



# HCMS Cougar News

Harper's Choice Middle School  
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May 5, 2008

"The News that Roars"

Volume 6 Number 9

## Principal's Corner May 5, 2008

**New Staff:** We welcome Mrs. Susan Rittermann, principal's secretary, filling the vacancy of Joyce Minor who retired April 30. Sue has her Bachelor of Science degree and brings a solid experience to the administrative office. She has served the elementary school communities of Dayton Oaks and Talbott Springs, and has experience as an executive/administrative associate and home business owner. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourselves, as Sue is interested and delighted to meet and to serve the Harper's Choice community.

**HCMS Debate Team:** Congratulations to our school Debate Team, who pride themselves in competing in spirited debates. At this writing they are preparing for a May 2 contest at the Howard County Library's East branch. Under the sponsorship of long-term substitute GT Resource Teacher Kim Clawson, our students work hard on establishing credible sources/citations, strong deliveries, and uniformity. Students involved in this activity exercise skills involving organization of thoughts, rebuttals, citing evidence to support their positions, and using effective language to persuade their audience.....skills that will serve them well as they matriculate through high school and beyond. Our congratulations, once again, to our fine debaters: Julia Singleton, Kit Winner, Michael Reed, Kate McHale, Gavin Watson, Fiyin Adeyemo, Iman Soubiane, and Russell Rollow.

**Student Kudos:** .....to eighth-grader Joe Wan. Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth recently advised me that Joe is receiving both a State of Maryland Award with High Honors and an Award for Distinction regarding his recent Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores, which exceeded the average score for college-bound high school seniors! We commend Joe and his parents for Joe's love of learning and accomplishments. Nicely done, Joe! ..... to seventh-grader Sarah Newkirk, who was selected from thousands of entries as the Grand Prize winner of the LEGO BrickMaster Bionicle Makuta Building Challenge. The contest consisted of creating and building a unique Bionicle and writing a supporting essay of 400 words or fewer. As a result of her win, her Bionicle model will be featured in an upcoming chapter of the Bionicle: Federation of Fear serial. A photo of her model will appear in the May issue of LEGO BrickMaster Magazine, and she is entitled to choose any LEGO set worth up to \$100. Sarah is eagerly awaiting the next contest from LEGO Magazine. Nice job there, Sarah!

**Staff/Student Kudos:** The county-wide "It's Linguistic" competition took place this April 19 at Burleigh Manor Middle School. Our students, staff, and parents should feel proud of the performance of our French and Spanish students. Our French team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, winning by wide margins each of their three rounds. Our Spanish students won their first round and displayed an improved overall performance from their first competition last year. Our Spanish students won their first round and displayed a substantive improved overall performance from their first competition last year. Each year is a combination of smarts, solid teaching, hard work, love of language, and persistence. My appreciation and congratulations to Spanish teacher Señor Sorkin and French teacher Madame Allera! Congratulations to the following cherubs, who are all winners: Spanish Team---- Sarah Bayes, Won Yeob Kim, Abigail Malkin, Alyssa McDermott, Alex Polonsky, Russell Rollow, and Joe Wan; French Team----Emma Boone, Erika Klatt, Donald Warner, Enobong Nta, Gillian Sawyer, Julia Singleton, and Dylan Tobias. Special thanks to our participants' parents, Madame Allera, Señor Sorkin, and Ms. Brisco (choral music teacher and related arts team leader), who attended to support our HCMS participants!

**6th Grade Environmental Education Trip Info:** We continue to be excited about this outdoor ed experience for our sixth-graders, to take place at Camp Ramblewood, in Cecil County, from May 28-30. Please refer to the paperwork that students received in homeroom in March. The final payment was due on April 28. Thanks again to the staff and the many parent volunteers who are making this wonderfully worthwhile experience happen for our youngsters. We are appreciative of the many monetary donations we've received. Sincere appreciation to parents Mrs. Lumpkin and Mrs. Rollow, as well as 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher Mrs. Trainer and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Team Leader Mrs. Friend for their generous time,

leadership, and effort! Contact Mrs. Friend and/or refer to the following web site for information: [www.harperschoicems.com](http://www.harperschoicems.com) You may also refer to the Outdoor Environmental Education information in this issue of the CN.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Activities:** Parents and eighth-grade team leader Mrs. Berman are discussing and making preparations for this year's eighth-grade June 11 class picnic and June 12 Farewell evening ceremony, at 7 p.m. for our class of 2012, in the gymnasium, followed by a dance in the Cougar Café, until 10 p.m. Support and assistance are always needed and appreciated for these activities. Please feel free to contact parent Mrs. Margaret Bevans or science teacher and grade-level team leader Mrs. Berman, should you be able to lend a hand or have any questions.

**Kudos to 3rd Marking Period Distinguished Students:** Special congrats to all those students earning all A's, all A's and B's, or cited as "most improved" on their 3rd quarter report cards. Be sure to view your youngsters' names on the walls of the school, outside their grade level team areas.

**HCPSS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION STANDARDS:** In order to be promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7, from Grade 7 to Grade 8, or from Grade 8 to high school, middle school students must accomplish the following: 1.) Pass all courses; 2.) Receive a final grade of "C" or better in English, mathematics, reading, science, and social studies. *Students who do not meet this requirement will automatically be considered for retention and be recommended to attend summer school.* Academic eligibility standards will apply to ninth-graders beginning with the first marking period of their freshman year, at which time they will be expected to maintain a 2.0 grade point average and have no failing grades in order to participate in extracurricular activities. These rules govern academic eligibility for student participation in all extracurricular activities, including but not limited to: athletic teams, cheerleading, school plays and musicals, school clubs, running for or serving in an elected school office, and non-required trips by performing groups (i.e. bands, choirs, etc.). Feel free to pick up a copy from any school's administrative office.

**HCPSS Local Assessments:** As you know, we administer to all students end-of-quarter "local assessments" in mathematics, English, science, and social studies. Additionally, assessments are given to students in health education classes, as well as in 7th and 8th Spanish and French classes in marking periods 2 & 4. Teachers work hard to ensure that appropriate material is completed for each marking period's assessments. While reading skills/tasks are embedded in these assessments, there is considerable writing involved. Individual and group assessment data are used to provide feedback for teachers to target student areas of weakness and strength, allowing intervention strategies to improve student learning. The relevant feedback on instruction and learning is also used to inform future instruction and modifications to curricula. FYI.....these county-wide school system assessments are given each grading quarter throughout the school year.

**Music Kudos and Happenings.....** Congratulations to our choral students and instructor Ms. Brisco for their recent excellent performance at the school system Middle School Choral Festival on April 21, at Long Reach High School. They performed well, receiving glowing remarks..... I was delighted to be asked again to introduce the morning's middle school program pieces for each of the schools in the competition. Additional congrats to our 6th grade concert band students and Ms. Miranda-Valladares, who participated in the April 15 Howard County Middle School Band Festival. Students received favorable comments on their appearance, as well as on how well prepared they were for the event. Additionally, Ms. Miranda felt that our students' behavior was exemplary, which is always wonderful to hear. Felicitations to all of our music students, staff, and parents!

A reminder that we will have our band, choir, and orchestra attending the annual Music Showcase Festivals, at Hershey Park, PA on May 16. This is followed by our spring concerts on May 22 (Part1---HCMS Cougar Café) and on June 2 (Part 2---WLHS Rouse Theatre).

**Community Senior Citizens and HCMS Students: Mentoring Initiative----**Much appreciation to our community's senior citizens, who continue to work every Tuesday in our media center with our youngsters, strengthening their reading skills. Students have realized benefits from the mentoring program, including improved academic performance in their classes, as well as a special bonding with their mentors. . Special thanks to Judi Bard, with the Office on Aging, and our tremendous appreciation is extended for the talented efforts of the following mentors: Carl Bess, Barbara Bullock, Rachel

Coleman, Vern Falby, John Forrest, Jean Henson, Sybil McKennon, Julia Murray, Amritha Narasimhan, Jean Singleton, Rita Sloan, Bon Spongeberg, and Kay Weeks. *Senior Prom*-----Our students also work with our community's senior citizens periodically throughout the school year. April 16 was another wonderful adventure, in that some 60 students attended the "Senior Prom" at the Bain Center. Additionally, our sixth-grade concert band provided music for this fabulous community event, and I received a letter complimenting our students and their teacher, Ms. Miranda-Valladares, on their performance and interaction with our community's elderly. My thanks to band teacher Ms. Miranda, media specialist Mrs. Oatts, and sixth-grade teacher Ms. Kelly for the time and effort that they give to these events.

**HCMS March Madness:** April 3<sup>rd</sup>'s PTA-sponsored Staff vs. Student Basketball Game fundraiser was a terrific success! Parents, students, and staff thoroughly enjoyed three high-spirited basketball games, raffle drawings, free giveaways, a fashion show by our Cougar Time students, sub sandwiches, and Rita's desserts! The crowd was Standing Room Only, and the audience of parents, students, and friends were entirely supportive throughout! Much appreciation to staff, students, parents, and PTA parents Becky Ramsing, who organized the event, and Kathy Eckley, who coached the student participants!

**HCMS GT Enrichment Fair:** A reminder that our annual enrichment fair takes place Wednesday, May 14, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Clawson or Ms. Gorkiewicz, if you have questions or have time and can lend a hand.

**Appropriate Dress Reminder:** I recently reminded students of the importance of adhering to our school dress code. As the weather warms up, there is a tendency to wear clothing that might be appropriate outside of school that is not at all appropriate while attending school. I reminded all our cherubs to avoid wearing skirts that are too short, no skimpy blouses, no spaghetti straps, no skin showing whatsoever. Guys are to present themselves respectfully, as well.....no open arm t-shirts, etc. Additionally, I asked that they not wear high-heeled sandals or the flip-flop usually worn to beaches or that one might wear under an outdoor shower. While this footwear may be very appropriate for a soft sandy beach or for a social function, injuries can and do occur in the school setting. We sometimes encounter skinned toes, twisted ankles, and even falls as a result of unsafe footwear. It's also a consideration when I may need to count on youngsters' ability to respond to directions during an emergency such as a fire.

**HCPSS Goal 2 Survey on Safe Schools:** FYI.....The school system is conducting its annual school survey through May 23. The survey was sent to all parents subscribing to eSchoolnewsletter. Those who do not subscribe or do not have home access to the internet may still participate by contacting Lana Asuncion-Miller at 410-313-7475; she will send you a paper copy and a return envelope. One may also access the survey by visiting a Howard County Library, using one of the public access computers. The survey can be found at: <http://tp.hcpss.org/jkatz/goal2parent.tp4>

FYI.....you may recall our various goals /targets that I include in communiqués to parents at the beginning of the year and in various presentations throughout the school year. The following school system targets and school goals also appear along with various meeting agenda throughout the year as I meet with faculty and staff. It serves only to highlight/remind staff of our academic targets, goals, foundation, and the philosophy by which we pursue excellence. SW

**HCPSS'S  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ACCELERATED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
SCHOOL SYSTEM TARGETS**

- \* All schools will meet Adequate Yearly Progress.
- \* All schools will have 70% of all students and student groups score at proficient or advanced on the reading and mathematics Maryland School Assessment (MSA)
- \* All high schools will have 95% of all students and student groups passing the High School Assessments (Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, English 10, and Government)

**HARPER'S CHOICE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS**

**GOAL 1**

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**High Quality Teaching + Parental Involvement + Student Academic and Behavioral Excellence  
First Step: NO EXCUSES**

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**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

**Each child, regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status or gender, will meet the rigorous performance standards that have been established.**

**All diploma-bound students will perform on or above grade level in all measured content areas.**

**GOAL 2**

**AN APPROPRIATE SCHOOL LEARNING CULTURE**

**All students, staff, and parents at Harper's Choice Middle School shall enjoy an appropriate school culture/climate, resulting in a safe, nurturing, and academically stimulating teaching and learning environment that values diversity and commonality.**

**Three Core Values Serve as a Foundation for the above Achievement Goals:**

**Focus on Instruction  
Partnerships  
Continuous Improvement**

**High Quality Teaching + Parental Involvement + Student Behavior and Academic Excellence**

**First Step: No Excuses !**

As always, I thank you for recognizing the importance of a shared partnership in the education of (y)our youngsters!

Sincerely,

Stephen Wallis  
Principal

## ART NEWS

Sarah Eber, Miriam Acevedo, and Cristal Mills work was recently selected by the Art Supervisors to be shown at the Board of Education, Faulkner Ridge Gallery, the Maryland Treasury Building, and the State House in Annapolis. These works of Art were selected from the recent Mall Exhibition in Columbia.

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

**Book Fair:** Our Spring Book fair will run from May 12 – 19, 2008. Our Family Night will be held on May 14, 2008 in conjunction with the GT Fair. Again, we will have teacher Wish Lists. Many of you donated books to our classroom teachers during our Fall Book Fair and they truly appreciated it. All teachers that participated received a book or two. We will also have our *One For Books* in which Scholastic matches our monetary donation by donating books to three non-profit organizations. They include: *Kids in Distressed Situations*, *National Center for Family Literacy*, and *Toys for Tots*. The students contributed \$154.00 and we would like to double that during our Spring Book Fair. With these funds and our profit from the books you purchase we were available to purchase \$1,800.00 worth of books for the Media Center. Some of these books were given to students for winning our One For Books Contest.

**Spring Boutique:** We will host our first annual Spring Boutique, which will be sponsored by the HCMS PTA on Saturday, May 10, 2008. We are accepting vendors/exhibitors who would like to sell their crafts and those who have items for resale. If you would like to be part of the Spring Boutique contact Ms Oatts at 410.313.6929 for an application or for additional information. The Boutique will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come to browse and purchase Mother's Day gifts. The entrance fee is your Loose Change. These Donations will be used to purchase books to be donated to the following charities: Kids in Distressed Situations, National Center for Family Literacy, and Toys for Tots.

## 8th GRADE END OF YEAR SPECIAL EVENTS

8th grade students are quickly approaching the end of their middle school years. There are a number of planned events to celebrate this milestone in their lives. On the last full day of school, June 11th, there will be a picnic at Cedar Lane Park from 10am until 2:15pm. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Farewell Ceremony will be held from 7pm to 8pm. Immediately following the Farewell Ceremony, the 8th graders will be participating in a dance from 8pm-10pm. In order to help pay for these events all 8th grade parents/ guardians are being asked to donate a minimum of \$5 per student. Any additional contributions above that would be greatly appreciated! If you have not contributed as yet to these events, you may send cash or a check made out to: HCMS PTA - 8th grade only. Please place your contribution in an envelope labeled with your student's name and 8th grade celebrations!

## GUIDANCE NEWS

### **Absence for Religious Obligation**

Beginning January 22, 2008, the implementation date of the revised policy, the *Absence for Religious Obligation* form (to be used in conjunction with revised Policy 3000, Religious Observances) must be completed by the parent for consideration of an excused absence for religious obligation. All requests must be signed by the principal/principal's designee and forwarded to the Office of Equity Assurance for consideration.

The new form may be obtained in the Guidance Office, or the HCPSS website (see For Parents: Forms). [LINK](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Autism Awareness Nights at The Rockfish Restaurant in Annapolis! The Rockfish Restaurant is hosting Autism Awareness nights on the third Tuesday of each month. Families with children who have Autism are encouraged to come and enjoy a family meal without any stigma. The chef will offer several items that are either gluten or casein-free and background music will be turned down to reduce sensory overload. A quiet room will be available if needed. The evening is all about acceptance and understanding and helping loved ones enjoy all the experiences that everyone else enjoys. 10% of the proceeds from each of the Autistic Awareness evenings will be donated to Pathfinders for Autism. Please call 410-267-1800 for more information.

The Howard County Autism Society and AMC Theatres at Columbia Mall will be offering movie showings for families with special needs. There will be no trailers, the volume will be kept down and the lights will be kept up. Children are encouraged to take sensory breaks. All families and friends with special needs are welcome. Showings will start at 9:30am and doors open at 8:45 am. Cost is \$6.00 per person. The upcoming schedule is:

05/24/08 Chronicles of Narnia:  
Prince Caspian  
06/14/08 Kung Fu Panda  
06/12/08 WALL-E

**STRESSLESS TESTS** a non-profit organization recognized as an educational partner with the Howard County Public School System presents Study Skills:

**Summer Study Skills** is now a 5-day course, with new games and activities for a lighter touch for summer. Middle School classes start the weeks of July 28, August 4 and August 11, and meet from 12 noon to 2 pm. The fee is \$185 and includes the *Study for Success* DVD. All classes meet at Centennial High School.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Education Trip Info

We're excited about our planned outdoor experience for our sixth-graders, to take place at Camp Ramblewood, in Cecil County, from May 28-30. Please refer to the paperwork students received in homeroom on March 10. The final payment was due on April 28. A supply list will be distributed to the students in the coming weeks. Students who ride a bus will need to make arrangements to drop off their supplies on May 27 at the school. We are appreciative of the many monetary donations we have received. Special thanks to parents Tracey Lumpkin, Geri Rollow and to teacher Betsy Trainer for their support of this endeavor. Please contact Sixth Grade Team Leader, Tiffany Friend with questions. You may also refer to the following website for information:

[www.harperschoicems.com](http://www.harperschoicems.com)

## 2008-09 NEW PROCEDURE FOR FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY EXCLUSION

Next year parents/guardians will be asked to present a written request to excuse their child from family life and Human Sexuality. Mrs. Grizio, the health teacher at Harpers Choice Middle School, will no longer hand out permission slips for this class. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Grizio if you have any questions or comments.

[maureen\\_grizio@hcpss.org](mailto:maureen_grizio@hcpss.org)

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Howard County Recreation and Parks 4 year old preschool program at Veterans Elementary School in Ellicott City is now accepting new students for the 2008-2009 school year. Program hours are 9:30-3:30 with before and after care from 8-9:30 and 3:30-5. Please call 410-313-4694 for more information.

## CHORUS NEWS

### **Spring Concert 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Join us on May 22 at HCMS in the Cougar Café, 7 p.m. for a FREE concert featuring the sixth grade chorus, orchestra, concert band, Jazz band and the percussion ensemble.

### **Spring Concert 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at WLHS in the Rouse Theatre, 7:00 p.m. for a concert featuring symphonic orchestra, symphonic band, chamber orchestra, and treble choir.

To offset the cost of the rental for the Rouse Theatre we are asking \$1.00 per person or \$3.00 per family.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Harper's Choice Middle School is proud to continue the second year of recognizing outstanding students each month. The students are nominated by the individual teams for displaying the three characteristics focused on throughout the school year: Respect, Responsibility, and Relationship Building. When stopping by the front office, take a look at the pictures of the students as they are recognized each month. We are proud of their efforts. Keep up the good work!

### **March**

#### **Sixth Grade**

Julian Than  
Leigha Schrader  
Ilana Malkin  
Nathan Minnick

#### **Seventh Grade**

Andi Abel  
Colleen Nessel

#### **Eighth Grade**

Marc Broughton  
Greg Kim  
Sanaz Kabirousefi

## SPIRITWEAR SALE

Show your HCMS Spirit! Check out the display case in the school entrance for some of the great shirts, shorts and other super summertime items available in the PTA's Spring Spiritwear sale! Back by popular demand are brightly colored shorts with a madras insert panel, mesh shorts, and HCMS tees and polo shirts! Order forms went home on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> and are due May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please put your order form and check payable to HCMS PTA in an envelope marked HCMS Spiritwear.

The order form is also available on the HCMS website and extras are in the office. Questions? Contact Kristy Virostek at (410) 884-3639.

## FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

*Did You Know?* Sniffing solvents is more popular than smoking Marijuana for teenagers looking to get high. 593,000 children experiment with inhalants every year. 45.5 percent of children ages 12 to 13 have sniffed inhalants. 12.4 percent of 16 to 17 year olds sniff inhalants. Prolonged use of inhalants can damage the central nervous system. The most popular types of inhalants among children are: glue, shoe polish, and toluene (paint thinner).

*Important!!* Physical Exam forms have been mailed home for students that do not have a Maryland Physical form in their medical files. It is important that the Health room have this vital information, the information contained in these forms gives us a baseline to go by (such as blood pressure readings) should an emergency arise.

*All* students should update their physical forms. When you schedule your child for his/her annual physical exam, please contact the Health Room for a form. Some of our students have physical forms that date back to Kindergarten, its important that your child's medical information be routinely updated.

Some students have requested cough drops for their coughs or sore throats. The Health Room can distribute cough drops (Riccolla or Fruit Breezers-

cough drops that do not contain medication) to students provided that parents purchase the drops and bring them to the Nurse with a permission letter.

Please make sure you fill out the extended day field trip forms. We will use the needed information for all field trips! If your child takes medication regularly or needs to take medication on an extended day field trip, please have the doctor fill out their portion of the form.

Remember to update new phone numbers ASAP. If an emergency arises the emergency contact information you provide to us is our only lifeline to you.

If your child's medical condition or medications change, notify the Health Room (the first thing the paramedics ask is what medications is this child taking, are there any allergies to medication, or do they have asthma). This updated information could save your child's life!

### **Spring is here!**

*Does your child have Asthma?* Asthma is a chronic condition that affects about 10% of children at some time during childhood. Some of the common triggers are: Viral infections, exercise, allergens, environmental irritants, and emotions. If your child has asthma, please be sure that the Health Room has an inhaler for your child should an episode arise.

Also, does your child have an allergic reaction to bee-stings or food? If any Epi-pen is needed for such cases, make sure the Health Room has one available for your child.

*Not sure if you should send your child to school?* If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, the student needs to stay home. Students need to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. The isolation of ill students at home can prevent the spread of illness in the school.

If you are in need of health insurance for your child.....you may be eligible for the Maryland Children's Health Program. Call 1-800-456-8900 for more information. Remember, a physical exam is needed for every child who attends a Howard County Public School.

If you cannot afford your prescription medications and you are NOT on medicare - The MEDBANK Program of Maryland may be able to help you receive free prescription medication. Call to see if you qualify: Central Maryland 410-821-9262; outside central Maryland 877-435-7755. Medbank of Maryland is a non-profit organization helping those without prescription coverage receive free medication since 2000.

ALLCARE MD.....No appointment needed! A new way to get the medical care you need at prices you can afford on your schedule! Don't wait in the ER or a Dr's office! Stop into ALLCARE of MD and get the care you need...when you need it. ALLCARE is located at 6955 Oakland Mills Rd Suite N Columbia, MD (Corner of Oakland Mills & Snowden River) (410-290-9990 ) or at ALLCARE 9396-D Baltimore National Pike Ellicott City, MD (410-480-9110) Hours Mon-Fri 9 AM-8 PM Sat & Sun Noon-6 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Vollmerhausen or Annette Grzybinski in the Health Room.



**SAVE**

**THE DATE**

HCMS 2008 – 2009 Back to School Night will be September 22, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the school's Cougar Café.

## **GT NEWS**

- May 7 - Middle School Book Club Meeting.  
7-8pm. Barnes and Noble, Ellicott City.
- May 14 - HCMS Enrichment Fair. 6:30-8:00.

If you have any questions regarding the G/T program  
at HCMS, please contact Ms. Gorkiewicz  
at [Megan\\_Gorkiewicz@hcpss.org](mailto:Megan_Gorkiewicz@hcpss.org)

## **HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Library is offering FREE live on-line homework help. Check it out at [www.howa.lib.md.us/](http://www.howa.lib.md.us/). The service is available seven days a week from 2 p.m. through 1:00 a.m. Eastern time. Students in 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, as well as college freshmen, can use the service as often as they wish and receive help in math, science, social studies and English. A Howard County Public Library card is necessary to access this free service.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- May 16 - Schools Closed  
Professional Work Day
- May 22 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert
- May 26 - Schools and Offices Closed  
Memorial Day
- May 28 - 30 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Ed Trip
- June 2 - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Concert
- June 11 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic 10 am-1:45 p.m.  
Cedar Lane Park
- June 12 - Schools close 3 hours early  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Ceremony 7 - 8 p.m.
- June 13 - Schools close 3 hours early
- June 16 - Last day for students  
Schools close 3 hours early
- September 22 – Back to School Night 7 p.m.