



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

January 24, 2020

It's Semester Break, Vikings!

Mid-terms are over, and now it's time to pause for a few days, to enjoy this treasured weekend between semesters. In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. In fact, the month of January is named after this Roman god of beginnings and endings. But rather than spending this weekend looking backward (mid-terms are over) or looking forward (second semester doesn't start until Tuesday), I would challenge you instead to look up. To put down your device, (just for a few minutes ☺), and look up.



What do you see? If you're in our school, you see incredible, thought-provoking works of art from our students thanks to the efforts of our remarkably talented fine arts teachers, **Caroline Creeden, Mary Kate Hannah, and Brooke Leahy** who work tirelessly to showcase our student art. The walls of our school are a canvas for conversation, daring students to look up as they move through our halls. As parents, you've seen the murals and art installations when you come for parent-teacher conferences and other events. We're part high school, part art museum and colleagues who come to visit have remarked and been inspired to transform their schools similarly.

My office walls are one of the many places on which student art is displayed on a rotating basis, and when I look up, I currently see stunning pieces by **Trisha Anand, Maria Grafov, Yanyu Li, Erin Poynot, and Nhi Tran**. And you might recall that in my [October 11, 2019 newsletter](#), I highlighted one of our newest art installations in our front office.

We know it takes time for our art teachers to hang these pieces and get them ready for display. It's not something that I or the rest of our staff take for granted as it brightens our day and reminds us of just how incredibly talented our students are in so many areas.

Charlotte Bronte said, *"I try to avoid looking forward and backward, and try to keep looking upward."* Good advice for all of us but certainly for those of us lucky enough to walk these halls and call ourselves Vikings. I hope that during this long weekend you find something which inspires you to look up.

Joelle

## **FOLLOW US & STAY CONNECTED**

Twitter: [@hcpss\\_mhhs](https://twitter.com/hcpss_mhhs)

Website: <http://mhhs.hcpss.org>

Student Online Newspaper: The Mountain: <https://mthmountain.com>

## **UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS**

*See the [calendar](#) on our website for additional dates.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
January 27		Schools closed/Professional Work Day for Staff
January 28		3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Begin
January 31	7pm	Jazz Showcase
February 1	9-11am	HCPSS Summer School Registration Open
February 3		Quarter 2 Report Cards Distribution during 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
February 4		<b>NEW **Schools &amp; offices closed for Special Election</b>
February 8	10am	It's Academic Team competition airs on WJZ-channel 13
February 17		Schools closed for Presidents' Day
February 24	6pm	Spring Sports Parents Meeting in the Auditorium
February 28	7-8am	Restorative Justice in Education Book Discussion over Coffee Sponsored by PTSA in the Media Center
February 28		Deadline for Spring Sports Registration
February 29		Spring Sports Tryouts Start
March 7		Science Olympiad @ Hebron
March 18-22	3/18, 10am 3/19-21, 7pm 3/22, 2pm	"Beauty and the Beast" Musical Production
March 26	6-7:30pm	College Night (College Park, HCC, Armed Services and UMBC) in the Auditorium
April 2	6pm	HebronFest
April 3		3-hour early dismissal/ Professional Work Day for Staff
April 6-13		Schools closed for Spring Break
April 14	6:30-7pm	Guest Speaker on Restorative Justice in Education
April 14	7pm	PTSA Meeting in the Media Center
April 28		Schools closed for Primary Election Day
May 15		3-hour early dismissal/Professional Work Day for Staff
May 18-28	TBD	Graduation Window @ Merriweather Post Pavilion
May 25		Schools closed for Memorial Day
June 22		Last possible school day if all 5 snow days are used
June 22-July 31		HCPSS Summer School
August 25, 2020		First School Day for Students 20-21 School Year

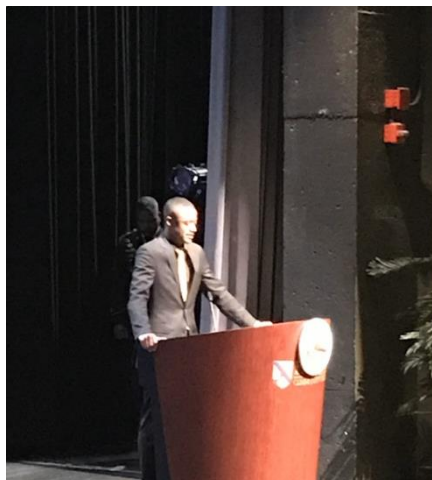
# CELEBRATIONS!

***\*\*For even more celebrations & good news, follow us on Twitter: @hcpss\_mhhs***

***We now have over 2,000 followers!!! Go Vikings!!***



**Congratulations to Senior Tori Valentine!!!!**  
**She is Honda's Howard County Player of the Week!!!!**



**Congratulations to Senior Allen Dixon who presented at the Howard County Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!!**



## Congratulations to Lexi Cucciario for completing her SuperPlunge!!



Last Friday and Saturday, approximately 40 Super Plungers from across Maryland came together individually or in teams at Sandy Point State Park to raise more than \$350,000 for Special Olympics by completing 24 plunges into the chilly Chesapeake Bay. If you've been following her progress, you'll know that Mt. Hebron junior Lexi Cucciario was among those fearless plungers (she even added a few extra plunges to recognize some of her biggest supporters). While many of the veteran plungers were able to raise their money through large corporate donations, employer matching funds, and business connections within the community, Lexi chose to take more of a grassroots approach and ask for smaller donations from family, friends, neighbors, classmates, teammates, her dad's co-workers, members of the Maryland Swimming community where she competes, and even complete strangers. Wow, did you all deliver!



Not only did Lexi reach her original \$10,000 goal earlier than nearly all of the other Super Plungers, she also continued raising money throughout the plunge itself and ended up passing the \$11,000 mark, so she can truly say that she gave it 110%! She has also maintained her spot at the top of the "Most Donors" list among all of the Super Plungers, which is a testament to the broad support she received throughout the community.

Lexi would like to pass along her deepest thanks to everyone at Mt. Hebron who supported her. Just knowing that she had so many people cheering her on helped to keep her

warm even as the weather got progressively colder throughout the event. Although the Super Plunge itself is over, the fundraising will continue for the next couple of weeks as Special Olympics wraps up its regular Polar Bear Plunge season, so you can still make a donation to let Lexi know you're as proud of her as we are - just to go her fundraising page at <https://support.somd.org/fundraiser/2229452>. Congratulations, Lexi!



**Congratulations** to the following students as they have been selected from the Fine and Performing Arts teachers as the Featured Artists:

**Robert Potter**

Symphonic Winds

"Bobby is a true "team" player. A member of the Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble... he is always eager to help and well prepared for all of his musical ventures."

~Mr. Fischer

**Serenity Holland**

Dance 1

"Serenity is responsible and kind. She works hard in class and encourages her peers to do the same." ~Mrs. DiPietro

**Lauren Cursey**

Guitar 3

"Lauren is one of the most hard-working students I've ever taught. She is passionate about music and epitomizes the word "dependable". " ~Mr. Rettenmayer

**Jackie Singer**

Art

"Jackie is an incredibly hard working student in Art I. She always seeks to develop her technical abilities and challenge herself. Despite any struggles on a project, Jackie always does her best to achieve the highest level of success. In addition, Jackie supports her friends in class on their assignments and is always encouraging people. " ~Ms. Creeden

**Joanna Kim**

Art 1

"Joanna is a dedicated artist who brings a positive attitude and a willingness to grow to her craft. She always goes the extra mile and inspires those around her. The art department is looking forward to more amazing pieces from this young artist!" ~Ms. Leahy

**Jamal Lawrence**

Choir

"Jamal is a natural leader of the bass section in Concert Choir. Whether he is leading sectionals or just helping a fellow singer who has a question, he always brings a positive, friendly, and encouraging energy to the rehearsal environment." ~Mr. Donoghue

**Emanuel Enriquez**

Theatre I

"Emanuel has a wonderful curiosity and passion for theatre. He is also a great leader in the class. He always commits 100% to his performances. Emanuel's attitude toward learning and working with peers is incredible. Bravo!" ~Ms. Carlsen

**Nina Staniszewska**

String Orchestra

"Nina is a dedicated musician who plays with passion and commitment. She combines an innate natural musicianship with a rigorous work ethic. She is also a very nice person! "

~Dr. Shumway

**Congratulations to Shreya Santhana, Rashi Kejriwal, and Caroline Kasuba** who won the Best Use of Open Source from Goldman Sachs and Best Hack for a Better Society from Nextdoor at the UMD Technica Hackathon. Technica is an all-women hackathon attended by high school and college students. So proud of this incredible trio!

**Congratulations to Peninah D'Souza** who is the State Champion for both Air rifle and Smallbore events for the second year in a row having just competed at the 2020 Maryland State USA Shooting Junior Olympic Shooting Championship (JOSC) Qualifier which took place on the 11 January 2020 at the Naval Academy. She will now compete at the 2020 National JOSC in Colorado Spring in April 2020. Way to go Peninah!!

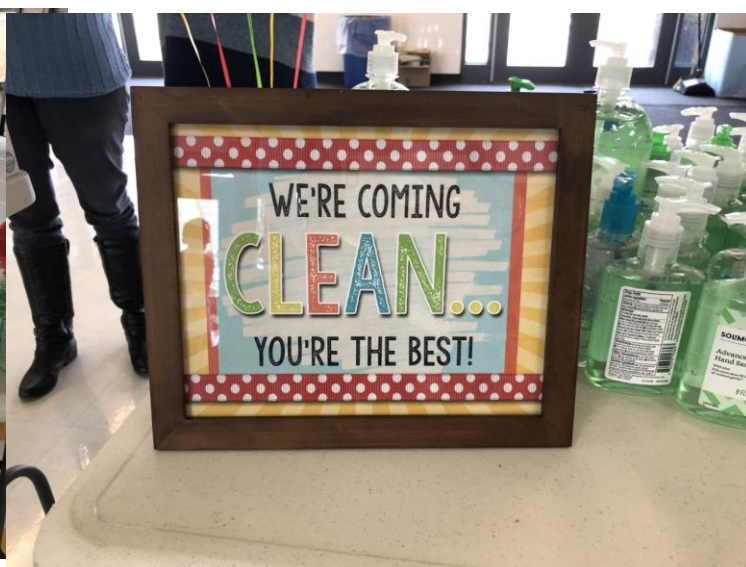


### **Thank you to CAPSA**

(Chinese American Parent and Student Association) who provided a delicious lunch for the staff today to celebrate the Lunar New Year! What a wonderful way to end mid-term week. We are incredibly fortunate to have such engaged parent groups in our community, and our staff is still raving about the food! Thank you & Happy New Year!!







Thank you to our incredibly generous community for all of your donations of tissue & hand sanitizer for our staff & students!

And a special **THANK YOU** to **PTSA's Staff Appreciation Committee, Joanne DiMaggio, Sandi Miller & Molly Smith** who coordinated distribution to our staff today during our LUNAR NEW YEAR lunch celebration from CAPSA. We continue to be amazed and humbled by your generosity and kindness. You definitely blow us away!



## STAFF FOCUS



Mt. Hebron has an awesome science teacher, **Ms. Giang Lu**, and she is positively charged up! Students in her Advanced Physical Science classes begin with challenging warm ups and all students are fully engaged. The pacing of her lesson is right on target to give students the opportunities to learn and grow.

The students support each other and have regular discussions in small groups. Last Friday, students observed a demonstration using the Van de Graff model. Ms. Lu presented the students with questions about the model and the students had to apply their knowledge in various situations. The conversations in the class mimicked that of a professional meeting amongst engineers! We heard comments like, “The charge is expected to be the opposite of what is represented Van de Graff’s model due. You can see this by observing the attraction between the objects in the image.”

In addition to teaching her regular classes, Ms. Lu also teaches Advanced Placement Physics 1. Students say Ms. Lu “challenges us; she teaches us how to apply what we learn to real situations; she makes sure we are focused and learning the entire class.”

It is such a pleasure to have Ms. Lu on our team.



# NEW NEWS

## **Spring Sports Registration & Tryouts**

Instructions for Spring Sports Registration/Tryouts

Must be **complete by Feb. 28th**

1. Go to **[www.hcpss.org/connect](http://www.hcpss.org/connect)**. You must use a computer. Cell phones will not work for registration.

HCPSS Connect – HCPSS

HCPSS Connect provides access to a variety of student information and classroom instructional tools offering personalized communication and timely, relevant and easily accessible information relating to your student. **[www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)**

2. Login to your connect portal (**must be the Parental Login**. Using your student's login info will not allow registration.)

3. Once logged in go to the menu on the left and click **HS Athletic Registration** (if you have more than one student make sure you have selected the student from the drop down menu at the top of the page.)

4. Click on Athletic Registration.

5. **Complete all forms**. Do not skip or leave any boxes blank.

6. Please upload **physical dated after April 1, 2019** (PDF). Older physicals will not be accepted. Please load **BG&E bill dated after Jan 1, 2020**. Older BG&E bills will not be accepted.

Spring Sports **Tryouts Start Feb. 29th**. Specific Tryout Times for the 29th will be announced in coming weeks.

If you have any sports specific questions please email your son or daughters coaches. Emails can be found at **<https://mhhs.hcpss.org/athletics/teams>**

**The Spring Sports Parents Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24th** at 6:00 PM in the auditorium with team breakout sessions immediately following.

## **Student Release Reminder from the Health Room**

When your child needs to come home during the school day for an injury or an illness, the health room staff will initiate a call to the parent/guardian who has custody to discuss the situation. Per school policy, upon arrival to pick up your child, the parent/guardian must come to the front office with photo identification and sign out the student.

Please note: **Only the parent/guardian or emergency contacts can pick up a student.**

Please double check your child's emergency contact list for accuracy (correct phone numbers and contacts).

## Counselors' Corner

- **SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS!**
  - Counselors will meet with EVERY student in grade 9-11 to help with course selection beginning January 28. Students will receive passes to come down. Lists are posted outside of Student Services for students to see when their appointments are scheduled.
- HCPSS Summer School (June 22-July 31) – registration opens through HCPSS Connect on February 1 for math and science or in person at the Homewood Center February 1, 9-11 am. Check out course offerings on their website: <https://www.hcpss.org/summer-programs/>
- Are you looking for summer learning opportunities for students who learn differently?! Landmark College is hosting a summer program in Vermont, California, and Colorado. Check out the information at [landmark.edu/summer](http://landmark.edu/summer). Scholarships available to qualifying students.
- George Washington University is offering a Pre-college experience for rising juniors and seniors. Earn college credit! Visit [go.gwu.edu/precollege](http://go.gwu.edu/precollege) for more information on how you can start your college experience early.
- WJZ is hosting their annual Black History Oratory Competition for all Maryland high school students (9-11). Form and rules can be located at [www.WJZ.com](http://www.WJZ.com) and the application form and essay can be emailed to [Oratory@wjz.com](mailto:Oratory@wjz.com) by January 31<sup>st</sup>!
- The Alfred Street Baptist Church & The ASBC Foundation present the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Historically Black Colleges & Universities Festival! The HBCU Festival will be located at the Gaylord National Center in Oxon Hill, MD on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm; check out [www.alfredstreet.org](http://www.alfredstreet.org)
- College/Career Information Night  
Save the Date! College/Career Information Night is March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm-7:30 pm and will begin in the MHHS Auditorium! Multiple experts including College Representatives from UMD, College Park, Johns Hopkins, and HCC will be presenting in a rotation format.
- **Leadership U (LU) is an experiential, leadership development and community service program. This unique four-month leadership training program is dedicated to helping students make a difference in their community and learn how to tap into their leadership skills.** Students apply as sophomores and participate in the summer/fall of their junior year. The Leadership U program builds confidence, expands critical thinking skills, and improves decision making through collaboration. They have several information sessions coming up (below) or you can find more information on their website (<http://www.leadershiphc.org/leadership-u-2/>). Deadline to apply is March 12, 2020.
  - **Monday, January 27 at the Miller Library from 7-8 pm**
  - **Thursday, February 13 at the Central Library from 7-8 pm**
  - **Sunday, March 1 at Miller Library from 3-4 pm**

# SPECIAL SECTION for SENIORS

## **PTSA Scholarships – Get Ready**

PTSA is offering seven \$1,000 scholarships to seniors to pay for college or *any other post-high school adventure*. The application will be available on the PTSA website February 1 and the due date is April 15. Please remember that to be eligible, *the senior student and at least one adult family member must be PTSA members*. To become a member, [join online](#).



## **Graduation Window Announced**

HCPSS has confirmed the window for the 2020 high school graduations as Monday, May 18 to Thursday, May 28, 2020. The 12 HCPSS comprehensive high schools will hold ceremonies at Merriweather Post Pavilion. The Cedar Lane School ceremony will be held at that school.

HCPSS has made this early announcement to accommodate planning by parents, students, schools and community members. We will provide the specific dates and times of each school's graduation ceremony after Merriweather finalizes its concert schedule, historically in the early spring.

## **Senior Portraits**

Senior Portraits are due by Friday, January 31, 2020, if you want your portrait to be in the yearbook. Any outside portraits should be mailed to the yearbook email: [yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com](mailto:yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com) All other questions can be answered from the FAQ on the yearbook webpage <https://mhhs.hcpss.org/yearbook>.

## **Senior Events Calendar**

Event	Date/Time	Location
Makeup Senior Portraits	January 30, 2020	
Senior Portraits Due	January 31, 2020	
Senior T-shirt	January	
PTSA Scholarship Application Available (Eligible for PTSA Members)	February 1, 2020 - April 15, 2020	PTSA Website: <a href="http://www.mthebronptsa.com/">www.mthebronptsa.com/</a> mthebronptsa@gmail.com
Deadline to Submit Casual Portraits and from Outside Photographer	February 14, 2020	Submit to: <a href="mailto:yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com">yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com</a>
Prom	May 2, 2020, 8-11pm	Turf Valley
Class Night Dinner & Dance	May, 2020	TBD
Senior Picnic	May, 2020	TBD
Graduation Window	May 18-28, 2020	Merriweather Post Pavilion

# NEWS WORTH REPEATING

## **Science Olympiad Needs You**

Thank you for assisting on Saturday, March 7th, 2020 at our 2nd Annual Science Olympiad competition at Mt. Hebron High School! Please sign up for all the jobs that you feel most comfortable in doing. If you are an "Event Volunteer" we will notify you which one you are covering ahead of time. If you want



to help with a specific event like Forensics or Ornithology please leave a comment. Note: if you sign up for an event we will need help grading the tests.

\*Please note this is a Div. C (high school) tournament.

Students age 16 and up may volunteer on their own; high school students under age 16 may volunteer with an adult. Any age student may volunteer for setup and cleanup. All students may earn service hours for volunteering.

We also need people to work set-up after school on Friday 3/6/20, early set-up Saturday morning before the event, and clean-up after the awards that same Saturday.

Email the Director, Paul Sabota, at paul\_sabota@hcpss.org for further clarification or if you want to see a list of events. The address of the venue is 9440 Old Frederick Road Ellicott City MD 21042.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4da9a62fa31-mthebron1>

This Sign-Up Genius will be updated. You will receive an email if you signed up.

### **Mt. Hebron Gifted and Talented Research Program**

The Gifted and Talented Research Program at Mt. Hebron High School includes two courses – **Independent Research GT** and **Intern/Mentor GT**. Both courses provide our students with a unique opportunity to explore a topic of their choice for the entire school year.

Students in **Independent Research** are in class with Dr. Kiehl every day. They learn about the process of conducting scholarly research, finding appropriate sources, refining their writing skills, connecting with professionals in their field, and presenting their research. They focus all of their assignments on a topic they choose and receive guidance at every step from Dr. Kiehl. Every year, the diversity of topics is fascinating. A few of this year's topics include brain cancer, the bystander effect, water availability in third world countries, special education, and so much more!

Students in **Intern/Mentor** are placed in an internship in the community. They also advance their skills and understanding of research, writing, and presenting, but do so through authentic experiences with professionals and periodic instruction from Dr. Kiehl, who also monitors their internship progress throughout the year. Students are fortunate to be placed with a number of prestigious mentors in the area. Internship locations include financial advisors, hospitals and universities, the Applied Physics Lab, local doctors' offices, the court house, and many more!

Applications are available in the Mt. Hebron Media Center beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and online at [www.MtHebronGT.com](http://www.MtHebronGT.com). They are due Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Students are welcome to see Dr. Kiehl in room 109 or email mkiehl@hcpss.org with questions.

### **HC DrugFree Updates**

**Not My Child - Teen Vaping and More:** Parents/guardians are invited to join HC DrugFree and Marriotts Ridge High School PTSA for a free educational program on January 29 at 7:00 p.m. Open to the public. MRHS auditorium. (If school evening activities are cancelled due to weather, the program will be held on February 11.)

**HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC)** will meet on Monday, February 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn/Teen Center in the Oakland Mills Village Center. TAC meets one Monday evening a month and is open to all Howard County high school students. Community service hours are available for all meetings and events. To access the registration form, please visit

<http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1>. Refreshments provided at meetings, so must RSVP to [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org) or call 443-325-0040.

**TAC is open to all Howard County high school students (public, private and home school)**, but students must RSVP to [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org) for each meeting. TAC follows the HCPSS school cancellation policies. Registration forms can be found on the TAC page at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/>. Refreshments provided.

**Your next **VALHALLA VOICE** will be published January 27th with the latest news from your parent advocacy groups and community.**

## School Year Resources

### **Update Your Emergency Information ANNUALLY**

Parents/guardians may now complete/update their Family File emergency information. *Parents must verify or update information for each child, each school year.* Access your Family File by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#), selecting the Family File tab on the left and then selecting Family File. [Details and resources](#) can be found on the HCPSS website.

### **Free Drop-In Tutor on Tuesday and Thursday**

The Media Center will be open every Tuesday and Thursday until 4pm. National Honors Society tutors will be available for free drop-in tutoring. All students are welcome. Please contact [danielle\\_borgia@hcpss.org](mailto:danielle_borgia@hcpss.org) with any questions.

### **After School Activities Bus Schedule**

The Activities Bus is available for any student staying after school for academic support or extracurricular activities. The dates for the bus, as well as the stops, are listed below. Both are subject to change. If your child is interested in taking the bus, please fill click on the link & complete the form. **Students may not ride the bus without parent/guardian permission.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hfuJg83ak7JXXsSaOv-1Hrly6lvlbQea0HtTzOdfwmo/edit>

#### **Bus Dates:**

January: 28, 30  
February: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27  
March: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31  
April: 2, 14, 16, 21, 23, 30  
May: 5, 7, 12, 14

#### **Bus Stops (Pick up at MTH @ 4:10 pm)**

- \*Maple Rock Dr and East Stayman Dr
- \*Hollifield Station ES
- \*High Ridge Rd and Rosemar Dr
- \*Town & Country Blvd and West Springs Dr
- \*Wheaton Way and Normandy Woods Dr
- \*George Howard Bldg - 3430 Courthouse Dr
- \*Worthington ES

**Are You A Proud Viking? Become A Viking Backer!**

We invite you to join the Viking Backers, Booster Club for Mt. Hebron High School. The Viking Backers is an all-volunteer, parent organization which supports ALL student extracurricular activities including academics, arts & athletics.

Visit [www.vikingbackers.org](http://www.vikingbackers.org) to join online. We no longer are taking paper forms or checks; everything is going through the website. Your membership supports ALL students at Mt. Hebron.

