

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11/5: Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall back 1 hour)
- 11/6: Parent Teacher Conference Sign-up Available at 8AM
- 11/8: Reports Cards available to view through HCPSS Connect at 4PM
- 11/8: Panorama Survey Administered to 7th and 8th Grade Students
- 11/13-11/17: American Education Week
- 11/14: 6th Grade Field Trip
- 11/16: Parent Teacher Conference Sign-up closes at 4PM
- 11/20: **3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)**  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/21: **3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)**  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/22: **No School**  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/23: **No School - Thanksgiving Break**
- 11/24: **No School - Thanksgiving Break**
- 12/5: Picture Retakes

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

## **Scheduling Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 20-22, 2023 and will be held in-person on Monday, November 20 and virtually on Tuesday, November 21 & Wednesday, November 22. **Beginning Monday, November 6 at 8:00am, through Thursday, November 16 at 4:00pm, parents/guardians can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to view and select available time slots to meet with teachers.**

The purpose of this conference window is to allow parents/guardians the opportunity to discuss student progress with staff. Each conference slot is 15-minutes and will be conducted **in-person on Monday and virtually via Google Meet on Tuesday and Wednesday**. If you have a pressing concern, you are strongly encouraged to contact the teacher to discuss it outside of the conference window. Synergy Conference Management allows users to schedule time with

individual teachers.

To permit access to our staff by all parents with interest, we ask that parents schedule conferences only for those classes for which there are concerns. Unlike your experience in elementary school, middle school educators do not have a slot for each and every student. So, please be strategic about who you'd like to see and mindful of the need for your neighbors to have the same access.

For step by step directions, please refer to the [parent directions](#). Should you have any questions or require assistance scheduling your appointments during the scheduling window, please contact Ashley Anderson, Teacher's Secretary, via email at [Ashley\\_Anderson@hcpss.org](mailto:Ashley_Anderson@hcpss.org). For questions about availability or course specific questions, please contact the teacher directly.

## Panorama Survey Reminder

As a reminder, the week of November 6-10, we will be asking all students in Grade 7 and 8 to take a brief survey to tell us about their social-emotional skills and access to supportive relationships. A communication was sent home in paper form on 10/24/23 with additional information and the opportunity to opt out. This communication can be accessed through this link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_ENuGh5w0SiPZBvjYhOKnO2SXvQtrvmPmilyfsgdTw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_ENuGh5w0SiPZBvjYhOKnO2SXvQtrvmPmilyfsgdTw/edit?usp=sharing)

## 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:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Peanut Butter and Jelly, Breakfast Foods such as cereal bars, Pop tarts, and Cereal

7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Bags of Beans, Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce

8<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

## Meet Author Nic Stone

HCLS has arranged to have author Nic Stone, best selling author of *Dear Martin*, *Dear Justyce*, *Clean Getaway* and others speak at the East Columbia Branch of the Howard County Library System and they would like to invite many of our students to be in attendance. This event is open to middle and high school students in grades 7-12 only and students will need to provide their own transportation to and from East Columbia.

The event will be held on **Thursday, November 9 from 4-6pm**. HCPSS students in attendance will listen to Nic Stone, and be given a signed copy of one of Nic Stone's books and a snack box

at the event. There will also be time for questions before the event is over. [Sign up today](#) - registration closes on Friday November 3!

## **Shrek the Musical Jr.**

Just in case you missed the news, the directing team in charge of Patapsco Middle School's Theatre Intramural has chosen "Shrek Jr." for this year's play!

This month, we are holding auditions so that the cast list can be posted before Thanksgiving break. Here is the schedule for auditions:

**Audition Sign-Up Sheet Posted: November 7th @ 11:15 am**

**Audition Workshop: November 9th 3:30-4:30**

The directing team is helping students prepare for their audition.

**Auditions: November 13th: 3:30-5:30**

**Auditions: November 14th: 3:30-5:30**

(Each person (or pairs) will sign up for ONE time slot during these two days.)

**Callbacks: November 15th: 3:30-5:30ish**

EVERYONE should plan to attend from 3:30-4:15

Then, some students will stay until 5 or 5:30

Students will know by 3:30 what time they should be picked up to communicate with their parents.

## **Read the Rainbow with Darcie Little Badger**

What better way to recognize Native American Heritage Month as well as to support a queer author than to [register for Read the Rainbow with Darcie Little Badger](#) on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00PM. We'll be discussing their book, *Elatsoe*. I hope that many of you can join us! Continue reading for more information about the book. Students in grades 8-12 will receive a free copy of the book, so let them know about this cool opportunity!

*ELATSOE* by *Darcie Little Badger* and *Illustrated by Rovina Cai*

- **Locus Award Winner—Best First Novel**
- **A National Indie Bestseller**
- **Nebula Award Finalist**
- **Lodestar Award Finalist**
- **Ignyte Award Finalist**

### **A TEXAS TEEN COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH A COUSIN'S GHOST AND VOWS TO UNMASK THE MURDERER.**

Elatsoe—Ellie for short—lives in an alternate contemporary America shaped by the ancestral magics and knowledge of its Indigenous and immigrant groups. She can raise the spirits of dead animals—most importantly, her ghost dog Kirby. When her beloved cousin dies, all signs point to a car crash, but his ghost tells her otherwise: He was murdered. Who killed him and how did he die? With the help of her family, her best friend Jay, and the memory great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother, Elatsoe, must track down the killer and unravel the mystery of this

creepy town and it's dark past. But will the nefarious townsfolk and a mysterious Doctor stop her before she gets started? A breathtaking debut novel featuring an asexual, Apache teen protagonist, *Elatsoe* combines mystery, horror, noir, ancestral knowledge, haunting illustrations, fantasy elements, and is one of the most-talked about debuts of the year.

## **Glen Mar Community Health Fair**

Please see the [flyer](#) for the upcoming Community Health Fair. This is a free event and everyone is welcome.

**Date:** Saturday, November 11, 2023

**Time:** 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Location:** Glen Mar Church, 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043

*This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS, but serves to extend resources for students and families.*

## **PTA Updates**

### **Grandma Still Can't Hear You!!**

The Patapsco Middle School Theatre Department has gotten the opportunity to purchase a high quality microphone system for its student productions. Equipment of this type is not in the budget and that is where YOU come in!! We want to raise \$2,000 to cover the cost. We have already raised \$600!! Any amount you can give is welcome. The students put on fantastic shows each year and we would love for our audience (grandmas included!) to be able to hear each word and song. Please visit our fundraising page at:

<https://app.memberhub.gives/microphones>

## **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](#)

## **Previously Shared Information**

### **Update Your Family File!**

We need every family to update this every year. There are **101** families that still need to complete their Family File. 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](mailto:erin_shurtleff@hcpss.org).

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

## Student Service Learning Credit Hours

The state of Maryland requires that 75 hours of Student Service Learning (SSL) be completed, as a requirement to obtain a high school diploma. Service Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community within curriculum-based learning. Through SSL students apply specific academic skills to “real world” problems to gain a greater understanding of community needs. Additionally, students reflect upon how their service directly impacts others. Student Service Learning is **not** group organized volunteerism, independent volunteerism, or internships. It is a curriculum presented within the student’s school day. All service learning hours are completed as course work offered through projects developed for each grade level. Each year, 25 service learning hours will be offered to students and awarded by participation in meeting course objectives and completion of the grade level project. In this way, students will obtain their required 75 hours of service at the end of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Please look for SSL updates in the Patapsco Knight to be informed about special achievements, deadlines and activities. If you have questions about this program, contact our school SSL Coordinator, Sherri Ross, email: [sherri\\_ross@hcpss.org](mailto:sherri_ross@hcpss.org).

## 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](mailto: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](#)

## **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](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org)