joanna Pedro  
Myla Thomas

## News from the Band Department

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the TVMS Symphonic Band participated in the county assessment. The students received 2 excellent ratings and 1 superior rating. The students received an excellent rating for sight-reading.

Ms. Niles shared the following comments she received:

- “Great job today! This band has come a long way from when I heard them last year. Congrats.” - Christopher Cicconi, Band and Orchestra Director from Towson University.
- “Excellent work! The approaches and accomplishments of the ensemble are on the right path!” - John Miliauskas, Marching Band Director from Towson University.

We are proud of our students' accomplishments and TVMS Pride demonstrated.

## National African American History Day

Congratulations to Jalen Geason, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, for his award at the HCPSS African American History Day, which was sponsored by The Council of Elders of the Black Community on Saturday, March 18th. Jalen received the award for the best African Project documentary on “The Black Arts Movement.”

## **TVMS Tech Corner: Latest News and Tips about Technology at TVMS and Beyond**

This NEW addition to the TVMS newsletter is a place where you can find helpful tips and information about technology at school and in the hands of your student. Each installment will offer a different look at what our students encounter (and you as parents and guardians) in the ever-changing world of technology use.

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TVMS staff know that it is important to educate our students about the world around them, especially in the digital world of social media, consumerism, and information in which they live. An excellent resource for parents and guardians who want more information about the latest issues and education surrounding all manners of technology is the website [Common Sense Media](#). Here you will find information, guidelines, and discussions on topics ranging from safe movies for kids to watch to the current research on the connection between screen time and your student's health. We will highlight issues from Common Sense Media from time to time as well as other useful sources.

### **Taking Advantage of Student Interest in Gaming**

An ever-increasing number of students are interested and/or heavily invested in gaming. This inevitability is often seen as a distraction from learning or attention to studies. There is much to be learned about how gaming influences important aspects of how students develop into adult learners and become workers in society. An interesting article found on Edutopia.org addresses how gaming, social and emotional wellness, and career readiness are possibly connected [[Link](#)].

### **Tech Talk Thursdays**

Do you need help accessing student academic information or communicating with staff using HCPSS technologies? Thomas Viaduct will now offer technology help sessions each month for parents/guardians and/or students who want assistance with HCPSS Connect, Canvas, Synergy, and other communication tools.

If your answer is yes, we want to welcome you to Tech Talk Thursdays on the following dates from 8:00 am to 8:30 am, and from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm:

April 20<sup>th</sup>

May 18<sup>th</sup>

June 8<sup>th</sup>

There is no need to call ahead, simply check in at the front office and come down to the Media Center. Tech Talk Thursdays will be run by Wendy McNeill (Media Specialist) and Keith Janelli (Instructional Technology Teacher) with assistance from Jose de la Mar, our Hispanic Achievement Liaison.

Looking forward to connecting with our families and creating a space to open up the conversation about HCPSS digital tools.

### **Charla de texto jueves**

¿Necesita ayuda para acceder a la información académica del estudiante o para comunicarse con maestros usando las tecnologías de HCPSS? Thomas Viaduct ahora ofrecerá sesiones de ayuda tecnológica cada mes para padres, tutores y estudiantes que quieran ayuda con HCPSS Connect, Canvas, Synergy y otras herramientas de comunicación.

Si su respuesta es sí, queremos darle la bienvenida a Tech Talk los jueves en las siguientes fechas de 8:00am a 8:30am y de 3:00pm a 3:30pm:

20 de abril

18 de mayo

8 de junio

No hay necesidad de llamar, simplemente ingrese a la oficina principal y luego vaya a la biblioteca de la escuela. Tech Talk será dirigido por Wendy McNeill (Especialista en Medios de Comunicación) y Keith Janelli (Profesor de Tecnología de Instrucción) con la asistencia de José de la Mar, nuestro Enlace para la Comunidad Hispana.

Esperamos conectarnos con nuestras familias y crear un espacio para abrir la conversación sobre las herramientas digitales de HCPSS.

## Bus Program: Take Five – Rolling With Pride

Thomas Viaduct Middle School, in partnership with the transportation office, works very hard to ensure the safe transport of your student to and from school. This transport includes bus riders, car riders, and walkers. We understand the importance of our partnership with families to make this possible. With this in mind, all of us at TVMS want to reiterate transport rules and expectations to our students and families to ensure a safe transportation for bus riders, car riders, and walkers.

Each month, we will use the newsletter to highlight one of our TVMS Take 5. In this issue, we are pleased to highlight **Take 3, Keep All Body Parts and Belongings Inside the Bus** – Keep hands, heads, devices, instruments, etc., within the bus. Congratulations to the following buses for demonstrating “Take 3”: 121, 127, 438, 612, 627, 729, 767, 809, 863, 900, 971, and all of our self-transport students.

“Take 5, Rolling with Pride” continues to be successful. We have celebrated our buses on the morning news for the last few months and will continue the celebration this month at our TVMS Wolf Pride Day.

Together, with your assistance and cooperation, we continue to have a great school year.

## Guidance Corner

### **8th Grade Information Corner**

Please note important dates for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students regarding high school related activities and lessons.

- **June 7<sup>th</sup>** – Rising 9th Graders to Visit High Schools

## News from the Health Room

**The Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP)** - The Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) gives full health benefits to children up to age 19 and their families. Call the Howard County Health Department at (410) 313-5845 at extension 111 to see if you are eligible.

**Immunization Requirements** - Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all 7th, 8th and 9th grade students in the state of Maryland to have a single dose of Tdap AND a single dose of Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) BEFORE entering school.

If your student requires additional immunizations, parents should contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible to make an appointment for the student to obtain the required vaccines. Please provide the school with an updated copy of your child’s immunization record, which includes the provider’s signature, once vaccinations have been completed.

Some students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated immunization record.

Failure to provide proof of updated immunizations by the first day of school, or to provide evidence of an appointment to receive those immunizations within 20 calendar days from the first day of school, will result in your student being excluded from school. If you have any questions, contact the Health Room.

## Alpha Staff

Is there a TVMS staff member who is making a difference in your student's life? Please nominate them for Alpha Staff. Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, office, custodial, and administrative staff. Staff can be nominated in the classroom and/or school community. Forms may be picked up in the Front Office, requested via email at [michelle\\_mackall@hcpss.org](mailto:michelle_mackall@hcpss.org), or found online at the TVMS website, <http://tvms.hcpss.org/about/staff-award>.

### **Congratulations to our newest Alpha Staff recipients:**

**Emily Perry**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science  
**Conner McIntyre**, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

## Student Leadership and Service Opportunity

HCASC invites middle and high school students interested in student leadership and service opportunities to attend the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) meetings the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Homewood Cafeteria, 10914 MD 108, Columbia, MD 21042. **The next meeting is Wednesday, April 19th.**

- Sharing the Student Voice on School Policy and Community Issues
- Gaining Leadership Skills
- Practicing Community Service
- Working with student leaders from across HCPSS

Meet the Students Running for School Board at the Student Member of the Board of Education Candidate Forum. If you cannot make the meeting, watch the event live and send in your questions through Twitter @hcpss\_hcasc. Come join your fellow student leaders and work together to make Many Students One Voice.

For more information please contact [cindy\\_drummond@hcpss.org](mailto:cindy_drummond@hcpss.org).

## World Language Day

Join the Office of World Languages on Saturday, April 22, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Long Reach High School for a celebration of Languages and Culture. There will be a language fair, poetry, performances, crafts, and more. This is an event for the entire family.

## Policy Corner – Safe and Supportive Schools (*Policy 1040*)

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, engaging, and supportive school climate. Behaviors that compromise this commitment, interfere with school operations, or are otherwise contrary to the basic mission of public schools will not be tolerated.

Any behaviors that interfere with or threaten the physical, emotional, mental, or academic well-being of students or employees will be addressed through the application of the appropriate Board policy and the HCPSS Student Code of Conduct, even when they do not occur on school property or at a school-related activity.

Students, employees, and third parties engaging in these behaviors are subject to disciplinary and/or legal action. Students who violate this policy may also be subject to appropriate educational interventions and/or counseling.

## **Tips for School Success – Take Care of Technology Equipment**

Students must take care of the technology equipment, which can be viewed as a privilege. It is also important for students to learn to protect the technology resources (Cennamo, Ross, and Ertmer, 2010). Malware such as viruses, worms, and Trojan horses are even more prevalent today because of the increased use of email, fax, blogs, social media, etc. Students should be alert and active at all times when encountering suspicious messages, links, pop-up windows, etc. to prevent computers from being infected with malicious software (Cennamo et al., 2010). Students should immediately let their teacher know if there may be malware on a computer, so that any problems can be addressed right away. For more tips, please visit the [website](#).

## **Community News**

Please visit the Community News and Programs page (<http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>) on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.