

ViewPoint

September 11, 2009

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Student Absences

This year, in addition to monitoring student attendance, schools are being asked to collect more information about the student illness. As part of the Health Department's tracking of Influenza Like Illness in Howard County, schools are required to report numbers of student illness and symptoms.

When your student will be absent from school, please notify the school by 8:00 AM on the first day of the absence and provide the following information:

- Your child's name and grade
- The date of absence
- Reason for absence or late arrival
- If symptoms of influenza like illness: i.e. fever greater than 100° F, cough sore throat
- Parent/Guardian name and phone number where you may be reached during school hours.

By taking the initiative and notifying the school, you will help eliminate the need for MVMS to contact you regarding the student's absence. You may contact the school using one of the following options:

email: mvmsabsence@hcpss.org (please note this is a NEW email address)

telephone: 410-313-5545 (leave a voice message between the hours of 3:30 PM and 7:30 AM)

contact the Health Room at 410-313-5550 during the school day (7:30 AM - 2:30 PM)

For our attendance reporting purposes a signed parent/guardian note will still be required upon the student's return to school. If you have elected to notify the school via email, we suggest that you simply print out the email, sign and send it to school with your child upon his/her return. At MVMS this note

should be taken to Student Services.

Parents are reminded Falcon Time begins at the 7:35 AM bell and will be marked tardy at 7:40 AM. Students arriving in the building at 7:40 or later, must be signed in through the Front Office with a parent signature.

School Calendar:

Sept. 15

✓ Magazine Turn In Day

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 22

✓ Magazine Turn In Day

Sept. 23

✓ School Pictures

✓ Family Life Meeting - 6:00 PM
- Media Center

✓ Back-to-School Night - 6:30
PM - 9:00 PM

Sept. 24

✓ Magazine Prize Day

Sept. 28

✓ SCHOOL CLOSED - Yom
Kippur

Sept. 29

✓ Magazine Turn In Day

ATTENTION: CHECK WRITERS

Please be aware that a check payment authorizes us to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account OR to process your payment as a check transaction. When providing a check as payment, you not only authorize HCPSS to process the payment, but you also authorize us to collect a fee of \$35 from your account IF your payment is returned unpaid. This fee is allowed by MD state law and is charged as an electronic fund transfer.

MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

Students should have brought home the packet containing information and supplies for selling magazine subscriptions for our PTA fundraiser. Magazine orders can be turned in every Tuesday in September. Please read the bright green information/prize program flyer for more information. On September 15th, students will have the chance to earn a ticket to a show or a limo ride. For more information, contact Donna at augustin5@verizon.net or Linda at rafferty14@msn.com.

BAND ROOM NEWS

Greetings from the Band Room! We are off to a fantastic start with a lot of students in the band program and a lot of enthusiasm. The first Band Booster meeting will be held September 16th at 7:00 PM in the Mount View band room. Meetings are short (really they are!) and productive. All band students were given a letter regarding the Booster organization on September 4th. G/ T Band auditions are October 6th and they take place at Mount View, so we will need student and parent volunteers to make sure the event runs smoothly. Band Calendars were distributed Tuesday. Please make sure all dates go on your home calendar as well.

Mark your calendars:

Winter Concert December 14th at Marriotts Ridge HS
Spring Concert June 1st at Marriotts Ridge HS

CHORUS

Mrs. Piluk, choral director at Mount View Middle School, would like to have several different parents, who play the piano, to volunteer one or two days a week during period 5 (11:34 AM - 12:04 PM) to accompany the Concert Chorus during class. MVMS has several parents out there who play the piano and your help during class would be greatly appreciated! You do not have to have a child who is in the chorus to do this. If you are willing to help with this, please

call Mrs. Piluk at 410-313-5545 and leave your name and number and she will get back to you. Thank you so much in advance for your willingness to help out!

LOCKER REMINDER

Students should be using their lockers. All bags, totes, or backpacks of any sort must be kept in lockers. Smaller and appropriate sized purses may be carried throughout the day. Many families have asked about locker shelves. We are allowing locker shelves if the students already own them, if they fit easily, and if they do not interfere with closing our lockers, which are very old and temperamental. It should be a shelf that the student can install independently and if and when the student is no longer using it, we do expect him/her to take it home, even though many were left in lockers or littering the hallways when broken. The soft, hanging shelves seemed to work adequately.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Please join us on September 23rd at 6:30 PM for Back-to-School Night. Have you marked your calendar and checked your child's schedule in his/her Agenda Book? Please plan to attend and bring your child's Agenda Book. Prior to Back to School the Family Life Meeting will be held at 6:00 PM in the MVMS Media Center.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MRHS Dance Company is holding a Car Wash Fundraiser on Saturday, September 12th. Dance Company members will be at the West Friendship Volunteer Fire Company, corner of Routes 32 & 99 in Marriottsville, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM to make your car shine! Donations are also gratefully accepted. Raindate is Saturday, September 19th.

MRHS Pasta Dinner: Mark your calendar's for Friday, September 25th for the 4th annual MRHS Pasta Dinner, to support the PTSA AfterProm event. The Pasta Buffet dinner will be served from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Tickets are available through MRHS or at the door: \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and \$5 for children 3-12. Ticket stubs will be entered into a raffle to win great prizes!

The Columbia Concert Band presents A Concert for Young People directed by Michael Blackman on Sunday, September 13th. This FREE performance will take place at 3:00 PM at River Hill High School. The program features a variety of dance music - Renaissance to Ballet, Irish to Disco! Students will have an opportunity to "meet" the instruments, and performers will be available to chat after the concert. No tickets are required. If you have any questions, call 301-596-9783.

Stressless Tests announces the Middle School Fall Study Skills Classes are open for registration just in time to support students for the new semester. Classes help students who don't test well, despite doing well in class, who are easily distracted and frequently bored, who have never learned how to study, and who think outside the box. They may be gifted learners, or they may be struggling. Middle school classes start Mondays, September 21st, October 26th, and November 30th. The sliding scale fee ranges from \$135 to \$160, depending on the take home materials selected. Registration includes a copy of the new What's My Style? Test and Study Secrets for Procrastinating Teens, An Owner's Manual for Your Brain, by Betty Caldwell. To register, go to www.Stresslesstests.org. For more information, contact Betty

Caldwell at 410 740-4659, or Bcaldwell@comcast.net.

Autism Speaks will hold their 2009 Walk Now for Autism on Saturday, October 31st, on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM and the walk will start at 10:00 AM. All event proceeds support Autism Speaks, whose mission is to increase awareness about the growing autism epidemic, raise funds for research, provide family services and advocacy in local communities and nationwide. Register for the 2009 Walk Now for Autism at www.NationalAutismWalk.org. In addition to raising critically needed funds for autism research, walkers can enjoy family-friendly activities such as trick-or-treating, face painting, arts and crafts, stage performances and an autism resource fair. Students can earn community service hours volunteering the day of the event or by creating and holding their own fundraisers in their communities. A companion walk will be held at Towson University on October 10th: details are at .

Capitol Debate will host fall after-school classes in Debate and Mock Trial starting the week of September 21st. Introduction to Debate (grades 6 - 8), at Bonnie Branch Middle School on Mondays, Marriotts Ridge High School on Wednesdays and River Hill High School on Thursdays. Introduction to Mock Trial will be offered on Thursdays at River Hill High School (grades 6 - 8). The cost is \$200. For more details/times and to apply, go to: www.capitol-debate.com/fall2009.asp or contact Ronald Bratt, 443-538-4992, Bratt@capitol-debate.com

The Chinese Language School of Columbia offers Chinese language classes from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The 2009 fall semester will begin on Sunday, September 13th at Howard High School, in Ellicott City. Language classes will be held from 1:30 PM - 3:45 PM with a 15-minute recess. Extracurricular activities will meet for one hour from 3:55 PM - 4:55 PM at the same location. The registration fee is \$150 and covers sixteen language classes. See the school web site for the extracurricular activities fee schedule. For more information, go to www.clscweb.org or contact Bianca Chang, Principal at 410-461-3923.

The Columbia Association's Dia de la Familia event will be held on Saturday, September 19th from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at the Columbia SportsPark. Dia de la Familia is an annual event that commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month. The free event features fun and games for the entire family, including miniature golf, batting cages, a moonbounce, ethnic music from DJ Bobby Nyk, a salsa dance competition and food from Zapata's restaurant.

Join the Columbia Teen Center for the 7th annual "Hear My Voice" Teen Idol Competition at the Columbia Lakefront on Sunday, October 11th, from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM! This fun-filled evening will include a talent competition, exciting raffle prizes, and a \$300 cash prize for the Columbia Teen Idol winner. Auditions are being held September 21st, 23rd, 29th and October 1st at the Columbia Teen Center in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Please call 410-992-3726 to register for the audition.

Shop or sell at Glenwood Community Center's outdoor flea market on Saturday, September 12th. Free for shoppers. Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Call 410-313-4840 for information or to register.

Check out the Glenwood Community Center's Teen Zone, an after-school program for teens ages 12 and up. Activities will take place in the center Gymnasium and Game Room, which was designed for teens by teens. The room features a pool table, ping-pong, bumper pool, and video game area around a big screen television. Bring your friends, Monday - Friday, 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM. Center ID required. Call 410-313-4840 for additional

after-school activities and Teen programs.

Howard County is now offering a community-sponsored, affordable, comprehensive health plan for its residents. If you are a US citizen or legal permanent resident between the ages of 19 and 63, are currently uninsured and your household income meets the requirements specified on our website, you are eligible to join the Healthy Howard Health Plan. Benefits include 6 visits to a primary care physician per year, emergency care at the Howard County General Hospital, and access to our network of specialists. For more information visit www.HealthyHowardPlan.org or call 410-988-3737.

The Howard County Autism Society and AMC Theatres at Columbia Mall will have a special needs movie showing of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs on Saturday, September 19th. Doors will open at 9:30 AM and the movie will begin promptly at 10:00 AM with no trailers. The volume will be kept down and the lights will be kept up. Sensory breaks are encouraged. All families and friends with special needs are welcome. For further information, contact Marianne Ross at rossfda@hotmail.com.

HoCoPoLitSo, the Howard County Poetry and Literature Society, will open its 36th season with An Afternoon with Donald Hall, on October 4th from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, in the Montebaro Recital Hall, the Horowitz Performing & Visual Arts Center on the campus of Howard Community College. Donald Hall, former Poet Laureate of the United States, will read and discuss his work. A question and answer session will follow the reading along with a reception and book signing. The cost for the ticketed event is \$15/\$10 with a valid student ID. For more information visit www.hocopolitso.org, phone 410-772-4568 or email information@hocopolitso.org.

Resist Inertia, Inc., will hold a 5K Walk/Run and free Health Expo at 9:00 AM at Centennial Park on September 12th. The event will include a Kids "Fun Run" with an award to registered participants. The Health Expo will include:

- Blood pressure screening
- Body mass index assessment
- Yoga demonstration
- Exercise education
- Nutrition evaluations
- Cooking demonstrations
- Stress relaxation education and demonstration. Food vendors will be available and there will be a raffle. For more information, go to www.resistinertia.com.

Y of Central Maryland - Proshape Performance Youth & Teen Conditioning: Take your sport to the next level! Maximize your performance on the court or on the field by increasing your speed, agility, and endurance levels. The program features a dynamic warm-up, plyometric drills, conditioning and strength drills for speed. The program runs September 9th - 23rd and takes place Mondays & Wednesdays from 4:00 PM -5:00 for 12- 15 year olds and 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM for 10 -12 year olds at the Dancel Family Center Y in Ellicott City. Participants can choose to attend one class per week for \$105 or two classes per week for \$195. You do not need to be a member of the Y to participate in this program. To register, please call Jen Friday at 410-340-2777 or send an email to jennifer@getinproshape.com.

Howard County Recreation & Parks registration. Flyers available at MVMS.

Volleyball Skills Development for 11-14 year olds beginning October 1. Cost is \$80 for 6 weeks. To register, call 410-313-7275 or online www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP.

For more information contact Julija Sajauskas, 410-131-2765 or jsajauskas@howardcountymd.gov.

Boys & Girls Recreational Basketball Leagues for 11-14 year olds beginning September 20th. The cost is \$99 for 8 weeks. To register, call 410-313-7275 or online www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP. For more information contact Julija Sajauskas, 410-131-2765 or jsajauskas@howardcountymd.gov.

Recreational Basketball Instructional Clinic for 11-14 year olds beginning September 16th. The cost is \$80 for 8 weeks. To register, call 410-313-7275 or online www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP. For more information contact Derek Ludlow, 410-313-4716 or dludlwo@howardcountymd.gov.

Instructional Field Hockey League for grades 5-8 beginning September 16th. The cost is \$87 for 6 weeks. To register, call 410-313-7275 or online www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP. For more information contact Susan Markovitz, 410-313-4674 or samarkovitz@howardcountymd.gov.

HCYP is registering for the 2009 - 2010 Basketball Season. For more information or to register for immediate placement, go online at www.hcyp.org. Flyers are available at MVMS.

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410.313.5545
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