

TVMS Newsletter

October 9, 2015

Important Dates

- Oct. 11** HCPSS 5K / Fun Run
Oct. 12 Fall Student Pictures
Oct. 14 7th Grade Field Trip – Terrapin Adventures
(Dens: Mrs. Poknis, Ms. Weyfoth, Ms. VanderVeen, Ms. Paparazzo)
Oct. 15 7th Grade Field Trip – Terrapin Adventures
(Dens: Mrs. Perry, Mr. McMillion, Ms. Plofkin, Ms. Sica)
Oct. 16 School Closed for Students
Oct. 19-28 “Coins for a Cause”
Oct. 22 FluMist
Oct. 26-28 6th Grade Outdoor Education Field Trip
Oct. 30 “Pink Out” Day

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

Interim Progress Reports went home on Wednesday, October 7th. We hope you were able to review with your child their progress. After reviewing, it is important to praise your child for areas of success and begin goal setting for areas that are in need of improvement. This is also a good time to make sure homework routines are established and study skills are practiced to ensure success.

Please note that parent/teacher conferences are scheduled in November, but I encourage you to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss any areas of concern that arise. The HCPSS Connect is your ticket to being an active participant in your child's academic progress. Connect is an online tool that allows you to monitor your child's progress in school. It gives you access to your child's grades and other information anytime and anywhere you have Internet access. Please create a routine for reviewing your student's grades regularly. This leaves little room for surprises and much room for accolades for a job well done. Each TVMS student also has access to his or her own account, which allows him or her the responsibility to monitor his or her own grades. This will truly help foster their independence and ownership of their learning.

This is a busy time at TVMS. Our eighth graders participated in a field trip to Genesee Valley this week, and we are finalizing preparations for our 7th grade Terrapin Adventures field trip next week and the sixth grade Outdoor Education field trip later this month. I am truly grateful for the staff and parents who support the organization and implementation of our field trips. It is a community effort to make sure field trips are properly supported, so that students can truly be enriched and fully enjoy these activities. Parent support is vital to the success of all our programming.

TVMS will again be highlighting "Pack Leaders of the Month" for each grade by discipline. TVMS acknowledges that all students display intrinsic strengths and interests in multiple content areas, and these interests need to be recognized. This recognition allows us to celebrate the individual strengths of thirty-nine students each month. Names were announced last week on the news program and certificates and wristbands were handed out to each Pack Leader. We are excited to share them with you in today's newsletter. We are incredibly proud of our TVMS students!

Thank you again for all you do to support our students.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

TVMS Phone Numbers

Main Office
Student Services (Registration, Student Schedules, Guidance Counselors)
Health Room
Fax

410-313-8711
410-313-8247
410-313-8714
410-313-8091

October 12th is Picture Day!

Reminder that Lifetouch Photography will be at TVMS to photograph students on Monday, October 12th. Each student received a picture day flyer with payment envelope today. If your child did not receive this flyer, additional copies are available in the school office.

In the interest of security, check of money order is the payment type recommended. Please include the exact amount in your payment envelope, including tax. Photographers will not be able to open payment envelopes to make change for cash customers. Parents preferring to pay with a credit card may prepay online by visiting mylifetouch.com. Simply follow the online instructions for making credit card payments. You will get a confirmation code. That code should be placed on the envelope and brought in on picture day as usual.

All students will need to be photographed for yearbook and administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form to the photographer on picture day will receive a portrait package.

FluMist Information for Students

FluMist consent forms were distributed to students on Tuesday, October 6th. The clinic will be held on **Thursday, October 22. Consent forms are due back on Thursday, October 15th.** Any consent forms returned after that date will not be accepted.

Naviance

Throughout the school year, students are learning about their strengths' themes and how to use their strengths towards personal success and goals. Although students have each of these strengths within themselves, certain themes have been identified as their top three strengths. Each month we will be highlighting one of 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.

This month we are highlighting: **ACHIEVING**

Students especially talented in the ACHIEVING theme like to accomplish tasks and goals. They have a great deal of energy and like to make things happen. The more success they experience, the more they want to achieve. They try to be an example and a motivator to others.

While students will receive lessons and communication about Naviance and the strength' themes throughout the school year, we encourage you to discuss this information at home with your child. We are currently holding a contest through October 30th to encourage you to log onto the Naviance program with your child from the Thomas Viaduct Middle School website. Please email Ms. Raines (Nicole_Raines@hcpss.org) or Ms. Harig (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 ice cream from Cold Stone Creamery. We look forward to "growing strong" together this school year!

Guidance Reminder – Student Absences

Student absences are recorded on a daily basis, and until we receive a note from home, they are recorded as unexcused. A note from a parent must be submitted to the school within two school days of the student's return, indicating the date and reason for tardiness or absence from a regular school session. A doctor's certificate is required in cases of long-term absence due to illness. A note should also be submitted to request early dismissal or exclusion from activities (e.g., physical education). If you are planning an extended absence due to travel, please submit the Extended or Discretionary Absence form, which can be found [here](#).

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College and Career Night

We are excited about our upcoming College and Career Opportunities Night hosted at Long Reach High School on Thursday, October 22nd, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for students in grades 8 through 12. All students and families are welcome to attend. We hope you are able to join us for an enjoyable night!

Highlights:

- College, Career, and Entrepreneur Representatives
- School Counselor One-to-One 20-minute Sessions
- Marching Band & Greek Fraternity & Sorority Step Show
- Focused Information Sessions
- Keynote Speaker: Khalilah Harris, Deputy Director at the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for African Americans

Youth Empowerment Summit

Ten students were chosen by teacher recommendation to attend the Youth Empowerment Summit on October 7, 2015. This year's focus was on social media and its impact on today's youth. Each middle school brought a team of ten students to represent their school. The speakers covered a variety of leadership topics. The keynote speaker was Marcy Leonard, Principal at Hammond High School. She spoke about "Building your Own Brand!" Some sessions were student run by high school students who were very inspiring, had a variety of activities, and were lead by adults who spoke about a variety of leadership topics.

Students that represented Thomas Viaduct Middle School were as follows: Dia-ana Banton, Bailey Dix, Jaxen Frank, Sean Hicks, Nicole Lainez, Ella Lamberarti, Treasure Leonard, Jelani Omeloda, Krina Patel, and Ireyna Taylor. They showed TVMS PRIDE, and we were proud of their participation!

Student Leadership Opportunity

HCASC invites all middle and high school students to participate in our unique student-run monthly meetings the second Wednesday of every month. Learn leadership skills and best practices and discuss current events impacting students in HCPSS. Special guest this month is Dr. Foose!

Come see what 100 student leaders, athletes, and artists, who meet each month already know. HCASC is for students who want to get involved and work together to make their schools and HCPSS as strong as it can be.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Homewood School. For more information, contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org.

Student Services Interns

This semester, Student Services is hosting two interns from Loyola College of Maryland. Marie Hinchman is interning with Ashley Harig, School Counselor, and Jessica Pinion is interning with Nicole Raines, School Counselor. They will be working with students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in different capacities through December.

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Chick-fil-A Calendar Fundraiser

Get your Chick-fil-A 2016 calendar for \$9.54 Enjoy the monthly treat. They make great gifts and support the TVMS Fundraiser.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month – “Coins for a Cause”

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The TVMS PBIS Committee is sponsoring “Coins for a Cause” to support breast cancer awareness and research. Students and staff can donate change at lunch from October 19 through 28. Collected change will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Donations are by grade level, and the grade with the highest total will earn an incentive to celebrate.

“Pink Out Day” is Friday, October 31 for students and staff. TVMS will be flooded in a sea of pink in support of Susan G. Komen’s mission to save lives and end breast cancer.

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 15th through December 5th. On December 5th, 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.

Policy Corner

Grading and Reporting (Policies 8010 and 8020)

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students meet or exceed rigorous performance standards. Accordingly, grading and achievement information must be determined in a consistent manner and regularly reported to students and their parents. Grading and promotion within the school system is based on the degree of success the individual student has achieved in the educational program. Decisions regarding promotion, retention and acceleration are made based on a student’s performance and academic progress over the entire school year.

The grading system for kindergarten through Grade 8 includes evaluation, effort, and instructional codes and/or comments. When the performance of any K-8 student is below grade level, the teacher, with appropriate participation of parents, will develop strategies and apply appropriate interventions to assist the student. For a complete description of the policy, refer to the Student & Parent Handbook 2015-16.

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Tips for School Success

Pay careful attention to all progress reports, but particularly the first one. You will want to get help for any problem areas before your child falls too far behind. Ask your child's teacher how grades are determined and for suggestions on how your student can improve. Review grades and the teacher's comments with your child—always starting with something she's doing well, then pointing out areas that need attention, and ending with something positive again. For more tips on school success, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success>.

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Pack Leaders of the Month

TVMS is approaching the traditional concept of Student of the Month differently. Students and families may not be familiar with this approach to recognizing student leadership, but TVMS realizes students display strengths in one or more of the academic areas and is focused on capitalizing on individual strengths.

TVMS is proud to recognize our Pack Leaders of the Month. Each month, a student from one of the 12 academic areas will be recognized for displaying the PRIDE traits (Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Diligence, Excellence). The academic areas include Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Reading, Art, Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health Education, Physical Education, Performing Arts, and World Language. Recognized students will receive a certificate of accomplishment and be acknowledged on the morning news. In addition, students will have their picture posted in the TVMS Alpha Hall of Fame. We look forward to highlighting TVMS students for their individual student strengths in a variety of academic areas.

Pack Leaders of the Month for October

8th Grade Students:

ELA – Maddisen Watkins
Math – Kaylee Samuel
Reading – Issac Carroll
Science – Quandre Napper
Social Studies – Christina Enodien
Art – Cinthia Leon Aguirre
FACS – Aren Jayachandran
Health – Isaiah Olujide
Performing Arts – Mya Proctor
Physical Education – Alex King
Technology Education – Camri Edwards-Bryant
World Language
 Spanish – Gabriela Staples
 French – Tristan Stepniak

7th Grade Students:

ELA – Cameron Larenas
Math – Beylee King
Reading – Dominic McGlotten
Science – Melody Akindele
Social Studies – Kyleigh Eaton
Art – Tiffany Furr
FACS – Sydney Cuffee
Health – Amdrew Hardy
Performing Arts – Danielle Gilbert
Physical Education – Kofi Atta Poku
Technology Education – Gaspara Cole
World Language
 Spanish – Gabriel Shin
 French – Kylee Ramey

6th Grade Students:

ELA – Afua Atta Poku
Math – Toby Moser
Reading – Leen Osman
Science – Danielle Stitak
Social Studies – Noreen Baroya
Art – Megan Banh
FACS – Karley Wines
Health – Leoul Zekarias
Performing Arts – Jameelah Destry
Physical Education – Kelsey Smith
Technology Education – Viviana Perez
World Language
 Spanish – Demario Drummond
 French – Katija Bren

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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

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

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