

# TVMS Wolf Pride

## September 25, 2015

### Important Dates

- Oct. 2** School Closed for Students
- Oct. 7** Interim Report Cards Issued (date change from October 5th)
- Oct. 8** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip – Genessee Valley
- Oct. 11** HCPSS 5K / Fun Run
- Oct. 12** Fall Student Pictures
- Oct. 14** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip – Terrapin Adventures  
(Dens: Mrs. Poknis, Ms. Weyfoth, Ms. VanderVeen, Ms. Paparazzo)
- Oct. 15** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip – Terrapin Adventures  
(Dens: Mrs. Perry, Mr. McMillion, Ms. Plofkin, Ms. Sica)
- Oct. 16** School Closed for Students

### A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

An important component of HCPSS Connect is the Canvas Learning System. In the beginning of September, students were introduced to Canvas, our Learning Management System. The students explored how to use the online calendar to see assignments and events, see their courses (classes), and set up notifications.

Canvas will allow students and parents to access course material, view upcoming assignments, and check grades for individual assignments. Synergy is the official grade book of record where parents and students can see class grades.

We would also like to take the time to thank the Howard County Arts Council! Thomas Viaduct Middle School was awarded a \$1,665 grant to support our artist-in-residence, Carien Quiroga, who will be working with our students in the spring. We are looking forward to welcoming Ms. Quiroga to the TVMS family and are looking forward to the amazing art piece our students will create.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

#### Thomas Viaduct Phone Numbers

- Main Office 410-313-8711
- Student Services 410-313-8247  
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## MAP Testing

On Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will complete reading and math MAP testing. We ask that you not schedule appointments, out of school visits, or other conflicts on testing days so as to limit the time your child misses classes to make up the assessment(s).

Please help your child receive a good breakfast on the days of the test as well as a good night's sleep before the test day. Also, if your child wears eyeglasses or hearing aids, be sure that he/she comes to school with them on the days of testing. We have asked all students to not bring electronic devices to the testing rooms. Encourage your child to feel relaxed and confident during the test.

## Interim Progress Reports

First quarter progress reports will be sent home soon! HCPSS changed the date (for all schools), and the new date that progress reports will be sent home is on October 7. Most of your student's courses will have interim grades on progress reports like in previous years. However, semester courses that meet on "A Day/B Day" will not have a grade on interim progress reports but will receive their interim grades on the first quarter report card.

## Naviance

Last week, Thomas Viaduct students participated in the first Naviance lesson of the school year. Each grade level focus was on the students' top three strengths from The Strengths Explorer's ten themes. The Strengths Explorer helps students identify and use their talents to achieve their goals and obtain levels of success. We want students to focus on "what is strong, rather than what is wrong." Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade took The Strengths Explorer and discussed their thoughts and ideas upon hearing their results. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade used their top three strengths to create a "success card" describing how they will use their strengths to achieve goals in school. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade learned about high school information and described how they can use their top strengths to achieve their middle and high school goals.

While students will receive lessons and communication about Naviance and the Strengths themes throughout the school year, we encourage you to discuss this information at home with your child. To assist you, we will highlight each of the ten possible strengths' themes from the Strengths Explorer in the monthly newsletters.

We are currently holding a contest until October 30th to encourage you to log onto the Naviance program on the Thomas Viaduct Middle School website with your child. Please email Ms. Raines ([Nicole\\_Raines@hcpss.org](mailto:Nicole_Raines@hcpss.org)) or Ms. Harig ([Ashley\\_Harig@hcpss.org](mailto:Ashley_Harig@hcpss.org)) and share the following: your child's full name, one of their strengths, and how you see your child using this strength at home. All responses will be entered into a drawing for an ice cream from Cold Stone Creamery. We look forward to "growing strong" together this school year!

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## HCPSS Connect Course Enrollment Reminder

We are very excited about the launch of HCPSS Connect and the opportunities for parents to stay engaged with their student's academics. The first step for completion in Connect is the Family File Form. Please visit HCPSS Connect to update/confirm your student's emergency contact information card. **Reminder: Even if no information has changed, you will need to review and submit your student's form. This is an important step to be completed yearly.** If you have questions regarding the Family File, please email Ms. Nicholson at [nicole\\_nicholson@hcpss.org](mailto:nicole_nicholson@hcpss.org).

In addition, an important component of HCPSS Connect is the Canvas Learning System. This allows you to follow your student's progress throughout the school year and correspond with teachers.

## HCPSS 5K / 1-Mile Fun Run

The Howard County Public School System presents "Let's Go HoCo - HCPSS Community 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run!" The event is on October 11th with an 8 a.m. start for the 1-Mile Fun Run and an 8:15-8:17 a.m. start for the 5K.

This event will bring together HCPSS students, families, and staff, as well as all members of our community, to celebrate a Healthy Howard County.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.hcpss5k.com/home.html>.

## Girls on the Run

Come join us for Girls on the Run at TVMS! We will be meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. from September 15<sup>th</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup>. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, a 5K race for participants will be held. Parents will need to provide transportation for all GOTR sessions.

Please visit the [GOTR website](#) to register. If you have any questions about registering or need help with the fee or transportation, please contact Ms. McNeill at [wendy\\_mcneill@hcpss.org](mailto:wendy_mcneill@hcpss.org).

## Alpha Staff

Have a TVMS staff member who is making a difference? Then please nominate them for Alpha Staff. Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, and office, custodial, and administrative staff. Staff can be nominated by students, parents, administrators, colleagues, or community members for excellence 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 first Alpha Staff recipients:

Sara Davis

Kristie Kay

Polly Weber

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## HCPSS Annual ADHD Awareness Evening

The Howard County Public Schools (HCPSS) will be holding its 9th Annual ADHD Awareness evening on October 8, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Centennial High School auditorium. Our guest speaker will be Dr. George McCloskey, a professor in the Psychology Department at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. McCloskey's presentation, "*Executive Functions and the Gap between Knowing and Doing*," will provide participants with information regarding executive functions and strategies to improve them. This event is free to the public and there is no registration required. For more information, please contact Sally Dorman at 410-313-1252 or email [sally\\_dorman@hcpss.org](mailto:sally_dorman@hcpss.org).

## HCPSS Fine Arts College Night

The HCPSS Fine Arts Advisory Council is sponsoring the Fine Arts College Night, an evening designed for parents and students, especially those currently in 8th - 11th grade, who are interested in higher education in Dance, Music, Theater, or the Visual Arts.

**October 7, 2015**  
**Centennial High School**  
**4300 Centennial Lane; Ellicott City, MD**

**Agenda:**

6:30 - 7:00	Registration
7:00 - 7:15	Introductions and General Information
7:20 - 8:50	Discipline Breakout Sessions
8:10 - 8:50	Financial Aid Session & Panel Q&A Sessions

This event will include panels focusing on preparing for college, the admissions process, and collegiate expectations. Professional artists will share their insights and experiences to offer students different perspectives on a career in the arts.

## Policy Corner

### **Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation (Policy 1060)**

The Board prohibits acts of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation because these behaviors compromise the learning environment and well-being of students, staff, and community. Bullying may include the following specific behaviors:

- Hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, hair pulling, or throwing something
- Getting another person to hit or harm the student
- Teasing, name-calling, critical remarks, or threatening, in person, by email, or text message
- Bullying by demeaning and making the target of jokes
- Rude and/or threatening gestures
- Intimidation, extortion or exploitation
- Spreading rumors or harmful gossip
- Cyberbullying
- Hazing

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Students, parents, employees, and service providers are responsible for reporting violations of this policy that occur on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity or event off school property. Incidents of cyberbullying occurring from a student's home that impact another student's well-being at school may also be reported.

For a complete description of the policy, refer to the *Student & Parent Handbook 2015-16*.

## Tips for School Success

### How to Talk About Bullying

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can:

- **Help kids understand bullying.** Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
- **Keep the lines of communication open.** Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
- **Encourage kids to do what they love.** Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.
- **Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.**

For more tips on school success, please see the [website](#).

## Future Golden Bears

Join in the Hammond High School Homecoming Parade on October 10, 2015, presented by Hammond High School's SGA and Boosters organizations.

- **When:** 10:00 a.m. check-in and line-up, with a 10:30 a.m. parade start.
- **Where:** Kings Contrivance Village Center, in front of the Amherst House.
- **Attire:** Sports teams wear matching jerseys and Clubs/Activities wear matching T-shirts, if possible. Parents, wear your spirit wear.
- **Accessories:** Banners/poster boards with your group's title and put on your best smile. Scout groups bring your scout flag.

Ages up to 10 years, who will attend Hammond High School, are invited to participate. Strollers are welcome with adult supervision. Convertibles and pick-up trucks, drivers, and pre-parade line-up help needed the day of parade.

Volunteers, please contact Shaun Borsh, 410-381-4366 or email [nsborsh@verizon.net](mailto:nsborsh@verizon.net) or Karin Bruce, 410-381-6694 or email [karinfbruce@comcast.net](mailto:karinfbruce@comcast.net).

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## **Tween Club**

Calling all tweens! There's a new club in town! Join us for fabulous activities that are sure to excite.

**Howard County Library, Elkridge Branch**  
**6540 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge, MD 21075**  
**Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8 p.m.**  
**Ages 9-12**

<b>Oct. 13</b>	Retro Games and Crafts
<b>Oct. 27</b>	Hallo-tween: Creepy Crafts and Eerie Edibles
<b>Nov. 10</b>	Just Dance and other Wii Games
<b>Nov. 24</b>	Egg Drop Strawbees Engineering Challenge

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