



CHEETAH NEWS



Principal's Desk

Lauren DeStefano said, "Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." As we say good-bye to summer this weekend, we can think about all the work we have completed so far this school year. Open House and Back to School Nights are over, children working in reading and math groups, PTA is up and running, and the Walking School Bus is a success! Teachers will be preparing interim reports next week so that parents know how the school year is going. We will also have our first Watchdog meeting on Monday evening. As I think about it, much is getting done in a very short time. Thank you to the staff and the parents for working together to get the school year off to a great start.

To ensure the safety of your child in case of an emergency situation at BSES emergency cards need to be completed a.s.a.p. As of today, many of our students still do not have an Emergency Procedure Card on file. We are certain you do not want to put your children in jeopardy if an emergency should arise at school.

Therefore, please complete the on-line Emergency Procedure Card immediately. See the first paragraph on page 2 for more information.

Students in 1st-5th grades will begin the MAP testing next week. This test will give us a baseline to show progress for the year. Children will use computers to take this assessment. We will inform parents of the progress.

Parents are invited to a principal's "Chat and Chew" on September 30th at 6:30 PM in the Media Center. This is an informal time to talk about school and to ask questions that you may have. That is the chat part of the evening. There will be light refreshments for the "chew".

Please continue asking questions at home to have children think about their world. Having multiple solutions in our ever-changing world is key to success. Parents can ask, "What else?" or "Why do you think that?" to further the thinking. Together we will continue to strive for everyone to grow. We are hoping the success children experience will be their personal "grand finale" as bright as the Fall colors.

Important Upcoming Dates

Sept 22 nd	Watch DOGS Kickoff (6:30pm)
Sept 25 th	No School for students
Sept 30 th	Chat & Chew (6:30PM)
Oct 2 nd	Interims Issued
Oct 7 th /Oct 8 th	Picture Days
Oct 10 th	Spirit Day



Our Vision

Every classroom in Bellows Spring Elementary will be a place of excellence in teaching and learning. Our staff will demonstrate leadership, caring and respect in all that we think, say and do. Through collaboration and rigorous instruction, we will help all students reach their full potential and eliminate the achievement gap.

Announcements

Aspen Family Portal –The Emergency Procedure cards are online in the ASPEN Family Portal. You can visit the website at <https://hcpss.me/fp>. It is very important that parents complete these cards immediately with their information and include any additional people who can be contacted in case of an emergency. Contact Marcia Smallwood or Melissa Dimock for assistance.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Board of Education approved the installation of a new Visitor Management System throughout all of our schools. This new system replaces all existing manual and electronic visitor sign in processes for both visitors and school system personnel. Due to the new HCPSS security procedures and the safety of our children, all visitors are required to provide their driver's license or a state-issued photo ID. When you arrive at school, please be sure to bring in your license so that we may assist you.

Join the **BSES Walking School Bus** for students and parents who live in the Woodland Village Neighborhood and want to walk to school with us. Friday mornings during the school year we will start at the corner of Coachlight Lane & Old Stockbridge Dr at 8:55am and make the walk up Old Stockbridge Drive to Bellows Spring Elementary in time for the start of the day. Students and parents who want to walk to school with others as a group are welcome to join us along the way. We will be on the sidewalks only, on the side of the neighborhood pool & our school. Any questions, please email Elizabeth_schultz@hcpss.org

Book Cart

The Book Cart will begin on Monday, September 29, 2014. The Book Cart will be located in the center of each pod from 9:15-9:25. Please see below for your grade level date. **Cost: \$3.00 per book**

Monday: First Grade Pod Tuesday: Second Grade Pod
Wednesday: Third Grade Pod Thursday: Fourth Grade Pod
Friday: Fifth Grade Pod

Support BSES Phys Ed Activities & Market Day!

As you are planning lunch and meals for the school year, consider shopping through Market Day. All money we raise this year will support Physical Education Initiatives at BSES this year: Chasing Cheetahs, GOTR, Staff Wellness, Turkey Trot, Field Day, etc. The more money we raise, the more we can do to support school activity and wellness! Shop from home! <https://www.marketday.com/> Find our organization: #19210 Bellows Spring Elem All orders will be delivered here to BSES on Wed October 22nd and can be picked up in the evening between 6:30-7:00pm.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event of bad weather, please check your local TV and/or radio stations including Verizon Channel 42 for any emergency school delays or closings. In addition, any school delay or closing news will be announced via the HCPSS website, www.hcpss.org, or HCPSS newsletter. Please note that no announcement will be made if schools are opening on time.

HCPSSNEWS

Make sure you subscribe to receive the BSES information via e-mail, by visiting www.hcpssnews.com. This is the subscriber/user site and the only place you can sign up to receive newsletters from any of the HCPSS schools or special offices.

INFORMATION ABOUT CHECK PAYMENTS

The HCPSS Finance Office has contracted with the Envision Payment Solutions, Inc. for the electronic collection of check payments. If the check is returned unpaid, Envision Payment Solutions, Inc. will assess a \$35 fee allowed by Maryland state law and charged as an electronic fund transfer.

Announcements

Art Department

Unwanted t-shirts? The art department is in desperate need for art smocks to ensure your child's clothes do not get dirty! We are requesting that any size of old (but clean) t-shirts be sent in for our young students artists to wear during art class. Thanks for any donations!

PE Department

Did you prepare for the new school year? Please help us keep your children safe with appropriate footwear. In order for your child to fully participate and benefit from the PE program we need children to come to each class ready to learn. Safety and liability parameters were established for Physical Education: **Children must wear sneakers that fully cover the foot, with good rubber-soled support that tie and/or Velcro.**

Our goal is to keep everyone safe and help them be active; and the first step is with proper footwear. Have a great summer and stay active!

BSES Shoe Recycling Drive

We will continue our shoe recycling program for the remainder of the school year, so keep sending your old shoes in! Help us raise funds to support extra student health and physical activity programs at BSES. Any shoes that you no longer use or need can be donated for our shoe recycling drive. As you clean out your closets in the

coming months, please consider donating your old or worn shoes to BSES.

PTA

Greetings everyone! We are ready to kick off another great school year with the WATCH D.O.G.S. program! Please join us in the Bellows Spring Elementary School Cafeteria for the Kickoff night on Monday, September 22, 2014 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. You can bring in your form to sign up for WATCH D.O.G.S. on that night and you can also purchase your WATCH D.O.G.S. shirt (\$13 per shirt up to XL and \$15 per shirt for 2XL and above). We will discuss several important topics including our protocol on your WATCH D.O.G.S. day, and how to sign up for available time slots on the Sign Up Genius. If you have any questions before Kickoff night please email me at bellowsalphadog@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting everyone!

Sincerely,
Rick McCray
Watch D.O.G.S. Coordinator
Bellows Spring Elementary
bellowsalphadog@gmail.com

Community Information

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is excited to **host Let's Go HoCo**, its inaugural 5K race and 1 mile fun run on Sunday, October 12th in Columbia. The race is a great way to bring together students, families, staff and Howard County community members to promote health and wellness. The race will include beginners, intermediate and professional level athletes.

Healthy Howard

Door to Healthcare, a project of Healthy Howard and we provide FREE help in choosing affordable, quality health coverage. The Door provides practical answers about new changes in health care, personal support for making the right choice and assistance with signing up for health insurance. Our certified Navigators and Assistants are available for in-person assistance and to guide you and your family through the process of becoming insured. To learn more, visit www.doortohealthcare.org or call us at 855-288-3667.

Boy Scouts of America

Cub Scouts Pack 360 Elkridge, Rain Gutter Regatta for all boys grade 1-5 in Bellows Spring or Deep Run Elementary, Sat. Sept. 20, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Free Family picnic and games. Contact csp360@gmail.com or Facebook: Cub Scouts Pack 360 Elkridge

Ballet Royale

Ballet Royale is offering an Exceptional Dance Program for children on the Autism spectrum, ages 5-15. A Board Certified Dance/Movement Therapist will teach the class. There will be an Open House and Registration on Sept. 13, 9 a.m.- 3p.m. All are welcome to come. We offer dance classes for all ages, including adults. Visit our website to learn more about becoming part of one of Maryland's premiere ballet studios: www.balletroyale.com. Please call us at 410-997-8443 or email us at Balletroyale@verizon.net.

Howard County Conservancy

Fall Equinox Twilight Hikes and Campfire, Tues. Sept. 23, 5-7 p.m. Family Program- Come out to the Conservancy with the whole family. In case of rain, check website. Pre-register on line through our website, <http://www.hcconservancy.org/upcoming-events.html> or cash only at door. 410-465-8877.

Howard County Recreation and Parks

Rock School: Drums, Guitar, Keyboard, or Vocals, this class meets Sat., Oct 4. To register by phone, please call Recreation and Parks at 410-313-7275. For more information, please contact Kori Jones at kjones@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4609

Counselor's Corner

Want an easy way to support BSES? When you shop at Giant, Food Lion, Safeway and Target you can support our school. With the exception of Target, please be sure to re-designate your store cards each year. Please send in your saver card numbers, with store names and your name and address or call Mrs. Stickles to request a form.

Howard County Public Schools have full time counselors in every elementary school - our more highly enrolled buildings have an additional half time counselor as well! This is definitely not the case in all areas; I feel fortunate to live in a place where children's mental health and emotional development is so highly valued. School counselors provide a variety of services to students, staff, and parents. For more information on the school-counseling program here at Bellows Spring, please check out my website: <http://bsescounselor.weebly.com> Here you'll find general information about my program, as well as what I'm currently teaching at each grade level, a monthly Home/School Connection newsletter, and a few other things of interest. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of support to your child and/or family!