

Talbott Springs Elementary School Friday Newsletter

Friday January 14, 2022

Talbott Springs Families,

We are so happy to have had a full week of school! We view each day as a positive accomplishment as we navigate the many challenges that each of us is experiencing. I want to thank each of our families for assessing your child(ren)'s health each day and for practicing safety measures outside of school during this Omicron COVID surge. Please know that your children love being in school with their teachers, support staff and friends. We desperately want to continue to serve your children in person. Please continue to practice every single safety measure that you can think of to assure that we remain an in-person school. Every moment of our working to the same goal is worth the effort for your children! We've got this TSES!

This weekend, please consider taking a moment to reflect with your children on the leadership that was modeled by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we celebrate his birthday. It can be hard to talk with children about Dr. King's fight for voting rights and his work to confront racism but lifting up the way that Dr. King led through sharing information through speeches and peaceful marches can help children to understand the importance of this school holiday. [Use this link](#) for information regarding activities in Howard County scheduled for this weekend in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Have a wonderful weekend!

Nancy Thompson, Principal

Information:

Please help our community of staff students and their families safe! We need to work together on this! Families are reminded to follow all [HCPSS health and safety protocols](#) and [conduct daily at-home health checks](#). [Answers to health and safety frequently asked questions](#) are available online.

Outdoor Recess, Lunch and Arrival: HCPSS has established parameters for outdoor lunch and recess. HCPSS guidance can be found at this link. One of the key points to highlight are the temperature and 'feels like' temperatures as reported by the news and weather outside. It is our goal to have students playing outdoors at recess on as many days as it is possible. TSES staff arrive at work at 8:20 At 8:25, those with a morning 'duty' and that is when they move towards the black top area to manage student arrival. Students enter the building at approximately 8:30 each morning. If the 'feels like' temperature is below 22 degrees, if it is raining or if the blacktop is too icy for students, we allow students to enter the building at 8:25.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics: The Howard County Health Department is hosting weekly vaccination clinics. [Find clinic dates and locations](#) online.

Vaccine Clinic at Cradlerock Elementary: Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 (second dose clinic Feb. 4), 4-7 p.m. Cradlerock Elementary School, 6700 Cradlerock Way, Columbia in partnership with Soleil Pharmacy Pfizer (ages 5 through 11). [Please use this link to schedule](#).

Young Author's Contest: Calling all authors! The Young Authors Contest is a great way to showcase your talents - students in grades 1-5 may participate by writing a short story and/or poem and submit by email with signed coversheet no later than January 17th. More details are on grade level canvas pages, at this [link](#) or contact laura_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org with questions!

Early Dismissal for All Students on Jan. 19

To provide staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education [approved several 3-hour early dismissal days](#) during the remainder of the school year. The next early dismissal day is Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Identify Student Device Needs by Jan. 14

As HCPSS plans for technology needs in the event of virtual instruction, HCPSS is requesting all families to [complete a brief questionnaire](#) regarding your child's/children's device needs. The questionnaire is designed to be filled out for each child in the family, regardless of current device assignment. Please contact your child's school if you need assistance completing the form.

Information for TSES Families of Students in 5th Grade!

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Testing:

Due to anticipated staff and student COVID-19 related absences, we will be postponing the January census administration of CogAT in 5th grade. Specific date has not been determined.

Middle School GT Class Recommendations

Although the CogAT administration may be delayed, all 5th grade students will be considered for potential placement in 6th GT classes using all available performance and assessment data in accordance with Maryland COMAR for Gifted and Talented Education. This includes data from students' 3rd grade CogAT administration in December 2019, if available.

From February 14th to March 4th, we plan to administer CogAT to any 5th grade students who do not have a prior CogAT score as well as all students in 5th grade GT Math. The data will assist with identification for Accelerated GT Math and provide an aptitude measure for students who had no previous CogAT test. From February 8 until February 22, families will be able to review course recommendations and may request a course placement that is different from the school's recommendation through HCPSS Connect. If you have any questions about GT placement, please contact Mr. McMahan at brian_holcombmcmahan@hcpss.org

Information for TSES Families of Students in 3rd Grade!

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Testing:

Due to anticipated staff and student COVID-19 related absences, we will be postponing the January census administration of CogAT in 3rd grade. Specific date has not been determined

4th Grade GT Math Placements

From February 14 to March 4th, we plan to administer CogAT to all 3rd grade students. Placements for 4th grade GT Math will be made following the CogAT administration and will include all available performance and assessment data in accordance with Maryland COMAR for Gifted and Talented Education. If you have any questions about GT placement, please contact Mr. McMahan at brian_holcombmcmahan@hcpss.org

TSES Super Singers: We are so happy to congratulate these students! Each week one student in each of our 1st Grade through 5th grade music classes is selected as the "Super Singer". Students selected demonstrate consistent excellence in the school RISE expectations and/or the music skills that are being taught. music skills (singing, playing instruments, creating and moving are some of the skills). Here are the super singers for the period of 12/16-1/7 Singers: Jane M.,

Kyler W., Orlando L.R., Isha K., Max G., Cayden S., Lesly A.R., Genesis P.A., Lukaz Z.D., Jolene C., Selwyn B.C., Elsy A.C., Laila R., Elliot J., Montse C.S.

BSAP Saturday Math Academy Virtual Spring Program Registration

Registration opens Saturday, Jan. 8, 9 a.m. until capacity is reached: Families of students in grades 3-12 are invited to register online for this virtual enrichment program, which will be held Saturdays, Jan. 29 through March 12, 2022. Families can request enrollment by registering their child(ren) for the program in HCPSS Connect. Space is limited, and notification will be emailed to families whose registration request was accepted. [Additional program and registration information](#) is available online.

HCPSS Hiring Fair: HCPSS is hosting a [hiring fair](#) on Monday, Jan. 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Wilde Lake High School for anyone interested in employment as a bus driver, custodian, food services worker, lunch and recess monitor, or paraeducator. Attendees wishing to be interviewed should complete an online application prior to the event; prospective bus drivers may apply on site. No registration is needed to attend the event. Masking is required.

Patuxent Valley Middle School presents Virtual Book Readings to pre-school and elementary school students. The books chosen will be written by Black authors and students will be reading them. The first book read will be Monday 2/7 from 6:30-7pm. The flyer is attached. You can find the flyer [here](#) .

TSES PTA News!

PTA YEARBOOK COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR PHOTOS!! The 2021-2022 yearbook is already in the design phase. Please send pictures of your child(ren) from any of the following themes. (1) First Day of School; (2) PTA Block Party; (3) Trunk or Treat; or (4) Field Trips. Send all photos and/or questions to Michelle at yearbook@tsespta.org. Please be sure to include the student(s) name and grade. Thank you in advance!

TSES Important Dates:

Monday January 17	Schools Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Wednesday January 19	Early Dismissal for Students at 12:10
Thursday January 20	TSES PTA Meeting at 7:00 (virtual)
Thursday January 21	End Quarter 2
Monday January 24	School Closed for Students-Professional Work Day
Wednesday January 26	5 th Grade Field Trip to Robinson Planetarium (TENTATIVE)
Monday January 31	Q2 Report Cards Issued
Tuesday February 1	Professional Learning Day-Schools Closed for Students
Thursday February 3	TSES Band, Strings and Chorus Concert (virtual)
Thursday February 10	Early Dismissal for Students-Parent Teacher Conferences (12:10)
Friday February 11	Early Dismissal for Students-Parent Teacher Conferences (12:10)