

## Talbott Springs Elementary School Friday Newsletter-February 7, 2020

A message from the Principal:

Although a short week, this was a busy one at TSES! Thank you for ensuring that your children attend every day so that they can participate in the learning! As we honor Black History Month, each grade level is addressing the critical role of African Americans in the birth and growth of our shared nation. Our primary grades are learning about African American contributors to our culture. Our students in the intermediate grades are exploring culture as a part of our families, community and our nation. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders are redefining activism as a positive way for all citizens to express their ideas. It is our collective goal, one day at a time, to ensure that our students understand ideas of belonging and value within the cultures and beliefs that represent our very diverse population of students and staff. Thank you to our families who have honored the safety rules and legal regulations of our parking loop/lot. Although this requires patience, it also provides a safe space for our students and staff during arrival and dismissal times. Please ensure that you take a moment to sign up for your child's Parent Teacher Conference as those meetings take place next week! This is an opportunity to gain additional insight about your child's school day and to provide our teaching staff with your thoughts about your child's progress. Please see below for more information about parent teacher conferences. As a bonus, our Scholastic Book Fair will take place on Thursday February 13, 2020 during Parent Teacher Conferences from 1:00-7:15! In the week ahead, I also look forward to our 'Change Matters' assemblies and collection. Please see below for more information about this valuable service opportunity. In addition, I look forward to Mrs. Forrester Colson's celebration of honor for her outstanding skills as an art teacher with HCPSS. I hope that each of you has a wonderful weekend with family and friends!

Nancy Thompson

### **NEW INFORMATION:**

**Change Matters at TSES!** During the week of February 11 –February 18, our school is proudly participating in an educational fundraising campaign called -- Change Matters -- to benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center -- Howard County's only 24-hour homeless shelter and crisis center. Grassroots depends upon the generosity of the community to support its free services to people with a personal, mental health, family, or shelter crisis. Counselors staff Grassroots' 24-7 crisis hotline; see walk-in clients; provide suicide prevention and outreach programs; operate the Mobile Crisis Team and Day Resource Center; and manage the emergency overnight shelter and cold weather shelters. To kick off our campaign week, Kim Steffens, an authorized representative of Grassroots, will present the campaign to Kindergarten –grade 5 students during brief assemblies on 2/11/2020. Please consider assisting your child to gather some 'change' at home, put it in a bag and bring it to school to donate to this amazing Howard County Support service. For more information about Grassroots please visit [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org).

**February Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up is Open!** Please be sure to log into [HCPSS Connect](#) and select a time for your conference! Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday February 13, 2020 and Friday February 14, 2020. Teaching staff may select to offer conference slots during the afternoon and evening February 13, 2020 and therefore will not have conferences during the afternoon of Friday February 14, 2020. If a staff member is unable to provide conference slots during the evening of February 13, 2020, he or she will offer conferences during the afternoon of February 14, 2020. Although parents can schedule a conference with any teacher, families in Kindergarten are encouraged to meet with their child's math teacher, 1<sup>st</sup> grade-ELA/Reading Teacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Math Teacher; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades conference with the PM teachers. Related Arts and Intervention staff members welcome conferences as well! If you are unable to schedule a conference during the designated 'window', please contact your child's teacher to set up a phone or in person meeting for an alternate day. Parent teacher conferences are a valuable use of time for our staff as we continue to work with your children.

**Monthly Family Wellness Challenges** We are so pleased to see so many families participating in our FOUR IS MORE monthly challenges this year! Keep an eye out for the February challenge where we want to see 4 different choices that our students will make, instead of spending time on their screens. Have you missed any of our challenges? No problem...you can find past challenges on our website and it's never too late to participate and turn them in! We love seeing all the colorful charms when our students wear their Fitness Finder necklaces on Wellness Wednesdays! Please contact Mr. Watts or Mrs. Glassband if you have any questions about this program. More information at this [link](#)

#### **REPEATED INFORMATION:**

#### **TSES RISE Challenge for February: Inspire Yourself to Self-Advocate:**

This month as Mrs. Sansone visits classrooms she will be focusing on sharing with students how they can **self-advocate**. Both now and in the future having initiative to use self-advocacy skills will help children have the power to know how to help themselves solve their problems and reach their goals.

#### **Think what can I do to help myself to reach my goals and solve my problems?**

- Use resources to help me get unstuck.
- Uses words to express what I want or need.
- Ask a classmate or adult for help.

#### **At home you could further discussion on self advocacy skills when talking with your child of any age. Some possible conversation starters:**

One time that I had to ask for help from another grown up was.....

When I was in school I remember having a hard time in \_\_\_\_\_ class, to help myself I.....

When I can't find something I'm looking for, first I.....

My favorite mistake I made was..... because I learned.....

**Family Wellness Night:** We have challenged our students each month this school year to try 4 new things in various areas of health and wellness. **Join us for our Family Wellness Night on February 27, 2020 as we continue to explore our FOUR IS MORE initiative.** During this event, families will rotate through 4 stations: boot camp, mediation/yoga, reducing screen time and karate. The event will end with the kids in the cafeteria having a dance party and a healthy snack, while the parents meet with HCPSS nutritionist in the media center. We are looking forward to this outstanding event!

**From the TSES Health Room:** Please read the following link to HCPSS/the CDC's Health Guidelines to Help Prevent and Limit the Spread of Flu and Flu Like Illnesses. Following the guidelines helps us to work together to prevent the spread of flu and flu like illnesses at TSES. The link includes a section on Coronavirus. <https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2020/01/health-guidelines-help-prevent-flu/>

**The TSES Scholastic Book Fair** will return for ONE NIGHT ONLY on Thursday, February 13th from 1:00pm-7:15pm. Buy books at great prices and a portion of the sales will buy books for classrooms! Attached is a list of some of the books that are on sale this year. You may pay at school using cash, check or credit card. If you are unable to attend the Book Fair, you can still take advantage of these great prices. Just fill out the attached order form (INCLUDING 6% SALES TAX) and return the order form with your payment to school. When sending in your order to school, you may pay using cash or a check made out to Talbott Springs Elementary School. PLEASE NOTE: If you are not attending the book fair your paper order must be received by Thursday, February 13, 2020. All books will be returned to the vendor the following day so make sure you get your orders in as soon as possible! Book orders will be filled during the day on February 13. If you have any questions about the Book Fair, please contact Laura Ciarrocchi at [laura\\_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org](mailto:laura_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org). We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair!

**Winter MAP Administration:** Please note these dates for the MAP administration for students in Grades 1 through 5:

- First Grade: ~~Math-February 5~~; ELA February 10
- Second Grade: Math-February 12; ELA February 19
- Third Grade: ~~Math-February 3~~; ELA February 13 (PM Classes) February 14 (AM Classes)
- Fourth Grade: ELA February 11; Math February 18
- Fifth Grade: ELA ~~February 6~~; ~~Math February 7~~

**Summer School Preview!** Yes, it is time to consider signing up for the HCPSS Comprehensive Summer School Programs. On-line and on-site enrollment begins on February 1, 2020. The flyer for these programs is at this [link](#).

**TSES PTA and the TSES PE Department Information:** We are pleased to announce that 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in a highly interconnected African Dancing residency. The residency will take place over two weeks from March 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 13<sup>th</sup>. Students will be working with Ssuuna, a Young Audiences Artist, and learning dances and rhythms of traditional and modern East Africa. They will also learn how the Amagunju dance evolved as a way to soothe an infant king and how traditional values like respect and gratitude are passed on through song and story. Stay tuned for more information with the date and time for the final performance! Please view the link for more information! <https://www.yamd.org/artist/ssuuna/>

**TSES Super Singers!** Please look for this spot in our newsletter each week as we celebrate our Super Singers. We recognize students for RISE(ing) in music class by demonstrating participation and care during Music class that aligns with our TSES RISE expectations. Please join us in celebrating the following students for the week of 1/27/2020: Summer N., Maddox A., Laywilee D., Heily H.G., Story P., Rafael G.T., Aidan J., Sreanna S., Kinnon H., Itassu T., Brinley T., Amy V.M., Yorel G., Madison H., Aylin M.C., Michael L., Akshara D., Molly W., Aislinn D., Mia D., Ella S.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Thursday February 13, 2020

School Closes at 12:10~Parent Teacher Conferences  
Scholastic Book Fair at TSES 1:00-7:15

**Friday February 14, 2020**

**School Closes at 12:10~Parent Teacher Conferences**

**Monday February 17, 2020**

**Schools and Offices Closed for Presidents' Day**

Thursday February 20, 2020

TSES PTA Meeting @ 7:00 in the Media Center

Thursday February 27, 2020

TSES Family Wellness Night (SAVE THE DATE!!)

Monday March 2, 2020

Kindergarten Speaker-Dr. Biederman, Dentist

March 2-13, 2020

Ssuuna Artist in Residency with Grades 4 and 5

Friday March 6, 2020

Q3 Interim Reports Issued

Please visit the TSES WEBSITE [www.hcpss.org/tses](http://www.hcpss.org/tses) for additional calendar dates found in the 'calendar' tab.

*Please visit the HCPSS Community News and Programs web-page for all announcements of events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.*