



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

December 13, 2019

It's A Feel Good Friday, Vikings!

Did you see the pictures of our students I tweeted this morning? They love holding their "Feel Good Friday" signs, and it's one of my favorite interactions I have with your kids because it's such a joyful way to start our Friday and end our week. Speaking of tweeting, last Friday night I tweeted one of the most spectacular athletic feats in Howard County history.



When Senior **Tori Valentine** scored her 1,000th point, she completed the first Daughter-Father-Mother trio to score 1,000+ points in their high school careers!! It was such an incredible moment and something those of us who witnessed will never forget. Tori's accomplishment is remarkable, not just because of the athletic feat but also because of everything that led up to that moment. Tori put in the work at practices over the years, but who ensured that she got to her practices? That her uniform was ready? That she'd eaten properly before the game? Gotten enough sleep? Dried her tears when she lost and taught her about sportsmanship both on and off the court? You know where I'm going with this...**Kacy & Craig Valentine**, both remarkable high school student athletes in their own right, are even more

remarkable parents. And they represent so many of the parents here at Hebron.

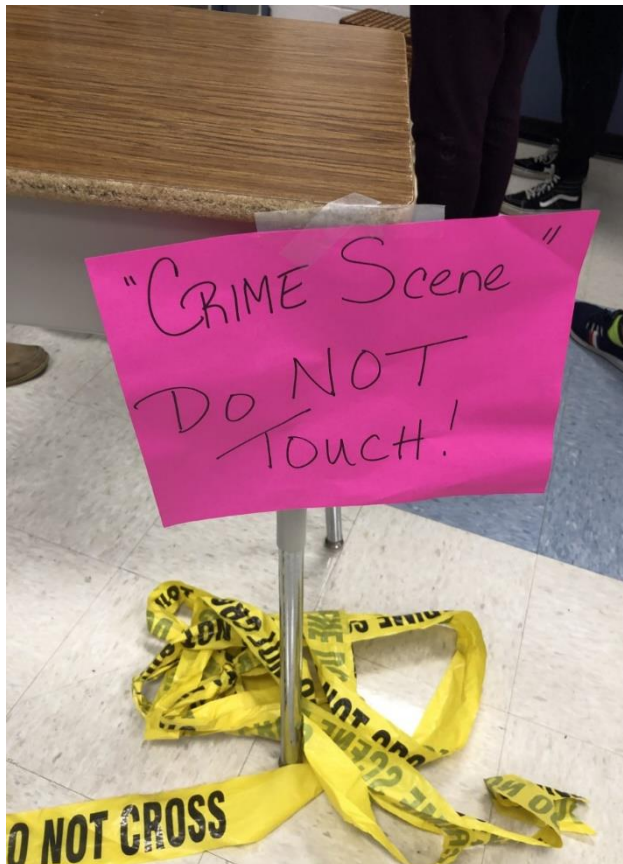
It's easy for me to write about your students each week because I see them and interact with them every day. But I also recognize that behind every amazing kid is an equally amazing parent or guardian or role model.

The theme of the our music department's concert in November, was Superheroes and Superstars, and I can think of no greater Superheroes than the people our students return home to when they leave us each day. I recognize the effort you put in, not just with your own kids, but on behalf of all of our kids. It's not easy. It's often thankless. But you show up in ways that continue to astound me and remind me that this village has a solid foundation of selfless parents whose sacrifices ensure all of our students have a chance to become a superstar in their own right and find a way to score their own 1000th point. Swish!

Joelle

P.S. If you missed our music department's performance in November, you have another opportunity tonight as part of a 2-night musical extravaganza. Last night's concert was AH-MAZ-ING! I'm still humming *Sleigh Ride* (much to the embarrassment of my children). Tonight is an entirely new concert with different performances and songs. Congratulations to **Joe Fisher, David Shumway and Ryan Donoghue** and all of their students.

P.S.S. THANK YOU to **Mr. Sabota's 4th period class** for letting me observe their crime scene yesterday as the forensics science students worked to solve the mystery of the case of the dead man at the picnic. Sorry, Mr. Sabota, for pointing out the lipstick on the cigarette butt! ☺



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.

Date	Time	Event
December 16	2:10 pm	Making Blankets & Holiday Cards by Viking Service Club in the Cafeteria
December 16	5:30-7pm	HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council Meeting @ The Barn/Teen Center in the Oakland Mills Village Center
December 18	8:30-10am	Alumni Day
Dec 23-Jan 1		Schools closed for Winter Break
January 9	6pm	8 th Grade Parent Night in the Auditorium
January 10	7pm	Winter Dance Spectacular in the Auditorium
January 11		MS/ HS Honors Band Rehearsal
January 13	6:30-8pm	Electives Fair in the Gym and Cafeteria
January 14	7pm	GT Information Session in the Auditorium
January 20		Schools & offices closed/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22-24		HS only 3-hour early dismissal at 11:10am
January 27		Schools closed/Professional Work Day for Staff
January 31	7pm	Jazz Showcase
February 4		NEW **Schools & offices closed for Special Election
February 17		Schools closed for Presidents' Day
February 28	7-8am	Restorative Justice in Education Book Discussion over Coffee Sponsored by PTSA in the Media Center
March 18-22	3/18, 10am 3/19-21, 7pm 3/22, 2pm	"Beauty and the Beast" Musical Production
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 Pavilion
May 25		Schools closed for Memorial Day
June 22		Last possible school day if all 5 snow days are used

CELEBRATIONS!

*****For even more celebrations & good news, follow us on Twitter: @hcpss_mhhs***

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

Thank you everyone for your help and donations with money day on December 9 for our Canned Food Drive. As a school, we took in \$2,916. At this point we have over 150 families to feed and provide gifts for, 1/3 being students here at Hebron. Your support is going a long way. Winners for money donations were Jawhar & Blocklin. Leadership classes alone between the three of them brought in \$1750. Below is an update on our class leaders in cans/student. As a school we are currently at **4.69 cans/student**.



1 st - Jawhar/\$38.50	5 th - Vealey/\$17.34	9 th – Gibbons/\$9.53
2 nd - Tonguino/\$23.55	6 th - Blocklin/\$15.75	10 th – Gonzalez/\$9.48
3 rd - Murach/\$22.06	7 th – Rosenberg/\$15.32	
4 th - Rosendorf/\$18.73	8 th – Hamlett/\$12.43	

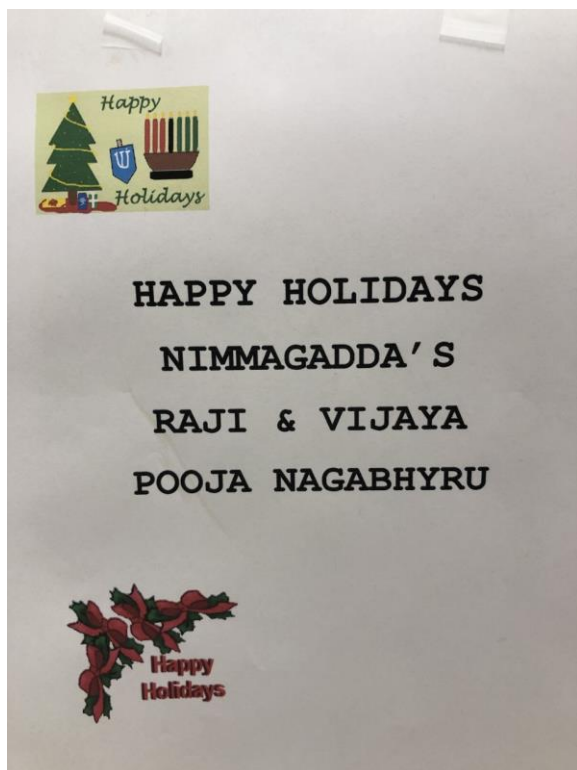
Congratulations to Mt. Hebron's Science Olympiad team who did a fantastic job this past weekend in DC at their invitational tournament competing against 36 other teams from around Maryland and the District of Columbia. We placed in seven events claiming eight total awards.

The following students placed in these events:

- **Justin Cargiulo** and **Preetham Gowni** - Detector Building (1st)
- **Sneha Kuppireddy** and **Manasi Prashant** - Water Quality (1st)
- **Ellen Li & Manasi Prashant** - Write It Do It (1st)
- **Dharshan Varia & Pooja Nambiar** - Designer Genes (2nd)
- **Shivani Varia** and **Saniya Mahate** - Write It Do It (2nd)
- **Preetham Gowni** and **Shreya Santhangopalan** - Circuit Lab (3rd)
- **Trisha Anand & Lalitha Ravipati** - Ornithology (5th)
- **Ellen Li, Manasi Prashant, & Justin Cargiulo** - Codebusters (6th)



Congratulations to Mr. Richard Ireland who has just received his National Board Certification in Social Studies! We are so proud of you Mr. Ireland and honored to have yet another Nationally Certified teacher on our staff. Mr. Ireland will be officially celebrated at a banquet in March, but we wanted you to be aware now. Please congratulate him when you see him!



A HUGE **THANK YOU** to **Raji & Vijaya Nimmagadda** for providing our staff with an incredible breakfast this morning! And their student, **Pooja Nagabhyru**, who got up extra early this morning to help with set up! It made our Friday extra fantastic, and we appreciate your generosity so very, very much!!

2019 BTC ALL STAR ZAIN MUGHAL



MT. HEBRON VIKINGS

Congratulations to **Zain Mughal** (#58) who plays center on the O-Line for being selected to the Baltimore Touchdown Club (BTC) All Star West Team!

The game will be played tomorrow at noon at River Hill High School. Many of Zain's teammates will be on the sidelines to cheer. Please join us if you can as we celebrate this amazing accomplishment!





Thank you to parents **Erin Lanthier & Robin Cahoon** and the entire PTSA Hospitality Committee who provided our staff with a delicious, hot dinner on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving when our staff had to stay late for conferences. We appreciate it so very much!



Joanne DiMaggio, Sandi Miller, and Moly Smith (a.k.a. the PTSA's Staff Appreciation Committee) were busy being creative again this month and reminded us all to be jolly this week as we head into our last week before Winter Break. Thank you so much!!



THANK YOU to the **Cushing Family**, Adam, Liz, Hannah Hunter, Mason & pup, Lucy
loo ☺ for the very thoughtful basket they dropped off for the staff today!
It was enjoyed by all, and we are so appreciative!!!



Congratulations in advance to the following freshmen who are being celebrated next Wednesday evening for their academic accomplishments in middle school at The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County's Celebration of Academic Achievement in partnership with HCPSS!

Obaloluwa Akinyemi, Mofiyinfoluwa Amure, Jada Brown, Alyssa DeBels, Preston Henry, Danielle Nwosu, Ugonna Okonkwo, Kamya Osmer, Ava Pierre, Talyn Robinson, Isaiah Royster, Darius Smith, Kenneth Stewart, Nicholas Stewart, and Aliyah Williams.

*We are so
proud of you*

NEW NEWS

Schools Closed on February 4, 2020

This is a reminder that all school and offices will be closed on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, due to the special primary election to fill the 7th congressional district seat vacated following the passing of Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Winter Dance Spectacular



Mt. Hebron High School
Dance Department presents

The Winter Dance Spectacular

January 10, 2020*

Mt Hebron High School Auditorium
7:00pm

Tickets \$8.00 at the door or online

Order tickets ONLINE at:
<http://mounthebron.booktix.com/>

*Snow date: January, 11, 2020

After-Prom 2020 Logo Design Contest

All student artists, graphic designers, and creative talents are encouraged to participate in the After-Prom 2020 Logo Design Contest.

The PTSA is soliciting entries for the After-Prom Logo Design Contest *through midnight January 10, 2020*. The winning design will be featured on the t-shirts given away at After-Prom, plus correspondence and other marketing materials. The **winning artist receives a \$20 gift card to Qdoba**, and if that person is a junior or senior, they also receive **2 free tickets to After-Prom**. See all Contest Guidelines and Design Specifications on the [PTSA website](#). Hard copies will also be available in the front office. Please no hand-drawn images – those are more difficult to transfer to digital copy for printing.

Contact Caroline Bodziak at cbodziak@aol.com with any questions.

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!

If you are interested in learning about these unique opportunities that set your child apart from others, please be sure to attend the **GT Information Session** on **January 14th at 7pm** in the **Mt. Hebron Auditorium**. Applications are available in the Mt. Hebron Media Center beginning December 1st and online at www.MtHebronGT.com. Students are welcome to see Dr. Kiehl in room 109 or email mkiehl@hcpss.org with questions.

Design A T-Shirt Contest for Earth Day



TO CELEBRATE THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE HOWARD
COUNTY
CONSERVANCY &
50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF EARTH DAY,

DESIGN A T-SHIRT!

Submit by Jan. 13th, 2020 to
watershed@hcconservancy.org.
Open to all high school
students, grades 9-12.

THE WINNING DESIGN...

Will receive an \$100 Visa
Gift Card, and have their design
featured on the HCC Shirt for
the 50th Earth Day Celebration
in April of 2020

**For contest rules and
information, visit:**

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCdesign>

Norovirus/Stomach Bug

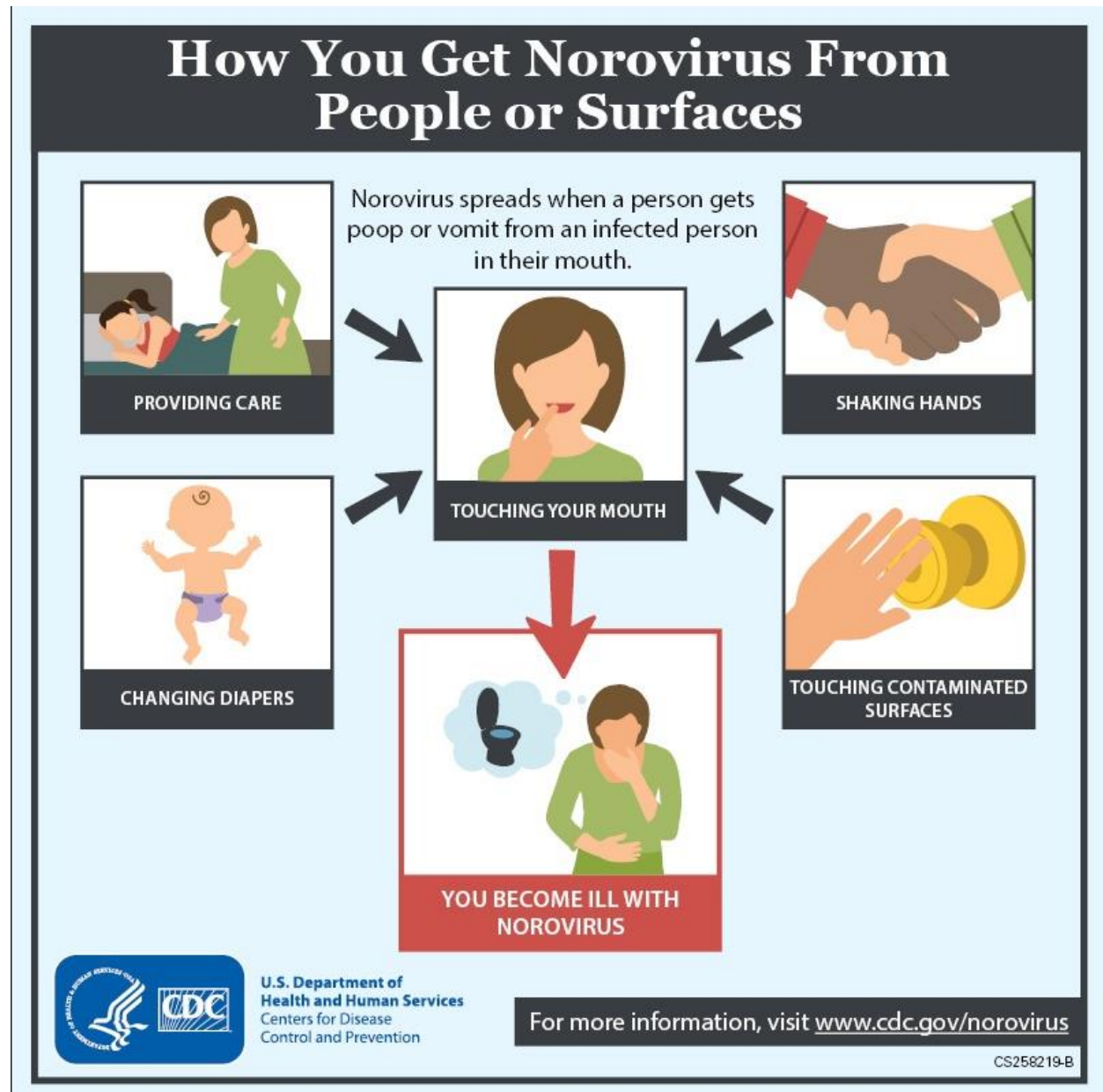
Symptoms: may include vomiting, stomachache, and diarrhea

Transmission: contaminated food/drink, shared surfaces/objects, direct contact with ill people.

Prevention: frequent and thorough hand washing is still the number one method of prevention. The CDC also recommends washing all fruits, vegetables, and shellfish.

At Home: clean and disinfect all surfaces, utensils, and laundry

For additional information, you may find suggestions at www.CDC.gov



SPECIAL SECTION for SENIORS

Graduation Window Announced

HCPSS has confirmed the window for the 2020 high school graduations as Monday, May 18-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.

A Note from Student Services

Please periodically check out the folders located under the **DOCUMENT RESOURCES** link on the Home Page of Naviance. There are folders for College Planning, Career Planning, Financial Aid, NCAA/ Student Athletes, Parent Presentations, among others. We upload resources we think will be valuable for you and your students!

Senior Portraits

The final date here at Mt. Hebron will be Tuesday, January 7. 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

All other questions can be answered from the FAQ on the yearbook webpage

<https://mhhs.hcpss.org/yearbook>.

Senior Events Calendar

Event	Date	Location	Cost
Final Senior Portrait date from Lifetouch @ Hebron	January 7, 2020		
Senior Portraits Due	January 31, 2020		
Senior T-shirt	January		Free
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	Free

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Viking Service Club to Make Blankets & Holiday Card

Viking Service Club is at it again! Please come out and support the Viking Service Club on December 16th directly after school in the cafeteria. The club will be making BLANKETS and HOLIDAY CARDS, as we are requesting donations for fleece material to be provided to Student Services by December 13th. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Liz Dolan at elizabeth_dolan@hcpss.org, or use the sign-up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E48ABA628A1FD0-blanket>

Counselor's Corner

Alumni Day – Do you have a Mt. Hebron Alumni or know of someone who is? We would love to have them come speak on December 18, 8:30-10. See link below to sign up!

<https://forms.gle/pXfd1iMVaeWJSvFH7>

Rotary Club Opportunity - The Ellicott City Rotary Club is looking for Mt Hebron sophomores and juniors interested in developing leadership skills. We are offering a \$360 scholarship to participate in RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Weekend. Two students will be selected from your Mt. Hebron. This is a great opportunity to enhance your leadership skills while you have fun and meet new friends. Life long bonds are often made. You will grow, discover, improve your communication skills, and practice team building, while learning about community and worldwide service. Applications can be accessed here:

<https://www.ryla7620.org/>. Applications are attached and should be emailed to okonskitg@verizon.net by **DECEMBER 20**, 2019. Interviews may follow. Questions: Email: okonskitg@verizon.net.

Is your child interested in a career as an electrician? Check out the Open House!

Future Electrician Open House

Friday, February 28, 2020

8:30am-1:00pm

IEC Chesapeake 8751 Freestate Drive, Suite 250 Laurel, MD 20723

R.S.V.P BY January 24, 2020 To SBurley@IECChesapeake.com

PERMISSION SLIP for field trip

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).

Please Keep Our Students & Staff Safe

Parents of **walkers along Rt. 99** - Please remind your children to **keep to the far right on the shoulder** to avoid getting hit by a vehicle. It might not be a bad idea to wear some reflective gear. Traffic is heavy on Rt. 99 in the morning.

Parents of **students who get dropped off in the morning** - PLEASE drop your students off in the STUDENT LOT, not the FACULTY LOT, not the BUS LOOP. It becomes a very dangerous situation, again, in the darkness, as bus drivers may not see your vehicle or student running across the lot. Also we are finding that parents are parking in staff parking spaces and waiting until the cones are removed. This is preventing staff from parking and getting into the building on time.

Parents of **students who park on Tiller Drive** - Neighbors who live on Tiller Drive are willing to work with students who park along the street. However, they are asking that students **park on only one side of the street**, so as not to impede traffic. There are a number of walkers, some of whom are elderly. Also, **please do not let your car block mailboxes and/or driveways**. If this happens, they will not consider NO PARKING signs as other streets in the area have done.

Request from Student for Help with Girl Scout Project

Dear Mt. Hebron Community,

Hi! My name is Angeline Luther and I am a senior at Mt. Hebron High School. Over the past few years, I have found and developed a passion for computer science. However, it wasn't until my sophomore year that I discovered the computer programming career academy offered in Howard County. Even today, I would like to know more about the ways I can apply the subjects I enjoy in school into a career.

I want to help future students, especially underrepresented groups and those without a role model in STEM to get a head start and have easy access to information such as all the opportunities in STEM in the area like classes, extracurricular activities, volunteer events, conferences, and more. I decided to base my Girl Scout Gold Award on creating and sharing this information with Howard County Students.

One vital aspect of my project is interviewing STEM professionals from a wide variety of fields to give students an understanding of the variety of STEM jobs available in the nearby area, as well as the applications of STEM coursework in the real world. The interview form, which can be accessed through https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHMPmpZdxjoXXhYefMKIm1vg5szgk-lzHTD-A51m4tYfuL6w/viewform?usp=sf_link and also through the project's website hocostem.github.io, is a way that you can share your knowledge with Howard County students.

I hope that you can find the time in your day to fill out the survey form (takes no more than 5-10 minutes), or share this with someone you know who works in a STEM field. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Angeline Luther

Mt. Hebron High School Senior, Girl Scout

HoCo STEM Founder

hocostem.github.io

hocostem@gmail.com

HC DrugFree Teen Meeting

We encourage all Howard County high school teens to join HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) where they will have a safe place to learn about risk taking and healthy alternatives, discuss what is happening in and around our community, and much more. Questions? Call 443-325-0040 or email Admin@hcdrugfree.org.

The next TAC meeting will be held on **December 16** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn (The Columbia Association's Teen Center) located in The Oakland Mills Village Center.

TAC is open to all Howard County high school students (public, private and home school), but students must RSVP to 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.

Join the Plastics Student Task Force

Are you concerned about plastics in our waterways?

Students from each high school are encouraged to apply to the plastics student task force.

Please see your teacher for an application.



All meetings will take place at the Howard County Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock, MD

11/6 5:30-7 Work Group
12/11 5:30-7 Work Group
1/8 5:30-7 Work Group
2/5 5:30-7 Work Group
3/4 5:30-7 Work Group

Your next **VALHALLA VOICE** will be published **December 16th** 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 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-1Hrly6lvbQea0HtTzOdfwmo/edit>

Bus Dates:

December: 15, 17, 19

January: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 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 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.

