

COUGAR NEWS

UPCOMING DATES:

January 4th – Schools and Offices Open after Winter Break

January 8th – Spirit Day – Super Hero Day

January 12th – PTA Meeting, 6:30pm

January 18th – Schools and Offices Closed – Martin Luther King Jr Holiday

January 29th – Schools Closed for Students – Professional Work Day

February 5th – Report Cards Issued

Connect with Us:

During virtual learning, the best way to contact us is via email. For all staff emails, go to our CES website: <http://ces.hcpss.org/school-staff>

Front Office:

[Julia Blalock@hcpss.org](mailto:Julia_Blalock@hcpss.org) – Principal Secretary

[Mattia Lambiotte@hcpss.org](mailto:Mattia_Lambiotte@hcpss.org) – Teacher Secretary

[Amy Stevens@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy_Stevens@hcpss.org) – Teacher Secretary

Administration:

[Robin Malcotti@hcpss.org](mailto:Robin_Malcotti@hcpss.org) – Principal

[Lauren Slattery@hcpss.org](mailto:Lauren_Slattery@hcpss.org) – Assistant Principal

Health Room:

[Laura Smith1@hcpss.org](mailto:Laura_Smith1@hcpss.org) – Cluster Nurse

[Denise Matthis@hcpss.org](mailto:Denise_Matthis@hcpss.org) – Health Assistant

Guidance Office:

[Jennifer Palich@hcpss.org](mailto:Jennifer_Palich@hcpss.org) – Guidance Counselor



Happy 2021 to all!!!! Yes, we have finally made it!!! The year of 2020 has officially ended and we now find ourselves reflecting on what this past year has meant to us. Yes, for many if not for all of us, 2020 has presented us with challenges we thought we would never see in our lifetime. Many of us have experienced loss, worry, anxiety, grief, sadness, uncertainty,..just to name a few. This year truly has changed every aspect of our lives. Few parts of our lives have been untouched by this pandemic. However, amidst all of this, life has changed pace for many of us. It has slowed down and been rerouted. It is now time to ask ourselves the question...what has 2020 made possible for us? I recently read an article that addressed this very question. It spoke about discovering gratitude for what 2020 did make possible...maybe it meant more time with your family and children, more time to spend doing something you enjoy such as a hobby, talking with an old friend or neighbor, listening to your favorite music, or reading your favorite book. We have many challenges of uncertainty that lie ahead of us. Focusing on what we have can make all the difference on our outlook for the future. I wish you and your family a prosperous, healthy new year! Hoping to see all of our students sometime soon in 2021!

Go Cougars!

Best Wishes,

Ms. Malcotti

NEW INFORMATION

Elementary Student Workload During Virtual Instruction

Families, particularly of primary students, have expressed concerns about the virtual elementary workload including the complexity of asynchronous lessons, the number of content areas taught, and the number of weekly asynchronous assignments. In order to support elementary students with successfully navigating during virtual instruction, the following adjustments have been made:

- Students will only have asynchronous assignments in Social Studies, Science, or Health during a given week. There will not be an overlap of instruction or assignments for these content areas.
- Health lessons will be taught for one week during the marking period and include two synchronous lessons and two asynchronous lessons instead of five asynchronous lessons as assigned in the first quarter.
- The length and complexity of Social Studies, Science, and Health asynchronous assignments have been reduced.
- Related Arts asynchronous assignments have been streamlined.

Winter Break Meal Services: Adjustments for December 21, 2020–January 4, 2021

Howard County public schools will be closed for winter break from Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021. There will be no meal service during this time. To ensure children have access to essential nutrition during the holiday period, families may pick up additional meals in advance of the break.

The following adjustments will be made to meal services:

- There is no meal service Thursday, December 24 through Friday, January 1. Meal service will resume on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Meals for December 23–27 will be available for pickup at any HCPSS meal site on Wednesday, December 23.
- Pre-ordering will not be available for meals picked up December 21–23 or January 4–6. Walk up (non-pre-ordered) meals may be picked up those and other days schools are in session.
- Pre-ordering services will resume Monday, January 4 for meals to be picked up beginning Thursday, January 7.

Meals are provided at no cost to any HCPSS student or any child under age 18. More information about [2020-2021 meal services](#) is provided online.

Technology



If your child is having a Technology issue, please fill out the [CES Tech Support form](#). It is also listed on our CES website.



Technology Tip: Two of our most common troubleshooting solutions are [resetting the Chrome browser](#) and [resetting the Chromebook to factory settings](#). Those two solutions will often fix most issues such as camera, microphone, zoom settings, etc.



BrainPOP



BrainPOP Jr.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA, CES has a subscription to BrainPOP Jr. and BrainPOP. Teachers may use these during class, but your child can also access them on their own through the Clever button on <https://hcpss.me>.

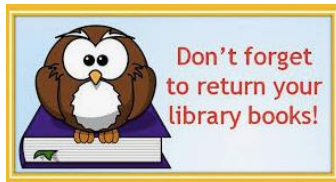
Media



The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!! (virtually, unfortunately). From February 1st thru 14th our families will be able to look at the huge selection of books and choose which ones your student would enjoy. It's been difficult to get new books in our students' hands and this is a great opportunity to have them purchase the latest and best new books!

The media center earns 25% of all sales to try to add some badly needed books to our collection. And the books are shipped directly to your home for free! (if you purchase \$25)

I'll be sending out more information as soon as it becomes available. I hope you'll consider supporting our Fair this year - even though it is not the same Fair that we've come to love. If you have any questions, please contact me at donna_britton@hcpss.org



The Media Center still unfortunately has hundreds of books that were checked out last year and were not returned. We REALLY need to get those books back as we have no funds to replace them (and would much rather purchase NEW books anyway). You may have forgotten which books your student

still has out - so you will be receiving - or have already received - a notice with the titles. Please look for these outstanding books and drop them off any day M - F from 9 to 4 in the front of the school in the bins. Your Media Center thanks you!!

The Black-eyed Susan Reading Program Begins at CES

Join Mrs. Faust for Weekly Read-Alouds

January is Reading Month in Maryland! Let's celebrate by kicking off the Black-eyed Susan Contest at Clarksville. The Black-eyed Susan Awards are Maryland's student choice book awards. Authors love receiving this award because it is given to them by children, their intended audience. Each week between now and April 17th we will highlight one of the Picture Book nominees. Don't let the phrase "Picture Book" fool you these books are amazing and great for all

ages, even adults. These fantastic titles are selected for their ability to celebrate differences and provide students with new insights into their own lives.

Join Mrs. Faust, our reading specialist, for a read-aloud and discussion Wednesdays at noon or Thursdays at 7:00PM. A reading of each book will also be posted to be enjoyed at your convenience. The program will culminate with voting the week of April 18th. Children who have read at least 8 of the 15 nominated titles will have earned the privilege of voting.

See the Black-eyed Susan link on each grade level page for more details.

STUDENT PREFERRED NAMES SETTINGS

In a virtual setting, student names are displayed in several locations, including in Canvas and Google. Some students are more comfortable with their nicknames instead of given names being displayed. Students may now log in to Synergy to request a preferred name that will replace their displayed name in Google and Canvas only. Requesting a preferred name does not impact students' legal names in HCPSS systems. All preferred names will be approved by school staff prior to becoming live in Google and Canvas in early January.

Students will receive directions in Canvas on how to add a preferred name. You may view your child's preferred name by:

1. [Logging in to HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Selecting Student Info from the left navigation
3. Looking for the Preferred First Name field under Student Name to see what is currently set. The requested preferred name will show in Canvas and Google beginning in early January 2021.

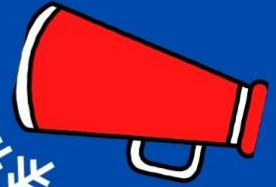
Preferred names are nicknames or names the students preferred to be called. This is not the same as presenting name, in which a change is made so that the name and/or gender of the student reflects the student's identity. If your child is transgender or gender non-binary, they should reach out to their school counselor to discuss the presenting name option.

Parents/guardians who would like their child's preferred name to be changed should contact their school administrators.

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GO TEAM

CHAMPS



CLARKSVILLE ELEMENTARY



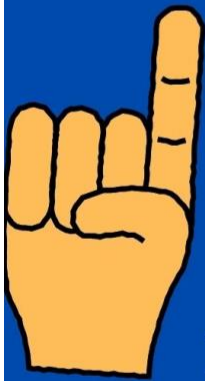
CHEER

CES SUPERHERO DAY



Show your Cougar pride by dressing up as a superhero on **Friday, January 8, 2021**

YAYYY



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Tweet Us

@hcpss_ces

GO COUGARS!!!!

GO TEAM

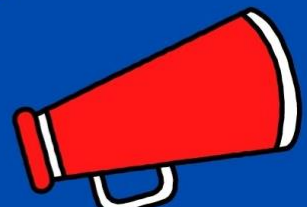


CHEER

YAYYY

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CHEER





Birthday Celebrations for January

The following students are celebrating a birthday this month. We want to wish them all a Happy Birthday!

Aggarwal, Reva I.	1/1	Barsky, Emma W.	1/13
Bernal, Kaie E.	1/1	Diggs, Christian I.	1/14
Chavez Ortiz, Yolanda I.	1/1	Cao, Anthony T.	1/18
Joo, Seungbin	1/1	Hao, Jason	1/18
Zhang, Grace W.	1/1	Frinjari, Yamen	1/20
Hanlon, John M.	1/2	Greene, Isabella M.	1/20
Speaks, Zuri N.	1/2	Khaneja, Bavjot S.	1/22
Jason-Peele, Patience N.	1/4	Gong, Harry Z.	1/23
Loreson, Clara T.	1/5	Wu, Michael Y.	1/23
Wong, Makayla Y.	1/5	Sheppard, Tav'ion A.	1/25
George, Jonathan A.	1/6	Sterrett, Cole A.	1/25
Chung, Henry J.	1/7	Beruk, Noah B.	1/26
Kirland, Presley J.	1/7	Bethea, Brandon T.	1/27
Parker, Sydney S.	1/7	Chen, Benjamin H.	1/27
Shih, Lillian M.	1/7	Chen, Erica H.	1/27
Tosh, Lydia M.	1/7	Chen, Boyce	1/28
Rafej, Lily N.	1/8	Yao, Ying fei C.	1/28
Villela, Sebastian A.	1/9	Li, Benjamin W.	1/29
Yao, Theodore K.	1/9	Moore, Paige A.	1/30
Mutembo, Sepo	1/10	Gandel, Emily L.	1/31
Yin, Lily Y.	1/10	Sreekanth, Nikhil J.	1/31
Lee, Vivian J.	1/11		