

KNIGHTLY NEWS

4-8-2022

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/08: Reports Cards posted

4/11-4/18: Schools Closed - Spring Break

4/20: School Store and Student of the Month

4/21: MAP assessment: reading

4/22: MAP assessment: math

4/27: Knight Time Schedule/Club Day

4/28: ELA MCAP assessment (6th grade)

4/28: #OnePatapsco...Green Patapsco Family and Student event

4/29: ELA MCAP assessment (6th grade)

4/29-4/30: High School Musical Jr.

5/02-5/06: Staff Appreciation Week

5/02: No school for students (professional day for staff) - **New Date**

5/03: Regular school day for students - **New Date**

Refer to the [Patapsco Calendar](#) to stay up-to-date with all the events at Patapsco Middle School.

Important Phone Numbers

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Dear Patapsco families:

I wish you and your family a relaxing and restful Spring Break. Please continue to follow our website, newsletter, and social media that highlights some amazing activities that are occurring at Patapsco. In the coming weeks, we have our Green Patapsco #OnePatapsco family event (please RSVP), our production of High School Musical Jr, the PTA sponsored dance, our #OnePatapsco day of belonging, and many more! I hope to see you and your family at one of our many upcoming events this year.

We also have some fantastic news....our MESA teams placed first in all four categories in the Howard County competition. Join me in congratulating the entire team! The highlights are written below in the newsletter. Thank you, Mrs. Stephenson for being the wonderful MESA sponsor and coach along with all the parent support.

We are looking forward to seeing each and every student on April 19. Enjoy the break!

Thank you for sending us your best,

Mike Babe

Principal



*Patapsco- a place where **everyone** is valued and important!*

Quarter 3 Report Cards

Quarter 3 Report Cards will be available to view on Friday, April 8 after 5:00 p.m.

Parents can view their child's report card through [HCPSS Connect](#).

MESA (News just in...)

Maryland MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) is an exciting and engaging after-school program for students in grades 3–12 designed to spark their interest in STEM education and STEM careers.

This past month, our teams competed in our Howard County MESA competition representing each of the four school-level challenges; Mobile App Challenge, Wearable Technology Challenge, Expanding Structures Challenge, and the National Engineering Design Competition Challenge.

We are thrilled to announce that Patapsco Middle won 1st place in the following Challenges.

- Mobile App Challenge
- Wearable Technology Challenge
- Expanding Structures Challenge
- National Engineering Design Competition Challenge

The student groups advance to the Maryland State MESA competition on May 7th.

Congratulations to ALL of our MESA participants, for all of their hard work and dedication to their projects. Thank you to all of our parents and support staff for making this an incredible year.

Please send our students well wishes, as they prepare for the upcoming events.

Save the date: 8th grade promotion ceremony and celebration

We will have our 8th grade promotion celebration on June 14th during the school day. We will share more details in the upcoming newsletter after Spring Break.

Spring MAP Assessment

Patapsco Middle School Students will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment Thursday, April, 21st and Friday, April, 22nd. Please be sure your child gets plenty of rest the night before each assessment. Students should bring their fully charged HCPSS Chromebook and charger for testing.

Please contact Heather Dinicola at heather_dinicola@hcpss.org with any questions.

Shakespeare Residency

It was a pleasure to see our students engaged through their Shakespeare Residency performances this week...our kids are so talented! What a great learning experience for our students. Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring this opportunity so each 8th grade student was able to participate all week at no cost to families.

HCASC Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m., Homewood Center

All middle and high school students are [invited to attend](#) the April [Howard County Association of Student Councils meeting](#), which will include a networking session from 8-8:30 p.m. during which students can connect with the HCASC Officer Team and the Student Member of the Board. Students who wish to attend the meeting virtually can find the meeting link in the Canvas Student Newsletter on the day of the meeting.

We need your help! Share your voice!

As part of our school improvement process, we are asking families to provide input about their equity priorities for our school. Please use the link below to complete the Indicators of Educational Equity Survey by April 29th. We will use your input, along with other school data, to refine our school improvement plan for next school year.

The survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have children at more than one school, please complete one survey per school. If you have questions, please contact michael_babe@hcpss.org.

[English version](#)

[Chin version](#)

[Chinese version](#)

[Korean version](#)

[Spanish version](#)

APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH...NOT JUST AWARENESS

Our Best Buddies club along with co-sponsors: Ms. Stubleski and Ms. Whelan are highlighting tips, celebrations, and activities throughout the month of April. Here is some that has been shared with our students over the Knight News Network:

As part of autism acceptance month, here are some famous people who may have autism: Albert Einstein, Anthony Hopkins, Temple Grandin, Elon Musk, and Greta Thunberg.

What many don't know is that Pokémon creator Satoshi Tajiri is on the autism spectrum. His experience with Autism served as motivation to create Pokémon. He aimed to bring joy to children and inspire curiosity.

Ways to be a friend:

1. One way to be a friend: ask someone to play at recess. You may need to help them understand the rules of what to do- show them as well as using your words to tell them. Invite someone to play today!
2. One way to be a friend: Introduce yourself and do not expect eye contact back. Ask questions and give someone extra time because it may take someone a minute for them to think of their answer.

3. One way to be a friend: if someone seems really stressed, ask if they need a break. Suggest getting a drink of water as a way to get away from a noisy classroom for a minute.

Attention 6th grade families:

We are pleased to announce our upcoming Outdoor Education/team building field trip to Terrapin Adventures in Savage on May 4th and May 11th. (Due to our group's size, we are dividing the grade into two groups, by homeroom.) Students will participate in a low ropes course, a zip line, and a giant swing. The goal is to continue to build community among our sixth graders by focusing on activities that build resilience, problem-solving, and collaboration in an outdoor educational setting.

Permission slips were distributed Thursday, April 7th in homerooms and are due, along with a signed waiver, by April 22nd. Parents - we would love for you to join us! Please indicate your interest in chaperoning on the form and we will follow up with you. Please contact Ms. Meikrantz with any questions: jennifer_meikrantz@hcpss.org.

High School Musical Jr. (Come see our talented students)

Patapsco Performers presents, "High School Musical Jr."

Come see our Patapsco Knights perform on April 29th at 7:00 pm and April 30th at 2:00 and 7:00. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.00 and all funds go back to building up our drama program!

We're All in this Together and we hope to see you there!

#OnePatapsco Day of Belonging

We are excited about our #OnePatapsco Day of Belonging! We look forward to having an opportunity for students, staff, and families to share about our countries, cultures, and/or traditions and to celebrate the diversity of our community. It will take place on 5/18 from 8:15 - 11:50 and we want to know if any of you want to be part of the day. If you are interested in presenting to our students, fill out the form linked below. Please reach out to Mr. Weeks (william_weeks@hcpss.org) with any questions.

[#OnePatapsco Day of Belonging Participant Interest Form](#)

Attention Hershey Park Chaperones!

All Hershey Park Chaperones should plan to attend one of the below virtual meetings. Each meeting should last approximately 30 minutes. Please note the difference in start times and use the Google Meet code: <https://meet.google.com/gwj-ptpv-ams>. See you there!

- Wednesday, April 20th at 6:00pm

From the Family Engagement Committee

One Patapsco...Green Patapsco *Student and Family event!!!!*

Patapsco Middle School is hosting One Patapsco, Green Patapsco on April 28 from 6 - 8 PM. We will have environmental organizations at our school to promote the importance of conservation and other environmental themes along with literacy! We will start our Patapsco garden in front of our building and plant a large tree, and there will be engaging activities, arts and crafts, including a scavenger hunt and prize! The event is for children and adults of all ages! Please bring your family!

Pizza will be provided by our supportive Patapsco PTA. Please RSVP by April 21 at this [link](#).

[See flier](#)

Yearbook

Time is running out! Have you purchased your 2022 Yearbook?! To order online, please visit: www.jostensyearbooks.com

If you need to purchase by cash or check, please email Kalina_salsman@hcpss.org for a form.

School Store Volunteers Needed

The Sir Knight Store is open on select Wednesdays from the first bell until 8:45 AM. Volunteering at the school store is a fun way to help out and to interact with the students!. If you have any questions you can contact Melissa Singleton at mschnaar@hotmail.com Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ea4a92aa7fa7-pms>

From the Patapsco PTA

As we are returning activities to "normal" we are in need of a lot of volunteering help! Please help so that we may be able to provide these experiences for our kids!

School Play:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45abaf29a46-patapsco>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45abaf29a46-patapsco1>

Mark your calendar: **May 6th - Fun Knight/Dance!** We anticipate a very large attendance like we did in the fall so if anyone has ideas or input on how we can logistically make our checkin and checkout process more efficient please reach out to me at patapscopta@gmail.com. We will need a ton of help on that night to help this run smoothly!

Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

A reminder to all families that **if your student arrives late to school, please send them in with a parent note or doctor's note that indicates the reason for their late arrival** so that their attendance may be appropriately adjusted. You can also email pmsabsence@hcpss.org with a late arrival or absence note. If we are not provided a parent or doctor's note for lawful late arrivals or absences, your child will be marked unexcused. [Click here](#) for more attendance information.

From the Health Room

If you have not provided the health room with records of your child's COVID vaccines please send a copy to the health room. If your child has received a booster please also forward that information. Fax number 410-313-1741 or email Megan_Blouse@hcpss.org.

Students who will be entering 7th grade next year are required to have the MCV4 and Tdap vaccines prior to the first day of school. **Any student that does not have the required vaccines will be excluded from school on the first day.** Please provide the health room with your child's updated records. If your child has not had these vaccines please contact your health care provider to schedule an appointment. The Health Department provides immunization opportunities for kids who are not up-to-date on

school-required vaccinations. Call the Health Department at 410-313-7500 to schedule a vaccination appointment for your child.

We are now accepting negative rapid (not home tests) for symptomatic students as long as they have not had a known exposure in the past 14 days.

COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check

When emailing the school regarding your child's absence due to a positive Covid-19 test result, or close contact to a positive case, please provide the following information.

Positive Test

- Date tested
- Date the symptoms began (if any)
- Vaccination status

Close Contact to a Positive Individual

- Date of exposure (if close contact)
- If your child is a household close contact - can the positive family member be completely isolated from the child.
- Has your child had a confirmed positive Covid-19 test within the last 90 days.

Please contact the health room megan_blouse@hcpss.org if you are being tested or have a household member or if you are a close contact of someone who tested positive.

More Information: [COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check & Quarantining Procedure](#)

Knighly Newsletters

All previous newsletters are posted under News at <http://pms.hcpss.org/>

Community Notices:

New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site:

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational

resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.”

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.