

HES PTA News

December 11th Edition



Events

Basket Bingo - Saturday, February 21, 2015

Save the date! There will be over a dozen fabulous baskets, bags, and prizes to win, and look for our special household price deal. For each bingo game played, there is an adult winner and a child winner. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner and dessert will be available for purchase. Hope you and your family will join us for all the fun!

News

Tuffy's Pride

Congratulations to our September Tuffy's Pride recipient, Ms. Davis, and our October Tuffy's Pride recipient, Ms. Edwards. The November recipient will be announced in our next newsletter. It's a surprise until the award is presented during morning announcements.

If you know of a teacher or staff member who goes above and beyond to make a child's day brighter, please consider nominating that person for the December Tuffy's Pride Award. Nominations can be made [here](#) and only take few minutes of your time. The teacher or staff person selected will receive a certificate of appreciation and a small gift card.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Mrs. Smith is starting a program for students to work on reading fluency. We are looking for volunteers to read with students one on one. It requires an adult to read aloud with a child for 15 minutes a day to model good fluency. A description/training of the simple research-based method will be reviewed with volunteers in advance. We are looking for volunteers who can give an hour of their time one day a week. They will work with four students for fifteen minutes each during this time. Please contact Laura Smith, reading specialist, at Laura_M_Smith@hcpss.org. Thank you in advance!

PTA Directory

The PTA directory has been emailed to members. If you are a member and have not received the directory, contact Jennifer Graciano at jaybro4@verizon.net.

PTA Membership

Thanks to the 307 members in our PTA! We appreciate your support for our school. If you haven't had a chance to join, Hammond students and staff still need you! A single membership costs \$8 and Family Membership costs \$18. Membership is available at any time. Please contact Christine Hyun at hespta.hyun@gmail.com if you have any questions. Membership forms may also be downloaded from our website: www.hespta.org.

Staff Appreciation Events Update

November's teacher conference dinner was a great success! Thank you so much to all families who donated items for the teachers to enjoy.

On Thursday, December 18, the PTA will host a holiday snack table for staff members. If you would like to donate snacks, please drop them off at the school that morning. Questions? Please contact maureenmudd@mac.com.

Food Drive

We have met our goal! Hammond Elementary has collected over 1,000 food items for the needy of our community. LARS was very thankful for all of the food that was donated! Thank you very much to all who donated food! As the holidays are right around the corner, we will continue to collect food for the month of December. December will be the last month of our food drive. For the month of December, students can earn 3 Tuffy tickets for each food item they bring in and 5 tuffies each if they bring in holiday items that LARS is requesting including gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and instant potatoes. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Walsh at greg_walsh@hcpss.org.

Please label coats and clothes:

Hammond Elementary's Lost and Found grows very quickly, especially throughout the winter months. Please label your children's coats, sweatshirts, bags, etc. with their last name and if there is room, their first name as well. This will help ensure that we can return their belongings.

Howard County Public School System Mobile App

The Howard County Public School System has a new mobile app. Easily navigate through current news and events or check out the latest updates with social media like Facebook and Twitter. Quickly retrieve contact information, sporting scores, lunch menus, and more! The app is available on Google Play and iTunes.

HCPSS Family Mathematics Support Center

If you or your child need help understanding math, visit the HCPSS Family Mathematics Support Center website. The HCPSS Family Mathematics Support

Center helps families: 1) Gain a better understanding of their child's mathematics program; 2) Refresh or build understanding of new (or unfamiliar) math concepts, skills, and practices; 3) Provide additional support and practice opportunities for students, as needed throughout the school year. Additionally, the support center provides links to mobile apps and grade-specific activities to make learning more exciting. <http://hcpssfamilymath.weebly.com>

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) News

At the 12/1 PTACHC meeting, there was much discussion of the Wellness Policy implemented this year, specifically the policy prohibiting most foods from being used as part of celebrations during the school day. PTACHC will draft a resolution asking the Board of Education to amend the policy to give Principals the authority to allow foods that do not comply with IOM standards for school celebrations. PTACHC will send a survey to PTA members asking for their feedback on this policy. Exact details on the survey are not known at this time; they will be shared when available. Please respond to the survey when it comes, if possible, as this will lend weight to PTACHC's resolution sent to the Board.

If you have concerns about the implementation of the Wellness Policy, please contact the Howard County Board of Education, as only the Board has the right to amend the policy now that it has been approved. Concerns could also be shared with [Frank Eastham](#) or [Renee Foose](#) with Howard County Public School System.

Additionally, the Board's 12/15 meeting will have a discussion with an update on the new elementary school model in the 4:00 meeting.

Reminders

Facebook

Like Hammond Elem PTA on Facebook.

Grocery Store Rebates

There's still time to sign up!

Harris Teeter has 89 participants and earnings of \$666.44 so far! Register your VIC card at http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx.

Target has 53 REDcard holders and earnings of \$273.05. Register your REDcard at <https://www.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>.

Giant Food: Register your card at <http://giantfood.com/aplus/register-card/>.

Help the PTA while doing your holiday shopping with Amazon Rewards

Are you an amazon.com shopper? Shop through our link and your school's PTA will earn money! Yes, it's that easy! Make all your usual purchases using this link: <http://www.amazon.com/?&tag=hp0e9c-20&linkCode=wsw&>.



Click on the black portion of the Amazon box

You can also help by adding the following information to your email signature line so friends, family members, and co-workers can support HES PTA:

Support Hammond Elementary PTA by making all of your Amazon.com purchases through this link:

<http://www.amazon.com/?&tag=hp0e9c-20&linkCode=wsw&>

2014-2015 PTA Board of Directors

President - Kerri Ukstins

VP, Membership - Christine Hyun

VP, Communications - Anne Braun

Treasurer - Randy Baldini

Recording Secretary - Christine Sledge

Communications Secretary - Maggie Kennedy

Delegate - Mike Schmeckpeper