



# MURRAY HILL

## Middle School

### *Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence*

Week of December 5, 2016

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

READY



#### MHMS Community

##### Honor Roll Recognition

We are very proud of our Murray Hill Scholars! 1st Quarter Honor Roll students will be recognized with individual certificates, a bumper sticker for you, and congratulatory remarks from Howard County Council Chair, Dr. Calvin Ball, on Wednesday, December 7th during 7th period. Parents and Guardians are invited to join us for the group picture during the following times:

6th grade – 2:25 to 2:35 PM

7th grade – 2:40 to 2:50 PM

8th grade – 2:55 to 3:05 PM

##### Hour of Code

Attention MHMS families! Next week is Computer Science Education Week, which means it's time for Hour of Code! We, along with other HCPSS schools, participate in the Hour of Code because we believe that every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science, as it helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity! In their science classes, our students will be engaging in a variety of different coding tutorials from [Code.org](http://Code.org) - they have lots of fun themes, like Star Wars, Plants vs. Zombies, and Disney's Moana! These tutorials and games are available FOR FREE online, so encourage your students to continue the fun at home! You'll be amazed at what they can do!

##### Dates to Remember:

December 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Honor Roll Celebrations – Period 7 – 2:20 PM

December 8 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Goucher College

December 9 – Jazz Band at Savage Mill

December 12 - MHMS Music Boosters Meeting - 7:00 p.m. – Band Room

December 13 – High Schools Visit MHMS

December 14 – Winter Band Concert I – 7:00 p.m. – Cafeteria

December 15 – Winter Band Concert 2 – 7:00 p.m. – Cafeteria

December 19 – PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Media Center

December 19 – 22 – Winter Bazaar for Students

## **Attendance and Extended Vacations:**

When planning vacations, please note the language from HCPSS policy #9010 - Student Attendance:

### **Absences for Non-emergency Circumstances**

- a. A written request for such absences to be lawful/excused should be submitted in advance to the principal/designee.
- b. Such absences may not occur during exam or state-mandated testing periods unless authorized by the principal/designee.
- c. For absences of up to 3 days per year, the principal may determine whether the absences will be lawful/excused or unlawful/unexcused. Such absences may include, but are not limited to, the following events directly involving the student:
  - i. Visits to post-secondary institutions
  - ii. Participation in college orientation programs
  - iii. Scheduled interviews with prospective employers
  - iv. Special family events, including vacations/trips.

The HCPSS form to be used to request approval of these pre-arranged absences is available through our website at: <http://mhms.hcpss.org/about/attendance-guidelines>

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

### **6th Grade Student Service Learning Donation Drive for Grassroots:**

The 6th grade students will be collecting items to donate to Grassroots during the week of December 12-16th. Students can drop off the following items in the front lobby when they arrive at school any day that week:

- New (in the package) pillows
- Cleaning wipes (such as Lysol or Clorox wipes)
- Shelf stable microwaveable meals (such as Cup O'Noodles, Easy Mac, Hormel, Dinty Moore, Velveeta, etc.). Items should not need to be refrigerated or frozen. No canned items please!

Students will earn Gotchas when they drop off their items. Please contact Jamie Daniller, 6th grade team leader, with any questions. Thank you!

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

We are so excited to announce that we have been approved for a 7th Grade English field trip. On Thursday, December 8th, we will be traveling to Goucher College to view the Chamber Theater Productions ENCORE presentation! This field trip will take place during normal school hours and students can buy or bring lunch as usual.

ENCORE features 5 stories that the students have read in English class during our first unit. Each of the stories highlights the versatility of five great authors: Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving, W.W. Jacobs, Guy de Maupassant and Mark Twain. Their timeless glimpses into the human experience are brought

to life on the stage. The production is specifically designed to complement our unit one instruction. This is sure to be a very exciting and engaging experience for the students.

Your child received a fieldtrip permission slip in English class. Read, complete, detach the bottom portion of the form, and have your child return to their ENGLISH teacher. Full payment of \$25 and the signed permission slip are **due no later than Friday, December 2nd**. Your payments can be made in checks payable to MHMS, cash, or by using the online school payment portal (preferred method). To access the portal, please use the following address:

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/howardmd//default.aspx>.

We are also in need of **parent chaperones** so please complete that section of permission slip if you are interested. Payment for parent chaperones can also be made online and costs \$25.

### **Help Wanted - Murray Hill Middle Students Could Use Your Assistance**

We are looking to hire persons who have passion and patience to work one on one with some of our students who would benefit from this type of support. If you are interested in employment, contact one of the temporary employment agencies below and let them know that you are interested in working at Murray Hill Middle School.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Social Service Consultants, Ltd	Bob Trencher	410-313-9181 trencher@gmail.com
Delta T Group	Clifford Pigford	410-505-5362 Cpigford@deltatg.com
MissionOne/ Source4Teachers	Noelle Baglivo	856-482-0300 ext. 3260 nbaglivo@missionone.com

**More Employment Opportunities!** If you would like to substitute teach for Murray Hill, we would love to have you! Please follow the link and instructions below.

Please go to our website: <https://www.applitrack.com/hcpss/onlineapp/>

**Check for current vacancies on the left hand-side or Start an application as an Internal Applicant. This is found on the Welcome page below the** two hands shaking.

You should start an application as an external applicant if you have never work for us before. You will need to create a log-in which is your email address and a pass-code. Once you have completed your initial profile, you will need to proceed to page 4 and 5 of the application. You will see various positions that include **"Substitute/Temporary"** and click the position for **'Substitute Teacher'** then complete the work history for the past 10 years. This includes paid and volunteer work as well as periods of unemployment.

You must also list three professional references from your most recent supervisor, manager, professor or university adviser. We do not accept references from friends, or co-workers. The final item is a copy of your Official college/university transcript. This document should be scanned and attached to your application. You can go back at any time to edit or make changes to your application.

Please submit an application at your convenience and contact me after your application has been submitted and all three electronic references have responded back on your behalf. Be sure to include their correct email address and complete contact information. You may view the status of their response at any time by logging into your application to check.

### **Save the Dates**

**Reservoir High School visits MHMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** – Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Atholton High School – Programs of Study and Scheduling Night** – January 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

### **Teaching the Whole Child - Asset of the Week:**

One of the many wonderful things about being a middle school educator is observing how much our students grow during their 3 years with us. This growth is not just physical or in the critical academic arena, but also in their equally important social/emotional domains. In an effort to support the social/emotional growth of our students this year, Murray Hill will be leading our students through a introduction to the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. This week's asset is "Achievement-Motivation". Each week, 1 asset will be highlighted with MHTV segments, associated quotes, and posters displayed throughout the building. We hope you will reinforce these assets at home with your children and support their individual development with positive praise and recognition.

Want to know more about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them? Visit <http://www.search-institute.org/assets>.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Wilson.

### **Music News and Events**

#### **Our Award Winning Jazz Band - Saturday, December 3rd**

Will be performing at Emerson Parkview Retirement Complex on Saturday, December 3rd from 12noon-3:00pm. Please come out and show your support of these fine musicians.

#### **Music Boosters Meeting - Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> (Please Note Date Change)**

Come share your ideas and suggestions 7:00pm in the band room. Everyone is welcome to attend!!!

Volunteers are always needed to make MHMS Music the BEST! If you are able to help in any way (a little time or a donation), please let your Director know so that we may add you to our email list or go to our website at <http://mhmsmb.weebly.com/> and sign up!!!

## Students of the Month for December

Congratulations to the following students for receiving Student of the Month for December: Henry Anderson (6th Grade), Daniel Ablorh (7th Grade), Nathasha Sambaya (8th Grade), and Melanie Oduro (Related Arts).

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the Respectful, Responsible, Ready award for December: Alisa Hira (6th Grade), Shania Saintard (7th Grade), Chris Weber (8th Grade), and Mica Jardine (Related Arts).

These students have been nominated by their teachers for displaying the appropriate behaviors and work ethic both in and out of the classroom.



## The Winter Bazaar is back again this year!

The Winter Bazaar is a small “store” filled with donated items that students can purchase using their Gotchas. We are currently looking for donations—small items such as books, candles, jewelry, games, household items, decorative items, baby items, toys, movies, CDs, etc. **Donations can be dropped off in Ms. Hodder’s classroom (Room 106) starting on November 28<sup>th</sup>.** We will be accepting donations through December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!



## PTA News

### PTA Membership

You can still join your PTA. Membership forms can be found on our website at [http://media.wix.com/ugd/ed7733\\_186e5364d7f145279ef0ff62a62d972d.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/ed7733_186e5364d7f145279ef0ff62a62d972d.pdf). Fill one out and send it in with your student in an envelope marked "PTA Membership."

### Box Tops

Continue clipping your Box Tops! We are collecting Box Tops again! Check your Kleenex boxes, cereal boxes, Land O Lakes butter, etc. for the box top symbol and clip it out and send it in with your child; make sure you include their name and homeroom teacher's name on the envelope/baggie. Your child will give the envelope to his/her teacher. The child with the most box tops will win a prize! You can bring them in on your conference day as well.

### Facebook

Find us and "Like Us on Facebook" (Murray Hill Middle School PTA) to stay up to date with our events and happenings during the school year! Our website will also have up to date information as well: <http://mhmsptawebmaster.wixsite.com/mountainlion>

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest

The Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will host the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 15, 2017. County Executive Allan H. Kittleman has recognized the importance of this event to our community by making the organizing group a permanent county commission. A highlight of the celebration is the award presentations to Howard County Middle School and High School students who are our essay contest winners.

Dr. King's historic speech, "I have a Dream" <http://archives.gov/press/exhibits/dream-speech.pdf> remains as relevant today as it was in 1963. The Howard County MLK Holiday Commission invites your students to describe their dreams and vision for their world in their essay submission.

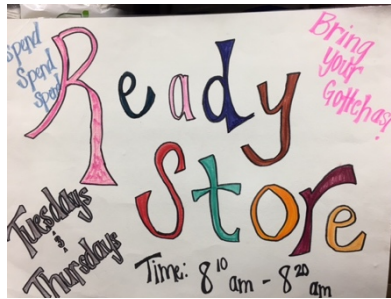
**The essay theme for this year is: "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream....What is yours?"**

The individual essay focuses on both the present and the future. Students are invited to write an essay about their own dreams for a better community and a better world, demonstrated through leadership, service, inventions etc. and what they envision themselves doing. **The deadline for submission has been extended to Friday, December 2, 2016. The essays must be submitted by email in Word format.** Students with disabilities can submit a poster or use other media to portray their ideas for the present and the future.



## From the Health Room

In accordance with HCPSS policy, please remember that students are not allowed to have medications on their person unless they have a doctor's order specifying that they can self-carry. Also students who have the proper orders should make sure medications are labeled and kept secure.



## Ready Store Requests!

Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, students are able to use their Gotchas to purchase items that will assist them in being ready for the school day. The Ready Store has items such as pencils, markers, rulers and folders for purchase. In order to keep the Ready Store stocked we are asking for donations. Popular items include:

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| *mechanical pencils | *0.7mm lead                |
| *scented markers    | *pencil grips              |
| *white out          | *composition notebooks     |
| *erasers            | *pens (gel and ball point) |

Please contact Liz Zinger ([Elizabeth\\_zinger@hcpss.org](mailto:Elizabeth_zinger@hcpss.org)) if you would like to send in a donation or have any questions. Thank you!

# HCPSS News

## Weather Information Notifications

In times of emergencies or [school closings](#), information will be shared with the community through the school system [homepage](#), [HCPSS News](#) and text message alerts, the HCPSS Information Hotline (410-313-6666), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and via HCPSS cable TV (Comcast 95/Verizon 42).

## HCPSS Introduces Canvas App for Middle and High School Parents

The new mobile app, Canvas Parent, allows parents to check grades, review assignments and events, view course announcements, see a weekly calendar, and set student activity alerts, such as missing assignments or grades above or below a set threshold.

## Announcements of Upcoming Community Events

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

## Community News

**These programs are neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS.**

Slayton House Theatre Camp of the Arts is offering a free Summer Sampler on Monday, January 16, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration is free, but please RSVP by January 9, 2017. This program is for grades 1 and up. For more information visit their website at <http://www.campofthearts.com> or call 410-730-3987.



## Math Count Competition

Mathcounts is a national middle school coaching and competitive mathematics program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging “bee” style contests. The minimum number of students for a team is four (4). The Chapter tournament will take place in February 2017, usually on the first Saturday. The cost is \$25.00 per student to cover the registration costs. For more information, please visit the Math Counts website at <https://www.mathcounts.org/> or contact Mr. Manoharan Chelladural (an MHMS parent) at [manoharan.rjpm@gmail.com](mailto:manoharan.rjpm@gmail.com).