

Talbott Springs Families,

As we round the corner towards the start of the Winter Holiday, I am reminded of the generosity of our TSES Community. Thank you to the many TSES staff members, families, community agencies, religious organizations and local elementary schools for providing TSES families with the opportunity to access food and gifts during the holiday season. We are also grateful for all of the parent support that we have received as our students and their families have persisted with the learning. There are so many challenges yet there are also so many great moments for our students. Please be reminded that students have school next week on a regular virtual schedule for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please see below for our school spirit events on Monday and Tuesday!

On behalf of the TSES Staff, I would like to wish each of our families a wonderful Winter Break. Please continue to make choices that keep the safety of your family and our community a priority! We look forward to the possibilities that 2021 will bring and we are excited for the return of your children to virtual learning on Monday January 4, 2021!

Nancy Thompson

INFORMATION FOR TSES FAMILIES:

DIBELS Information: TSES Kindergarten students were all given a brief screening assessment by a reading specialist on December 9 or 10. 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 January 4. Notification will include the results and the subsequent support that will be provided for your child. If you do not receive notification that week, 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 from your child's teacher.

TSES Bridges After School Academic and Enrichment Program: Are you looking for some extra academic support for your 4th or 5th grade child? Do they need some engagement after school? Consider joining our Bridges Program which runs from 4-6pm Mon through Thurs. This program provides small group academic and enrichment support including Book Clubs, Math support, and Social Emotional Learning. Students in the Fall participated in activities like Yoga, Science, and Virtual Field Trips. Please contact laura_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org with questions!

Congratulations to the TSES Students who submitted entries to the Young Author's Contest! We are so proud of your effort and your talent! Please see below for results!

Grade 1 Short Story: 1st Place: Ernest D.; 2nd Place: Max C.

Grade 2 Short Story: 1st Place: Eseosa G.; 2nd Place: Lenora C.

Grade 3 Poem: 1st Place: Maya S.; 2nd Place: Imani L.

Grade 3 Short Story: 1st Place: Daniel C.; 2nd Place: Julian A.

Grade 4 Poem: 1st Place: Gabriel M.; 2nd Place: Juliana B.

Grade 4 Short Story: 1st Place: Sophia D.; 2nd Place: Jolene C.

Grade 5 Poem: 1st Place: Lillian S.; 2nd Place: Will F.

Grade 5 Short Story: 1st Place: Isabella A.; 2nd Place: Zachary S.

Additional participants: Colin D., David C., Heily H-G, Adriana E-A, Natalie G., Joanna S., Siah F., Tunmise O., Marcelo S., Camille D.

Congratulations to the seven of our 4th and 5th graders, who wrote outstanding essays for the Carson Scholarship Nomination Process at Talbott Springs Elementary: DJ; Maddox, Sophia, Juliana, Jonah, Isabella, and Braylon. Juliana was chosen as Talbott Springs Elementary's Carson Scholarship nominee for her essay on how she plans to make the world a better place by researching a cure for food allergies. Juliana will be forwarded as the representative from TSES at the next competition level. Below are some quotes from each of our students' essays to provide some inspiration for all!

When you think you can't do anything just know everyone you know believes in you. Including yourself. You just have to find what's inside you no matter how deep.

I think something that would make the world a better place would be to use more natural, plant based ingredients in our food. This is because I realize that during these challenging times many people are not eating healthy.

Bottom line: my mission as a kid for right now is to make people happy! :)

Have you ever met somebody with food allergies? Well, for 32 million kids and adults in the United States, this is their daily reality each time they are trying to find something to eat, and I am one of them.

I'm going to tell you that you're going to cry and that's ok.

I just want a world where we could know that we can be safe and live in peace, even with any viruses preferably without any viruses out in the world.

My best is all that anyone can ask for but most important that is all I must ask of myself.

TSES Holiday Spirit Days Monday and Tuesday! During the last week before winter break, as a way to spread some winter and holiday cheer students may participate in 2 optional spirit days during the last 2 days of school before Winter Break. Any questions or concerns email Mrs. Sansone at lauren_sansone@hcpss.org. Let's celebrate and build school spirit and cheer on Monday and Tuesday! See below for details about each day.

- Monday 12/21-Pajama Day- Students (and staff) may wear pajamas to school.
- Tuesday 12/22-Ugly Sweater/Mismatched/Wacky Tacky Day- Students (and staff) may wear an "ugly" sweater or dress in clothes that mismatched, inside out or backwards.

Attention-Parents of 5th Grade Students: The process for class selection for band, strings and chorus (Performing Arts) will be shared with families of 5th graders on Friday December 18, 2020. Parents of next years' sixth graders will be asked to sign up their child for Band, Strings or Chorus using HCPSS Connect. In previous years, this was done on paper, but that is no longer an option. In addition, please note that there is a Parent Orientation Night scheduled for January 14, 2020 for 5th graders who are districted to Lake Elkhorn Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. We will share the date for the Oakland Mills Middle School Parent Orientation when it is available. If you are not sure which middle school your child will attend, [please use this link](#) and follow the directions.

TSES Telemedicine Information! [Please use this link](#) to access information about this incredible resource for families, available even during virtual learning!

Supporting Students' Mental Health

Find information on how HCPSS supports students' mental health and well-being, as well as tips for parents/guardians, resources in schools and the community, and where to go for help. [Link to Mental Health and Well-being Support.](#)

Behavior Talks Videos

Watch HCPSS' new Special Education video series sharing useful tips for breaking down a task, giving feedback and praise, and making a schedule. This information is valuable for all parents of all students! [Link to Behavior Talks Videos](#)

Impact Aid Forms

Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive additional federal funding by completing the Impact Aid form online by December 31. Impact Aid supplements the HCPSS operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms. [Link to Impact Aid Forms](#)

Winter Break Meals Adjustments

Schools will be closed for winter break from December 24 through January 1. To ensure children have access to essential nutrition during the holiday period, families may pick up additional meals in advance of the break. Pre-ordering will not be available for meals picked up December 21-23 or January 4-6. [See all service and schedule adjustments.](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 21, 2020	School Spirit: Pajama Day!
December 22, 2020	School Spirit: Wacky Tacky/Ugly Sweater/Mismatched Day!
December 24-Jan. 3	Schools Closed for Winter Break
January 4, 2020	School re-opens after Winter Break
January 14, 2020	Lake Elkhorn Middle School 2021-2022 6 th Grade Parent Orientation
January 18, 2020	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-Schools and Offices Closed
January 28, 2020	End of Quarter 2
January 29, 2020	No school for students-Professional Work Day