

Talbott Springs Families,

I am hopeful that your Thanksgiving break provided time for a break from routines and an opportunity for family connection. We are so thankful for your participation in Parent Teacher Conferences! The changes created by virtual learning seemed to be a bonus for parents to be able to connect with teachers! As we move forward, please know that if you need to meet with a teacher occurs outside the typically scheduled conferences, you are welcome to reach out for that conversation in mutual support of your child(ren). As we proceed through Quarter 2, I am so hopeful about the continued and increased engagement in the learning each of our students. This past week, we shared a 'Jennifer' video with our students referencing the importance of either having cameras on or being ready to turn them on upon request during live instructional sessions. We are finding that some daycare providers and families 'see' that students have the meeting open, yet they are not seeing that the meet is on and the child is either engaged in another activity such as playing a game on another tech device or is not paying attention at all, perhaps even asleep. Please help us by checking in on your child and/or asking the daycare provider to do so. Next week is 'Inclusive Schools Week'. We focus on this week at TSES we believe that all students are respected and celebrated for their strengths and assisted by the adults and peers towards their best personal achievements. We are an inclusive school and we care about all children. Please see below for information about upcoming Kindergarten events and details about the Virtual PTA Craft Night Material Pick Up and Craft Event! Each week, I am thankful to our families for the effort and support that is provided to each of our students during virtual learning. Please continue to do your part in the effort to return children to TSES by practicing safety protocols. We deeply miss seeing your children in person and are committed to doing all that we can do to assure a return to our building. Nancy Thompson

INFORMATION FOR TSES FAMILIES:

When will school re-open for students? This question has arisen many times recently. Please use the [metrics](#) at the link as those numbers will drive the decision for student return to the school building. The HCPSS Board of Education continues to discuss options for returning to school in the Spring of 2021. Please use this [link](#) to keep updated.

Holiday Greetings for TSES Staff: Several families have inquired about how their family can send a holiday wish to TSES Staff members. Families may send a message of kindness to their teachers through the Canvas In Box. Please consider contacting staff members who do not have a Canvas In Box (all non-classroom, related arts and intervention staff) using the email addresses at this [link](#). A message of gratitude is the best kind of gift for staff to receive from students and families!

TSES Young Author's Contest! The deadline for the Young Authors' Contest has been extended! Students in grades 1-5 can submit a poem and/or a short story by Sunday, December 7th. Please follow all steps sent out via Canvas and at this [link](#) or contact laura_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org for more information! We can't wait to see your talented submissions!

Attention Kindergarten Parents:

- TSES Kindergarten students will be given a brief screening assessment by a reading specialist on December 16. The DIBELS screener includes measures of what we have taught and will be teaching throughout this year in kindergarten reading classes. Based on the screening assessment, if your child is at risk of reading difficulties, you will be notified via email the week of December 21. Notification will include the results and the subsequent support that will be provided for your child. If you do not receive notification by Winter Break, that means your child is performing as expected and is not in need of additional support. However, if you would like additional information, you may request it.

- Our Kindergarten Parent Event-Your Child Can be a Brave Speller! is taking place on Tuesday December 8 at 6:00! Please see this [link](#) for information including the Google Meet Code for this event.

HCPSS 2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols: New inclement weather protocols were shared with staff and the community for the 2020-2021 school year while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models. More information about the [four possible inclement weather decisions](#) are provided on the HCPSS website.

Nominate an Outstanding Principal or Teacher: Nominations for the HCPSS 2020 Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards are now open and are due no later than Friday, January 8, 2021. HCPSS will publicly announce its principal and teacher nominees in the spring. [Read more.](#)

Weekly Open office hours for Parent/Student Support

On Tuesdays, Thursdays (10:20-10:50 a.m.) and Wednesdays (1:30-2:00 p.m.), Mrs. Glassband is available for parents seeking tech support, help navigating Canvas, HCPSS parent portal, etc. Students can also drop in for help with asynchronous assignments. Use the join code: TSEStitle1support or the link <http://g.co/meet/TSES-title1support>

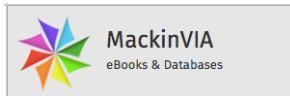
TSES Social Emotional Learning Spotlight

Please join us in celebrating Inclusive Schools Week, December 7-11, 2020.

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual international event celebrated to acknowledge schools and communities' continued journey toward providing quality education to all children regardless of differences in ability, gender, ethnicity, language, and health status. During students' SEL time next week, students will watch a video from new student "Jennifer" and Mrs. Sansone to encourage reflection and discussion with their teacher and classmates on what it feels like, looks like and sounds like to be included. You may access additional information and resources at inclusiveschools.org.

At home to celebrate you could:

Read a story called "Just Ask," by supreme court justice Sonia Sotomayor located on your child(ren)'s MackinVia account on hcpss.me.



Howard Community College Kids on Campus program provides enrichment education for youth ages 8 to 17. Topics range from Art from Around the World, Roblox, Nature Explorers, World Languages, and SAT Prep. HCC Kids on Campus has something for every interest! Registration is now open for Winter and Spring courses, and several scholarships are available. For additional information, please click [here](#) and plan to attend the information session on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30pm (<https://hcpss.zoom.us/j/98975834650>).

Mental Health Matters: Recognizing and Supporting Today's Mental Health Needs

Title I and Cradlerock ES invite you to a presentation followed by discussion of "Mental Health Matters" webinar style on December 10th from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Nicki Salcedo, from Optum Health, will provide an overview of common signs and symptoms of emotional distress (in adults and children) and strategies to address them. No RSVP required! All are welcome so feel free to invite your co-workers, friends, and neighbors! Contact allyson_glassband@hcpss.org for links and/or questions about this event.

Family Support: [The Howard County Family Institute](#) is offering two workshops that may be of help to your family. Please click on the above link for additional information and to register.

- Nothing I do Works: A Parents' Guide to Challenging Behaviors-December 8, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 PM
- Worries, concerns and Apprehensions- December 16, 2020 from 7:00-8:00 PM

Please support the OMHS Food Pantry. Last month, they served more than 60 families (over 300 individuals), and the numbers are rising every month. Many donations are needed for the December distribution. Currently, the greatest non-perishable needs include: Pasta sauce, Canned soups, Canned vegetables, Canned fruit and/or applesauce, Oatmeal, Rice, Jelly, Individually packaged snack foods. On Wednesday, December 9, OMHS Food Pantry will be collecting donations on-site at OMHS from 3pm-5pm. We can accept donations of any unexpired non-perishable foods as well as diapers and baby wipes.

Columbia Community Care has changed location from OMMS to the Stevens Forest Neighborhood Center located at 6061 Stevens Forest Road. Please note that distribution of food and goods will be on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The opening date is Wednesday December 2, 2020! Please see the schedule below:

Wednesday:

Volunteer work and donation drop off: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Line opens for guests: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday:

Volunteer work and donation drop off: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Line opens for guests: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

support that you provide to us, and for helping us to serve the greater community.

TSES PTA: Craft Night Information! Yes, the TSES PTA is sponsoring a Craft Night on December 10, 2020! Materials will be available for pick up on December 9, 2020. [Link to Information](#)

TSES PTA Website: www.tsespta.org

TSES PTA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Talbott-Springs-Elementary-School-PTA-153654291324397>

TSES PTA Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TSESPTA>

TSES PTA Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tses.pta/>

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 8, 2020 Kindergarten Parent Meeting 6:00-7:00 [Link to information](#)

December 9, 2020 TSES PTA Craft Night Supply Distribution [Link to information](#)

December 10, 2020 TSES PTA Craft Night (time and access to be determined) [Link to information](#)

December 24-Jan. 3 Schools Closed for Winter Break

January 4, 2020 School re-opens after Winter Break