



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

February 8, 2019

Happy Friday Vikings!

Did you see that our very own **freshman Gnana Nagaruru** was showcased on page 46 in the February issue of *Howard magazine* as part of their feature article, *Diversity by the Numbers*? Gnana was photographed sampling the homemade delicacies at our Diwali celebration in December, which is just one of many celebrations we have throughout the year to honor and educate each other about our differences. In last week's newsletter, I highlighted **Grace Wang** and staff member, **Jamie Kim**, who, along with members of the **Chinese American Parent and Student Association** fed our staff and educated us about the Chinese Lunar New Year.

This month is Black History Month, and thus far on our morning announcements, we've heard from **junior Brooke Foyles**, **senior Kaia Godsey**, **senior Jimmy Hinneh**, and **sophomore Daisy Parry**, all of whom took time to share facts and information with our students and staff regarding black history. And **Cheryl Grimes**, our liaison with the Black Student Achievement Program created a terrific bulletin board in the main hallway highlighting Black History Month as well.

It was 149 years ago this month on February 3<sup>rd</sup> that the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, stating that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Yet despite Constitutional Amendments and other legal remedies, we still see the impact of systemic racism play out across our nation, including in opportunity and achievement gaps in our schools.

Howard County continues to grow in its diversity, and as you know, our school system is committed to creating safe and equitable learning opportunities for students of all races and ethnicities, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and learning differences.

Valuing differences helps facilitate cooperation and collaboration and encourages students to be creative thinkers. We all benefit when we make time to explore our differences and educate each other, and I continue to be incredibly grateful for the active parent organizations at our school who reach out to do just that. Of course, as Gnana showed us in her photograph below, it's an added bonus that there always seems to be fantastic food involved regardless of what we're celebrating!

Joelle

**P.S.** Please take a few minutes to check out the pilot episode of a new podcast from our amazing ESOL teacher, **Nichelle Calhoun**! @hcpss\_mhhs ESOL teacher Nichelle Calhoun has the pilot episode of her podcast *Perpetual Blackness* airing on @wamu885 Tuesday at 9pm & streaming at [wamu.org/podshop/](http://wamu.org/podshop/)



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The Indian population is the largest Asian ethnic group in Howard, making up just over 30 percent of the county's Asian population, according to estimates from the Census Bureau for the five-year period from 2013 to 2017. This is a fairly recent development; in 2000, Koreans outnumbered Indians; by 2010, the two groups were about tied.

president Park Chung-hee's authoritarian rule, said Charley Sung, a Columbia-based attorney and chairman of the board of the Korean Society of Maryland. Tensions between the Korean and African-American communities in Baltimore, including the 1993 murder of Korean-American college student Joel Lee and shootings at Korean-American grocery

project manager for the federal government attributes the more recent growth in county's Indian population to the post-tech boom and notes the large number of Indian immigrants with H-1-B visas, for skilled workers. Howard is a choice location for government contractors, for instance, because of its proximity to D.C., he said, as well as fo

## **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>
February 11	7-8pm	Leadership U Information Session @ Central Library
February 11	6:30-8:30pm	Youth In Conversation at Oliver's Carriage House also known as Kittamaqundi Community Church
February 12	7pm	PTSA Meeting in the Media Center
February 13	7-8:30pm	Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) meetings @ Homewood School
February 15	6pm	Last day Summer School Registration window for Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Classes
February 17	8am-4pm	Science Olympiad competition @ Hebron
February 18		No School - Presidents' Day
February 22		Last Day to register for International Parent Leadership Program(IPLP)
February 26	7pm	Presenting Women in Aerospace Science and Engineering @HC Elkridge Library
March 1-15	6pm	Summer School registration window for Lifetime Fitness, Health, Art, ESOL, and World Language
March 4	6:30pm	Viking Backers Meeting in the Media Center
March 4, 11, 18, 25	6-8pm	International Parent Leadership Program(IPLP) @ Hebron
March 5	7-8:30pm	PTSA Cafe Conversations
March 6		Interim Reports Issued for Quarter 3
March 7	7-8pm	Leadership U Information Session @ Miller Library
March 16	10am-4pm	MTH Marketplace in Gym & Cafeteria
March 22-30	7pm (March 24, 2pm)	Hebron Theatre Performances of "Wizard of Oz" in the Auditorium
April 5		Early Dismissal @ 11:10am/ Professional Work Day
April 8	6:30pm	Viking Backers Meeting in the Media Center
April 13-22		Spring Break – School Closed
April 24		Report Card Issued for Quarter 3
April 27		Prom @ The Hotel at Arundel Mills
April 28	12am-3:30am	After-Prom @ YMCA
May 6	6:30pm	Viking Backers Meeting in the Media Center
May 16		Interim Reports Issued for Quarter 4
May 20-31		Graduation Window
June 3	6:30pm	Viking Backers Meeting in the Media Center



# **CELEBRATIONS!**

\*\*For the most up-to-date celebrations, be sure to follow us on Twitter: [@hcpss mhhs](https://twitter.com/hcps_mhhs)



**Congratulations to our Girl's Track Team and Coach Carter for their win at the regional championships! And our boys placed second! Way to represent Vikings!**



**Congratulations to Khiem Doan, Chase Blanchette, and Yashas Anil who competed at the National History Bowl and Bee on Saturday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The boys qualified for the National Finals which will be held in Arlington, VA in May. Good luck gentlemen!**





**Congratulations** to all of our amazing Students of the Month who were just celebrated during 6<sup>th</sup> period today!



How clever is this? Our wonderfully creative PTSA Staff Appreciation Committee spent several hours here yesterday with a cart full of goodies as they gifted every staff member with a box of tissue & a bottle of hand sanitizer. Of course, they wouldn't have had enough for everyone if it weren't for all of your generous donations. Please know from the bottom of my heart how much we appreciate everything you all do for us! It brightens our day and makes us smile more than you could possibly know!

~Joelle

P.S. Here's what our staff got earlier this month! The creativity and care is truly amazing!



## **NEW NEWS**

### **PJammin® for Kids with Cancer event next Friday!**

SGA is excited to announce that we are hosting a PJammin® for Kids with Cancer event next Friday, February 15th, to support The American Childhood Cancer Organization! Each year children and teens suffering from cancer have to wear their pajamas for long periods of time while undergoing treatment, and through ACCO's PJammin® event, we can show them they are not alone.

We are asking any student who wants to wear their PJs next Friday to make a donation to The American Childhood Cancer Organization. Members of SGA will collect donations during all four lunches that day (Friday, February 15th).

FYI - Gold is the color that represents childhood cancer, so if you can integrate gold with your PJs, please do so!

If you would like to learn more about the organization, please visit <http://www.acco.org/pjammin/>.

### **Seeking Camp Assistants and Camp Volunteers**

The Howard County Arts Council is once again seeking Camp Assistants and Camp Volunteers for its 2019 Visual and Performing Arts Summer Camp. The camp runs one week sessions for children grades K-7 from June 24- August 28. The application deadline is March 30, 2019. Contact Tammy Oppel [deputydirector@hocoarts.org](mailto:deputydirector@hocoarts.org) for more information.

### **Leadership U Class of 2019**

Are you thinking of college for your child? Let **Leadership U** help your current sophomore build the skills that will help them succeed! **Leadership U** can provide him or her a memorable week-long program of leadership development, networking, and community awareness. Beginning the end of July and continuing through the fall of their junior year with nine Sunday afternoon group meetings, **LU** will give your child the opportunity to build their network, strengthen their leadership skills, meet new students, and work on a community service project of their choice. **Come learn more and speak to some of our grads at one of our final two information sessions: February 11 at Central Library or March 7 at Miller Library, both from 7-8pm.** Parents and students in both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend. Additional information is available at <http://www.leadershiphc.org/leadership-u-2/>

### **Presenting Women in Aerospace Science & Engineering**

The Zonta Club of Howard County invites students, parents, educators, and the community to a free educational speaker program. ***Women in Aerospace Science and Engineering*** will feature women presenters discussing their studies and careers in aerospace science and engineering. Our guests are from the University Of Maryland Department Of Aerospace Engineering in College Park.

The event will take place on **February 26, 2019, Tuesday at 7:00 PM**, at the **Howard County Elkridge Library** (located at 6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge 21075). Admission is free. Food and refreshments. All are welcome!

## **WORTH REPEATING**

### **Change in Vaping Law**

A recent change to the law regarding Vaping now allows police to issue a civil citation to juveniles for possessing an electronic smoking device. This is very important for both parents and students to be aware as it is illegal for juveniles to possess any type of electronic smoking device.

### **International Parent Leadership Program**

The International Parent Leadership Program (IPLP) will be held at Mt. Hebron HS this March. The program is open to any international parents who would like to learn about the school system. If you are interested in participating, please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/iiUc3Ci62g2CT2a53> to register. Registration will close on 2/22/19. If you have any questions, please contact [jamie.kim@hcpss.org](mailto:jamie.kim@hcpss.org). The sessions are: 3/4/19, 3/11/19, 3/18/19, 3/25/19, 6:00-8:00pm. You must attend all 4 sessions.



### **We're off to see the Wizard!**

Dates for the performances are March 22-30. All performances are at 7pm except for the newly added matinee at 2pm on Sunday, March 24th. Tickets for The Wizard of Oz will go on sale February 1<sup>st</sup> and are \$10. Over 80 Vikings are involved in this production celebrating 80 years as an American Classic. Come support your Hebron Theatre!

### **AP Courses and Exams**

Do you have a child enrolled in an AP course this year? If so, we invite you to read more about the registration and testing process on our website at:

<https://mhhs.hcpss.org/news/2019/01/ap-exam-registration>

More information will be shared in February when registration opens.

### **Muslim Interscholastic Tournament**

The Muslim Student Association is proud to be attending MIST (Muslim Interscholastic Tournament) again this year in conjunction with students from the surrounding area and ISB. If your student is interested in participating this year, please have them contact Ms. Brooks-Odom through canvas or email. Information for the weekend long event in April can be found here: [www.dcmist.com](http://www.dcmist.com) and is open to all Mt Hebron Students regardless of beliefs.

### **2019 Graduation Window Dates**

The window for graduation for the Class of 2019 is Monday, May 20 - Friday, May 24 and Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31. The actual graduation schedule will be available in the spring (usually around April 15).

### **Photography Supplies Donations Needed**

Do you have any 35MM film cameras not being used? Any old photo equipment, supplies, or other cameras that you no longer need? The Mt. Hebron Photo Department wants to grow the program for our students, so they have more opportunities to improve their photography skills.

Please contact photo and art teacher Caroline Creeden [caroline\\_creeden@hcpss.org](mailto:caroline_creeden@hcpss.org) for more information or donations. Thank you for your support!

### **Science Olympiad Competition Comes to Mt. Hebron**

On Sunday, February 17th, 2019, Mt. Hebron will be hosting the regional Maryland Science Olympiad competition for high school teams for the first time. The event involves hundreds of students from all over Maryland testing their scientific skills on topics like Anatomy, Forensics, and Chemistry Lab concepts. There are also build events such as mousetrap vehicles and protein modeling. This a wonderful opportunity for our school and community to come together and help make this event a success for our future scientists!

We are asking for volunteers on that day. There are various ways to help like scoring tests, running errands, concessions, registration, greeters/directors, and setup, clean







### **Beyond School Hours Program – Media Center**

A reminder that the Media Center is open every Tuesday and Thursday after school, until 3:40 pm. In addition, National Honors Society Tutors will be available for drop-in tutoring on any subject. Please encourage your child to utilize this **free tutoring service** whenever needed!

After School Activities Bus Dates: (Tuesdays and Thursdays, **bolded** dates are **Wednesdays**)

Feb: 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, **27**, 28

Mar: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

Apr: 2, 4, 9, 11, 23, **24**, 25, 30

May: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16

Pick up time is approximately 4pm. The bus will stop at the following locations:

- 1) Liler Court and Liler Drive
- 2) Hollifield Station Elementary Station
- 3) Town and Country and West Springs Drive
- 4) Worthington Elementary
- 5) Brunswick Zone/Dunkin Donuts

### **Youth in Conversation**

**Youth in Conversation** is a group of high school students who want to “talk about the things no one talks about.” The goal is to build community by having conversations about identities we have in common and issues that separate us, such as race, culture, religion and gender.

All HCPSS high school students are welcome & free dinner will be provided by #OneHoward and the Columbia Association each evening we meet

We will meet **the second and fourth Monday of every month from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** at Oliver’s Carriage House, 5410 Leaf Treader Way, Columbia, MD 21044 (also known as Kittamaquindi Community Church)

**Meeting Dates in 2019:** 2/11 & 2/25, 3/11 & 3/25, 4/8 and 4/29 *(In April we will meet the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday because of Spring Break), 5/13* Please see the **FRONT OFFICE** for a form if you would like to participate.

### **Parent Support Group**

Mount Hebron has a parent group. The purpose of this group is to provide a voice and tools that will assist parents of students who have needs in the areas of social communication, social regulation and executive functioning skills - whether in a university, work or supported living setting.

Mount Hebron parent, Michelle Im, along with members of our special education team, have volunteered to lead this amazing discussion and support group. Ms. Im also serves as the Vice President for Howard County's Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC).

The remaining meetings will be held in Mt. Hebron’s Media Center from 6:30-8:00 on the following dates. All are welcome! Please join us!



**Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> - Benefits of Building Partnerships and Social Success**

Review and discuss models of parent professional partnership, include a guide towards building successful partnerships with school staff and setting realistic expectations for lifelong learning.

**Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - SI + SR = 🤝**

Group discussion designed to foster an understanding of the relationship between social interaction and self-regulation; to prompt parents to implement strategies at home.

**Your next VALHALLA VOICE will be published February 11<sup>th</sup> with the latest news from your parent advocacy groups and community.**