

ViewPoint –December 18, 2009

Calendar for the Week of December 21st

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Schools will be closed Dec. 24 – Jan. 1 for the Winter Holiday Vacation. MVMS Staff wishes everyone a happy and safe vacation. Schools will reopen January 4, 2010.

NEW ITEM ON MVMS HOME PAGE: Upcoming Dates can be downloaded <http://www.mountviewmiddleschool.org/calendar.php>

Calendar for the Week of December 21st:

Dec. 22 Grade 6 Basketball 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
 Winter Choral Concert 7:30 PM at MVMS
Dec. 24 & 25 School Closed

Letter From the Principal, Kathy McKinley

Dear Mount View Middle School Families:

I wanted to let you know it's been a busy week at Mount View Middle School:

1. The joint MRHS/MVMS Dr. "Mikey" Assembly
 2. The 8th Grade meeting with Marriotts Ridge High School representatives and high school course registration
 3. The Band Concert
 4. The Orchestra Concert
 5. The Madrigal Assembly for 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades
 6. Progress Reports (coming home today!)
- ...and last but not least the snowy weather forecast!!!

Please take some time to discuss these events with your child. I have heard from many that you've had powerful discussions with our children regarding the Dr. "Mikey" assembly. This presenter assumes several different characters during his presentation and acts out how it feels to be labeled in a group based on race, ethnicity, disability, culture, gender, or even just individual differences. Although the initial reaction is laughter at what appears to be a comic approach, the message is that stereotyping and negative comments are hurtful. Dr. "Mikey" asked students to not be like the zebras in the wild who watch while a fellow zebra is attacked and he encouraged students to know that each and every one of them is beautiful with individual gifts and talents. We want to thank both the MVMS and MRHS PTA groups for sponsoring this opportunity for the children in our community.

Enjoy the last weekend before our winter break. With snow, we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time to spend together as families.

Teaching and learning together,
Kathryn McKinley, Principal

Student Recognition

Congratulations to November's Students of the Month: Megan Hebner, Dorian Barnas, Makenzie Hockensmith, Sophia Kim, Amen Okojie, Hattie Gaines, Eric Hermstein, Alana Ravisio, Gregory Speelman, Michael Trim, Gabriel Boysen, Aysha Mufti, Shahrzad Poushangi, Keyan Shasti, Jack Wehr, Dorian Barnas, Sibal Bode, Nicholas Condron, Matthew Jackson, Jack McAuliffe, Chandler Walrath.

8th Grade News

New Student/Parent Orientation for the Class of 2014 on Thursday, January 14th.

- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Open House- “How to Get Involved at MRHS” - Commons
- 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Topics include: graduation requirements,
Grade 9 courses offered, course registration process, and more.
- 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Rotations with individual curricular areas

Students Not In Howard County School System - Parents of students attending private schools can register by making an appointment during the following days: January 27th - January 30th, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please contact Ms. Deison, Registrar at 410-313-5446.

The 2010-2011 catalog of approved high school courses will be sent to some of the local private middle schools. The catalog is also available on the following website www.hcpss.org.

Student Absences

When your child will be absent, please notify the school by 8:00 AM on the first day of the absence. You may contact the school by email: mvmsabsence@hcpss.org or by phone: 410-313-5545 or 410-313-5550. Please provide the following information:

- *Your child's name and grade
- *The date of the absence
- *Reason for absence or late arrival
- *Symptoms of influenza like illness
- *Parent/Guardian name and phone number where you may be reached during school hours

Bus Policy

Students are not permitted to ride another bus unless it is an emergency. In the case of an emergency the *Bus Emergency Transportation* form can be downloaded from the www.mountviewmiddleschool.org. The form must be filled out and brought to the front office to be approved by the administration. Bus drivers will not permit a student to ride the bus without this approved form.

Community News

Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, library branches and the landfill will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Friday, December 25th, and the New Year's holiday on Friday, January 1st. There will be no trash or recycling pick-up on Christmas Day and New Year's Day (the “slide schedule” will be in effect), and Howard Transit will not run. Parking meters are free on both holidays. In addition, as part of Howard County Government's plan to reduce operational costs, most government offices, including county parks, recreation centers, senior centers, and the Health Department will be closed during the four days (December 28th through December 31st) between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Some services, however, will operate as usual including trash and recycling, landfill, the animal shelter, and Howard Transit, which will run on its “holiday schedule.”

As always, **the 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, please call 410-313-2200.**

For a complete list of openings and closings, including the “slide schedule” for trash and recycling, visit the County's website at www.howardcountymd.gov.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SECAC) Q&A WITH SUPERINTENDENT DR. COUSIN on Wednesday, January 20th 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Cedar Lane

School in Fulton. The Special Education Community Advisory Committee presents a Q & A with HCPSS Superintendent Sydney Cousin. Dr. Cousin will meet with parents of students receiving special education services to answer system-wide questions about Howard County schools and students with special needs. Questions are being taken in advance, please e-mail annschoolz@hcpss.org. There will also be an opportunity for questions the night of the event. For more information please call the Family Support and Resource Center at 410 313-7161. If Howard County schools are closed or if after school activities are canceled, the snow date will be January 27th.

The **2010 Capital Debate Winter Programs** are available for registration. Go to www.capital-debate.com for more information and to register.

HCYP Baseball Spring Registration is going on now at www.hcyp.org. Please select "Register Now" link on your baseball page. Flyers are available outside the MVMS front office.

Sign up for i9sports – **Flag Football, Basketball and Cheer Programs**. Register online, www.i9sports.com or call 443-485-4202. Sign up early to get big savings! (save up to \$40). Registration deadline is February 22, 2010.

Howard County Recreation and Parks Youth Volleyball – Girls Recreational Volleyball League and Volleyball Skills Development. To register online www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP or by phone, 410-313-7275. Flyers are available outside the MVMS front office.

Howard County Recreation and Parks Snow Tubing – To register for snow tubing, call 410-313-7275 or www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP. Flyers are available outside the MVMS front office.