Did You Know Newsletter
A Newsletter for Parents and Students of Scotchtown Hills ES
Website:  http://www1.pgcps.org/scotchtownhills/
Office Phone: 301-497-3994  Fax 301-498-6421
Before/After Care Program: 240-547-4756
Cafeteria: 240-547-4672
Health Room: 240-547-4675 Laurel Bus Lot: 301-497-3665
PGCPS Weather Line: 301-952-6000 Option 1

March, 2020

Important Dates:
3/2 - Wear Any Kind of Hat Day  (See Read Across America Spirit Day)
3/6 - Fox in Socks Day  (See Read Across America Spirit Day)
3/9 - 3rd Quarter Progress Reports Released
3/12 - Chic Fil-A Spirit Night (4-8PM)
3/13 - Flashlight Friday  (See Read Across America Spirit Day)
3/20 - Take a Close Look at a book  (See Read Across America Spirit Day)
3/27 - Career Day
3/28 - "Read In"  (See Read Across America Spirit Day)
3/31 - 3 hr Early Dismissal for Students  (Professional Duty Day for Teachers)

A Word From Mrs. Prevost…

Come join us. Learning is fun!!!! Please be mindful that our school day begins at 7:45 AM. Our students miss valuable information when they are late for school or they miss days. If your child is late for school, escort them to the office so you can sign them in. When your child misses school, please send a note upon their return. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The on-line application for 2020-2021 PGCPS Specialty Program are now available through March 12, 2020. See the website for further details: https://www1.pgcps.org/lottery/index.aspx?id=127716

All visitors are welcome in the building. Please sign-in at the office and receive a visitor's badge before proceeding down the hall. We utilize the Raptor System to support our visitor sign-in process. Teachers are not allowed to hold a conference while they are on hall duty or during instructional time. If you would like to meet with your child’s teacher, please leave a message in the office or you may email them.

Have a great day!
Tracie Prevost

General News & Messages

Know the weather codes!! It’s that time of year to become familiar with the various codes the county will use to describe school closures and delays. Check the county website for more details. You can also add the notification app to your cell phones.

School Counselor’s News

Career Day is Coming!! March 27, 2020 from 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

We are looking for volunteers to share their careers with our students. We would love to have a variety of careers represented and encourage everyone to participate who can join us. To sign up, please click on the link below. Volunteers will be contacted with further information.

Uniform Policy:
Scotchtown Hills is a uniform school. All students are required to wear their uniform each day.

The following items are not acceptable: T-shirts, fleece-wear, sweatshirts, cut-offs, sweatpants, jeans, or shirts with no collar. No sandals, flip-flops or white/colored sneakers please.

Friday Folders:
Friday folders go home every Friday. Please take the time to view all important papers, especially those that require a signature.

Please make sure they are returned to school the following Monday or the next school day with your
signature acknowledging that you have received and reviewed all enclosed materials.

**Family Portal Information** – Family Portal is a feature of SchoolMAX that allows parents to view contact information, attendance, grades and discipline. If you need access, please contact our Family Portal Administrator Mrs. Dorn-Pekins (Assistant Principal) at nic.dornpekins@pgcps.org or call the school. Please provide the student’s name, grade and teacher.

Passwords will not be sent by email or by telephone call. Passwords will only be sent home.

**PTO Meetings (General):**
Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month @ 6 PM!!!

**Scotchtown Hills ES PTO Officers:**
Devonne Powell, PTO President
Byron Moran, PTO Vice President
Melissa Seibert, PTO Treasurer
Shaundel Saunders-Powell, Fundraising Chair
Natalie Ross, PTO Secretary
Jessica Harvey, Social Media
Melissa Barach-Ruff Teacher Liaison

Scotchtown Hills PTO Email: scotchtownhills@gmail.com
Scotchtown Hills PTO Facebook: www.facebook.com/scotchtownhills.ppto
Scotchtown Hills PTO Twitter: @ScotchtownHillsPTO

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**Why Career Day?**

- Career exploration and planning begins early!
- Career Day exposes students to new and interesting careers.
- Career Day helps students become aware of their interests and abilities.
- Career Day helps students understand the connection between their academic achievement and future career success.

**How Do I Volunteer for Career Day?**

We are looking for volunteers to share their careers with our students. We would love to have a variety of careers represented and encourage everyone to participate who can join us.

**Career Day Volunteer Form**

To sign up, please click on the link below. Volunteers will be contacted with further information.

Click Here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUDO6-2yCFlYzaBeTan4j-JurFXPJiYb-kgeuFMjPkJA7WwaQ/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUDO6-2yCFlYzaBeTan4j-JurFXPJiYb-kgeuFMjPkJA7WwaQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Character Education:**

Each month our students learn a different character trait through morning announcements, classroom guidance and community projects. During the month of December, we focused on the character trait of CARING. Our students partnered with the women’s club of Laurel and handmade beautiful holiday cards for 52 homeless children at Sarah’s House and 200 families of Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS) community.

This month the school counseling program continued with classroom guidance lessons on PERSEVERENCE. Students are learning what it means to PERSEVERE. Our students set goals and new year’s resolutions. They are working hard to accomplish their goals. Perseverance means “To keep trying even when something is difficult, not giving up. We want our students to recognize their own ability to fight through tough and challenging situations in order to be successful.

**Home Connections:**

Please discuss perseverance with your child. You are encouraged to praise your child when you notice him/her fighting through something difficult. It can be as simple as learning to tie shoes, completing a puzzle, or even working to finish a challenging homework task. It would also be helpful if you shared with your child about a time you didn’t give up, even though you want to.
Personal Education Plan (Grades 1 and 4)

This month students in grades 1 and 4 will be meeting with Ms. Lambert and Ms. Cort-Sutton (School Counselors) to discuss his/her Personal Education Plan (PEP). We will talk about his/her interests, special abilities, career and college goals.

Please talk with your child about these things to ensure that he/she can make the connection between doing his/her best at school every day and getting into a good college or technical program after graduating from high school.

If you have any questions, please call your child’s school counselor, Ms. Lambert or Ms. Cort-Sutton at 301-497-3994.

Previous News….

- **School Hours**: The school day begins at 7:45 a.m. Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:25 a.m. For the student safety, our doors are locked. Please ring the doorbell and someone will let you in.

- **Birthday celebrations are not held in school**: Due to numerous food allergies, baked goods and candy are not permitted. Since we are a Healthy Generation school, we will accept fresh fruit/vegetables, as well as donations of pencils and/or books to our library. Student birthdays are recognized daily during the morning announcements.

- **Breakfast Program**: Scotchtown Hills was selected by MSDE for the Maryland Meals for Achievement classroom breakfast program, “MMFA”, for the 2018-2019 school year. Every child will be receiving & eating breakfast at no cost to you.

- **Dismissal**: Walkers will be dismissed out the front doors at 1:50 PM. Shortly thereafter, all car riders will be dismissed out the side doors.

- **Doctor's Appointments, Sick Child, Emergencies**: A “note” with an explanation of your child’s absent/tardy/early departure must be sent to the school via your child.

- **Free and Reduced Lunch Applications**: Apply online at [http://www1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/index.aspx?id=162899](http://www1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/index.aspx?id=162899). The on-line process is a quicker and more efficient process to submit your request. If you need assistance with the on-line process, please contact Mrs. Laure, Parent Engagement Assistant, and she will assist with the process at school. If you would still like a printed copy, please contact the school.

- **Friday Folders**: Every Friday, your child will bring home a RED folder which is referred to as our “Friday Folders”. Take the time to read what is in this folder, sign the appropriate documents and have your child return this folder on Monday morning.

- **Kiss & Ride**: The Kiss & Ride is an area located on the side of the school. Please make sure you move your vehicle all the way forward to dropping your child off so that we can keep the traffic moving. If you arrive after 7:45 A.M., you will need to park your car and escort your child to the office for their tardy pass.
● **Meeting(s) with the Teacher:** Communicate with your child’s teacher either by email or send a written note with your child. Please refrain from speaking to the teacher while school is in session, 7:30AM-1:55PM. Pre-arranged conferences can take place between 7:15AM -7:30AM and 2:15-2:30PM. During instructional time, all teachers are responsible for delivering the curriculum.

● **Monies for lunch:** Please make sure your child brings the appropriate monies for the meal. A full-priced lunch is $2.75 and reduced price is $0.40. Milk is $0.55.

● **Parent Engagement Assistant:** Please make sure you introduce yourself to our Parent Engagement Assistant, Mrs. Jenny Laure. Mrs. Laure role is to assist the school staff and parents with any concerns and serves as an interpreter for our Spanish community. When you come to school, please introduce yourself to Mrs. Laure.

● **Tardies:** If you and your child arrive after 7:45 a.m., your child will be marked late for school and will be given a yellow pass to enter the classroom. If buses arrive, your child will not be considered late.

● **Transportation Changes:** You must contact the Transportation Department to request any temporary or permanent change in bus assignments. Transportation department is the only office that can change a student’s bus route. Until then, do not place your child on another bus. If something should happen to the bus, there will be no accountability for where your child is.