

The Patapsco Knight

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September 3, 2009

SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings from Jennifer Peduzzi, Principal

Many of the returning students were surprised to come back to some changes so I wanted to share a few with you to prepare you for your visits to Patapsco. We have moved many of our classrooms around to enable our math team to be in the same wing which will allow for much more daily collaboration and teaming. I can already tell it's working because when you walk down that hall you hear 'math talk' across the rooms!! As you can imagine, this change had a domino effect so our grade level halls were shifted. The students have already adjusted to the moves but I keep getting lost...predictable!

We are working hard to be a GREEN school, which means our recycling efforts have increased as well as our focus on saving energy and being fiscally responsible. The direct impact that you will notice will be rooms that are not in use will be dark and lighting in the office areas may be dimmer.

We have also made the transition from eSchoolnewsletter to HCPSS NEWS as our primary means of communication so **today is the last Knight Newsletter that will be distributed in paper form.** We encourage you to register for HCPSS NEWS by going to www.hcpssnews.com to receive important notices in a timely fashion.

As you can see this year is filled with growth and advancement which makes for excitement in the air! We hope you sense it when you enter the building and we're sure your students have already felt it as they went through the first week! As always, feel free to stop in and visit any time and don't hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Regards, Jennifer Peduzzi

Greetings from Carol Ketterman, Assistant Principal

I am honored to serve as your new Assistant Principal. Patapsco is very special to me as this will be my seventh year as a faculty member at the school. I look forward to strengthening those relationships that I have already formed as well as fostering new ones.

I hope to see you all on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30 PM for Back-to-School Night. This night is an opportunity for you to follow your student's class schedule and to meet your student's teachers. Teachers will share/discuss such things as course content, classroom rules and standards, homework policies and overall expectations. Lack of time prohibits teachers from holding individual parent conferences this night, but please feel free to contact a staff member directly or call the school at any time to request a conference. Parking is limited, so please arrive early and consider car-pooling.

Please know that our doors are always open to you. Don't hesitate to contact me personally if I can help your child or you in any way. I look forward to a fabulous year.

CALENDAR

September 4:
Countywide Professional
Development Day-
Schools closed for
students

September 7:
Labor Day-Schools &
offices closed

September 9:
Patapsco Music
Boosters Meeting at
7PM in the Media Center

September 14:
PTA Executive Board
Meeting at 7PM in the
Media Center

September 22:
Back to School
6:30-8:00 PM-Start in
Base Class

September 28:
Yom Kippur- Schools
and offices closed

Patapsco Is Going Green

In an effort to help save the environment, Patapsco Middle School will no longer be sending home a paper copy of our weekly newsletter. The Knight will be sent out via HCPSS NEWS.

A message from the Food and Nutrition Service Department

This year lunch prices remain the same. The following are the current lunch prices for 2009-2010 school year.

LUNCH: \$3.00 MILK: \$0.50 ALL SNACKS: \$0.60-\$0.75

Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity Lunch Reminder

The Wellness policy #9521 states, "No foods or beverages are to be sold or given without charge to any students in a school, except through the Food and Nutrition Service Department." "Food and Beverages during the school day by any group or organization, other than the Food and Nutrition Service Department, is prohibited." Just a friendly reminder that you can pre-pay monthly for lunches for your child/children through Food and Nutrition Services Department.

Character Education Trait for September

In support of Patapsco Middle School's Anti-Bullying Program, the character trait for the month of September is **Commitment to learning**. **Commitment to learning** is an active belief in the value of learning as expressed by the lifelong pursuit of wisdom, or skill. Please discuss with your child the value of **Commitment to learning** and ways in which they can demonstrate this trait both at school and at home. Thank you for supporting good citizen education.

You are invited to visit the Art Room Online at: www.patapscoart.wordpress.com

You are invited to visit the Art Room Online at: www.patapscoart.wordpress.com. Please visit the Patapsco Middle School Art Room Blog and see students' art, read posts about art and artful ways of looking at the world, visit world class museums on the "blogroll" for virtual museum tours all over the world!

Interested in GT art? Visit <http://www.hcpss.org/arts/visualarts/index.shtml>

There are 2 different portfolio development packets: 5th through 7th and 8th through 12th. Portfolios will be due in the spring. Contact Ms. Mitchell if you have further questions!

Music Notes

Music Boosters Meeting: Please join us on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Patapsco Middle School Media Center.

- Meet the Patapsco Middle School music directors
- Learn about the Patapsco Music Boosters
- Meet other music program parents
- Find out how you can get involved
- Enjoy light refreshments

PTA NEWS

PTA BOARD MEETING

The first Executive Board Meeting for the Patapsco PTA will be held on Monday, September 14th at 7PM in the Media Center. All are welcome to attend.

Office Depot Gives 5% Back to Schools Program

Here's how you can help Patapsco Middle School earn FREE supplies. You must use our school ID number 70046551 when you purchase items in the store, by phone or via the website www.officedepot.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HEALTHY HOWARD HEALTH PLAN

Howard County is now offering a community-sponsored, affordable, comprehensive health plan for its residents. If you are a US citizen or legal permanent resident between the ages of 19 and 63, are currently uninsured and your household income meets the requirements specified on our website, you are eligible to join the Healthy Howard Health Plan. Benefits include 6 visits to a primary care physician per year, emergency care at the Howard County General Hospital, and access to our network of specialists. For more information visit www.HealthyHowardPlan.org or call 410-988-3737.

HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY AND AMC THEATRES AT COLUMBIA MALL

The Howard County Autism Society and AMC Theatres at Columbia Mall will have a special needs movie showing of **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Doors will open at 9:30 AM and the movie will begin promptly at 10:00 AM with no trailers. The volume will be kept down and the lights will be kept up. Sensory breaks are encouraged. All families and friends with special needs are welcome. For further information, contact Marianne Ross at rossfda@hotmail.com.