

KNIGHTLY NEWS

11-17-23

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/17: Patapsco Music Boosters Night at Cozy Cafe

11/20: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)

Parent Teacher Conferences (In-person)

11/21: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)

Parent Teacher Conferences (Virtual)

11/22: No School

Parent Teacher Conferences (Virtual)

11/23: No School - Thanksgiving Break

11/24: No School - Thanksgiving Break

12/4-12/8: Scholastic Book Fair

12/5: Picture Retakes

12/7: Book Fair Family Night (5-8OM)

12/13:3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)

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

Follow us on Twitter: [@hcpss_PMS](#) and Instagram: [PatapscoMS](#)

[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)

Important Phone Numbers

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

🎵 Patapsco Music Boosters Night at Cozy Cafe 🎵

The music boosters are holding a fundraiser TONIGHT (Friday, November 17th) at the Cozy Cafe in Old Ellicott City. Consider dining in or getting take-out to support our music programs. See flier below! [Flier](#).

Parent/Teacher Conferences November 20-22

Scheduled Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in-person on Monday, November 20th and virtually via Google Meet on Tuesday, November 21st & Wednesday, November 22nd. For in-person conferences on Monday, we suggest you do not arrive on campus prior to 12:40pm. This will allow buses and cars to clear out following dismissal. Help desk procedures will be shared on Tuesday for the virtual conferences.

Opportunity X

Do you enjoy creating science projects? Are you interested in learning in-depth STEM topics?

Do you enjoy hands-on learning? Join our STEM research club! Wednesdays beginning 11/29 in Room F8. Space is limited so sign up soon. [Sign up here!](#) (This club is for current Patapsco MS students.)

Yearbook

Are you interested in helping to plan and design this year's yearbook?! Join the Yearbook Team! We will meet on Thursdays beginning 11/30 in TR4. See Ms. Salsman (TR4) for more information! Or [download a permission slip here!](#) (This club is for current Patapsco MS students.)

Apply for JROTC by Jan. 5, 2024

HCPSS' Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program provides an introduction to career opportunities in the United States Armed Forces and teaches principles of leadership, discipline and civic responsibility. [To apply for participation for the 2024-2025 school year](#), students must contact a JROTC official between **Nov. 13, 2023, and Jan. 5, 2024, to schedule an interview.** Only students who are interviewed during this designated period will be considered for enrollment.

To learn more about the program, visit the HCPSS JROTC website-
<https://www.hcpss.org/academy/jrotc/>

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed

We are excited as we approach the Patapsco Scholastic Book Fair Week December 4th to December 8th!! Please mark your calendar for the December 7th evening Family Fun Knight & Book Fair! We are finalizing the event and will send out more information soon. There will be food trucks, face painting, and other fun activities, a performance by Kangaroo Kids and music by our Talented Patapsco Students on the evening of December 7th from 5:00 pm. - 8:00 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers from December 4th to December 8th from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm to help out at the cash register. We will also need volunteers for the evening of the Family Fun Knight & Book Fair. You can choose one or multiple slots on the volunteer sign-up form. [Book Fair December 4th- December 8th Signup Form](#)

Check out our schools Book Fair Homepage. Here you can set up an [eWallet](#), [eWallet in Spanish](#), preview books, and find out more information about the Book Fair at the school.
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/patapscomiddleschool1>

Music Department Winter Concerts

Our music students have been working very hard to prepare winter programs for our community! All concerts will be held at Mount Hebron High School and begin at 7pm. Please see your child's music Canvas page for specific details about appropriate attire and student reporting time. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday, December 6 - Patapsco and MHHS Orchestras

Tuesday, December 12 - Patapsco Bands and members of the MHHS Wind Ensemble

Thursday, December 14 - Patapsco Chorus and General Music Level 2

LGBTeaQi&A - opportunity for parents and parents with middle and high school students

One of the topics of interest/concern brought forward in our LGBTQIA+ Advisory group is that parents of our LGBTQIA+ students have been looking for ways to connect and receive support. As one possible solution, we're starting an LGBTeaQi&A to provide an opportunity for parents to meet, connect, ask questions, and receive information and answers.

We're holding our first opportunity on Saturday, December 9th from 2:00PM - 4:00PM at Plot Twist Horse Farm in Glenwood. Parents are welcome as well as middle and high school students who want to connect with peers. Service learning opportunities for our middle and high schoolers will be available - though space for students is limited.

A flyer is connected to this email as well. Registration is required to attend.

Please share with parents who you think might be interested in participating.

[Viewable/Downloadable Flyer](#)

[Registration Form](#)

Mount Hebron Dance Department

The Mount Hebron Dance Dept. is hosting our annual [winter dance concert](#) on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 7 PM, as well as a [cookie decorating fundraiser](#) event before the Friday night performance.

Previously Shared Information

Annual Turkey Trot and Food Drive

We are also getting ready for a community Food Drive to benefit nearby schools, including PMS!

We are tying the Food Drive to the Turkey Trot as a way to impact our local community.

Donations will be collected the week of November 13 through Social Studies classes. Please have students bring in non-expired items that are specific to each grade:

6th Grade- Peanut Butter and Jelly, Breakfast Foods such as cereal bars, Poptarts & Cereal

7th Grade- Bags of Beans, Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce

8th Grade- Canned Fruit/Vegetables, Canned Meat such as tuna and chicken

School Pictures

School pictures/proofs went home on Wednesday, November 1. It's not too late to order pictures. Inside the picture packet is a card with your student's Portrait ID number and Access Code. You can use these to order pictures. Click here to order [online](#). [See sample](#)

Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. Please [click here](#) if you have not updated the family file.

Carson Scholarship

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who

excels academically and is dedicated to serving their communities. An interested student must be nominated by the principal at his/her/their school to be able to compete for a Carson Scholarship. Only one student from each school is able to apply, ensuring that each nominee epitomizes academic excellence. Carson Scholars must have a GPA of 3.75 and display humanitarian qualities through community service. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic achievement and humanitarian qualities, without regard to financial need, ethnicity, creed or religion. More information can be found on: <https://carsonscholars.org/scholarships/>

If you are interested in being considered for nomination, please complete the [Carson Scholarship nomination form](#) and send to Mrs. Shurtleff at erin_shurtleff@hcpss.org.

All nomination forms will be due to Mrs. Shurtleff no later than Friday, December 1, 2023.

Young Author's Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 6-8 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called the **Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the attached [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be **emailed** to Mrs. Shaw elizabeth_shaw@hcpss.org or shared with Mrs. Shaw in a **Google Doc** no later than **December 11, 2023**. All submissions must **follow the guidelines**, must have a **cover sheet**, and must be **submitted electronically**. Contact Mrs. Shaw with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#).

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

Concert Clothing Closet Accepting Donations

Our Music Department Polo Shirts will be arriving soon! As your child is preparing for the December concerts, be sure to check they also have *black pants or a long black skirt and black shoes*. Outgrown something? We will be happy to take clean concert items your child has outgrown. This includes shoes! Need something? We have an inventory of gently used concert clothing pieces students may use for free! Please contact a music teacher if your child would like to visit our Concert Clothing Closet before the December concerts. Thanks!

Volunteer Information

Are you interested in volunteering at Patapsco Middle this school year - maybe chaperone a field trip or help in a classroom? We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and school. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools and must complete the Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Parents. Please complete this course and training before registering to volunteer at your child's school. The

course takes about 5 minutes to complete. Please turn both of your completion certificates into the front office at the school when you are finished. Course and training can be found [HERE](#)

2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources

Click [here](#) for the 2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources.

Transportation

Patapsco Middle School has experienced great improvements in our bus arrival and departure times. If you have any transportation related questions or concerns that cannot be addressed by Patapsco staff, please use the link below to contact the HCPSS Office of Student Transportation.

[HCPSS Office of Student Transportation Contact Form](#)

[HCPSS Office of Student Transportation Contact Form - Spanish](#)

HCPSS Mental Health and Wellness

If you have an immediate need for help with depression, suicidal thoughts, or other serious mental health issues, please contact:



Grassroots Crisis Intervention: Call 988 or 410-531-6677

The Maryland Crisis Hotline: Call 988 or 211 and then choose option 1

The Crisis Text Line: Text 988 or 74174 and a trained counselor will respond

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline: Call 988 or 1-800-273-8255

For additional information, visit the [HCPSS Mental Health and Wellness webpage](#)

Knighly Newsletters

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

Community Notices

HCPSS' [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