



THE FALCON CRIER

DECEMBER 2015



In this issue

- Calendar.....2
- PTSA News2/3
- Classroom News4
- One World Run.....4
- St. Jude Math-a-Thon.....4
- NHMS Helping during the Holidays.....5
- PTSA Membership..... 3,6
- Health News.....7
- School Counseling Corner.....8



Dr. Karl E. Wickman
Principal

Mr. Antonnio R. Hockaday
Assistant Principal

Mr. Jeffrey R. Raff
Assistant Principal

Ms. Wendy L. Steo
Assistant Principal

From the Principal

The holiday season has really come upon us quickly it seems. As we rush around and try to get things done here at school before the holiday break, I am certain your own lives are hectic and busy as well. I thought I would share this short story with you as something you can lean on when those holiday moments start to become just a little too much and you begin to feel like an actor in the movie "Christmas Vacation". Remember what is important and have a very safe and happy holiday break.

*The Gold Wrapping Paper -
An Inspirational Short
Christmas Story
- Fred Burks*

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the

Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

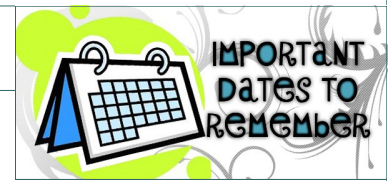
The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

Karl Wickman Ed. D.
Principal




DECEMBER CALENDAR



Check out Edline for updates to the calendar.

You can also email the PTSA at nhmsptsa@gmail.com with any questions.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 School Picture Make-ups	4 Magnet School Applications Due	5
6	7	8 Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm <hr/> Empty Stocking Fund Toy Donation Deadline (pg.5)	9 Band Concert 7:00 pm	10 Chorus Concert 7:00 pm <hr/> PTSA Meeting Starts at 6:30pm	11 PTSA Membership "Homeroom Donut Party" Contest Deadline	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Mason-Dixon Community Ser- vices Gift Card Donation Deadline (see pg.5 for de- tails)	19
20	21	22	23 2 hour Early Dis- missal	24 Schools Closed	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31	JAN 1	JAN 2
	Schools Closed					

2015-2016 NHMS PTSA Committee Chairpersons

Box Tops/Labels: Paula Mackey
Corporate Rebates: Phil Hopkins
Eighth Grade Activities: Melissa Brode
Environmental: VACANT
The Falcon Crier: Michelle Schell
Faculty Basketball Game: Michelle Schell
Falcon Walk: Mark Lazoff & Beth Bearinger

Hershey Park Tickets: Debbie Sullivan
Membership: Michelle Schell
Reflections: Jennifer Bray
Spirit Wear: Debbie Sullivan & Julie Harvey
Staff Appreciation: Nancy Pappas & Courtney Westermeyer
Volunteers: Sandra Monaco-Burton
Website/Facebook: VACANT

If you have questions regarding the PTSA, or specific questions for an officer or chairperson, please email nhmsptsa@gmail.com and it will be directed to the appropriate person for follow-up.

DONUT

FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR NHMS PTSA MEMBERSHIP!



If your child's homeroom brings in the most memberships in their grade by ~~November 30~~, his/her class will win a donut party! **Dec. 11**

- ⦿ If there is more than one NHMS student in your family, the total # of memberships will be split evenly between their homerooms (maximum of 4 counted per family membership). Make sure you fill in your student(s) name and homeroom!
- ⦿ Winning homerooms will be calculated by % of total students in their class.
- ⦿ Membership form can be found in this newsletter. Send in to school in an envelope marked "PTSA Membership" today!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE STUDENTS AND STAFF AT NHMS!

**DEADLINE EXTENDED! SEND IN YOUR
MEMBERSHIP BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11.
REMEMBER STUDENTS...YOU ARE THE "S" IN
"PTSA". JOIN THE PTA, COME TO THE MEETINGS
AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**



one date. one time.
seven continents.
one world.

One World Run 2015 Results

The 6th running of the One World Run took place on 21 November and several NHMS Falcons flew their way into the history books! In the 14-17 age group, 8th graders Max Henkel and Conrad Ogden won 2nd and 3rd places respectively. In the 11-13 age group, 1st place to 7th grader Laurel Brown, 2nd place to 6th grader Emma Moxham, and 3rd place to Samantha Przychoda. For the boys in the 11-13 age group, 8th grader William Tikiob came in first, 6th grader Zane Rommelman won 2nd and 6th grader Michael Finley won 3rd. The overall winners for the entire race were NHMS's William Tikiob and Laurel Brown. We are proud of all the running club participants and will look forward to running again in the spring. Most importantly, the House of Hope in Kandaria, Kenya will be receiving all of the clean water and food that \$1925 can buy! Our six year total has been over \$18,925. Next year's race will be on 19 November 2016.

ILA NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs. Mullen's ILA November Students of the Month!

Jessica Schrof

Samantha Allen

Brianna Stradling-

Harmison

Sarah Cameron



ST. JUDE MATH-A-THON

St. Jude is the first institution established for the sole purpose of conducting basic and clinical research and treatment into catastrophic childhood diseases, mainly cancer. St. Jude continues to be the only National Cancer Institute ~ funded cancer center devoted solely to children. St. Jude has treated children from all 50 states and from around the world. The daily operating cost for St. Jude is nearly \$1.3 million, which is primarily covered by public contributions. During the past three years, 85.3% of every dollar received by St. Jude has gone to the current and future needs of the hospital. In 1962, the survival rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common form of childhood cancer, was 4%. Today, the survival rate for this once deadly disease is 94% thanks to the research

and treatment protocols developed at St. Jude.

You may be asking what this has to do with our families at North Harford Middle School. The Mathematics Department at NHMS will be sponsoring a Math-A-Thon. Our permission slips and collection envelopes go home with the students on Friday 18 December. We are hoping that our students will see family and friends over the holiday break who might want to donate to this worthy cause. On Tuesday 19 January, we will be collecting the donations our students have received to help the kids at St. Jude.



If donations are ready, they can be returned to your child's math teacher any time in January leading up to the 19th. Please encourage your child to participate in this fundraiser. Every child who participates and gets pledges for the completed activities in the fun book will be able to pick prizes as a great incentive. Please watch for the information to come home through your child and support the Math-A-Thon so that we can participate in this worthwhile cause. With your help, we will one day win the battle against childhood cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Thank you for your cooperation and enthusiasm!

Sharalyn Heinly
NHMS Mathematics

Department Chair
Sharalyn.Heinly@hcps.org

North Harford Middle School—Helping during the Holidays

Many families choose to participate in charitable giving during the holidays. For many years the North Harford Middle School community has generously donated new toys to the Harford County “Empty Stocking Fund”, as well as donating canned goods to Mason-Dixon Community Services. This year is no exception; however, you may notice a change to our Christmas tree in the lobby. In lieu of the ornaments we have decorated our tree with red, white, and green Christmas tags that represent gift cards of varying value to local stores. These cards will provide resources to local families over the holidays and throughout the year.

If you would like to help:



- 1) Detach a “gift card/tag” from the tree. Gift card will be color coded:
 - a. Red = 10.00
 - b. Green = 25.00
 - c. White = 50.00
- 2) You may purchase a gift card to any of the following businesses: Saubel’s or Shop Rite grocery store, Walmart, Kohl’s, Target, or the Dollar General in denominations of \$10, \$25 or \$50,
- 3) Purchase the gift card of your choice (Choice of local business will be listed on the back of each tag.) and return it to the NHMS Counseling Office any time before December 18th.
- 4) We will deliver the gift cards to Mason-Dixon Community Services and they will distribute these to local families in need.



- 1) Purchase a new toy for a boy or girl aged newborn – 14 years.
- 2) Your student can bring the toy to the office any time before December 8th. We will wrap the toys and deliver them to the Empty Stocking Fund for distribution to local families in need.



North Harford Middle School PTSA Membership Form 2015/2016



Parents, staff, students and friends of North Harford Middle School, we invite you to join the PTSA today!
Your support is necessary to enhance the programs, experiences and environment for all at NHMS.

MEMBER NAME/CODE	ADDRESS	EMAIL/PHONE
1. _____ Circle Code (P T S A)	_____	_____
2. _____ Circle Code (P T S A)	_____	_____
3. _____ Circle Code (P T S A)	_____	_____
4. _____ Circle Code (P T S A)	_____	_____

CODES: **P** = parent, **T** = teacher/staff, **S** = student, **A** = all other friends of NHMS

Student Name is required. Membership cards will be sent home with this student:

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Homeroom: _____

Please check here if you **DO NOT** want to be included on the PTSA e-mail list. We will email the Falcon Crier newsletter each month, as well as news flashes periodically which we feel may interest you. You may opt out at any time.

DUES

Memberships are \$10.00 per individual, with a maximum cost of \$30.00 per family:

Individual: # _____ x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

Family: \$ 30.00 = \$ _____ (# family members _____)

Additional Tax-Deductible Donation (write in amount): \$ _____

Total Dues and Donation: \$ _____

Thank you for your Membership and/or donation!

VOLUNTEERING

There are so many great things happening at NHMS and it wouldn't be possible without help from our members!
Please select the volunteer opportunities with which you would like to be involved:

- Help with PTSA events
- Hospitality Help (donating food/drink items for staff appreciation days)
- Please contact me to help as needs arise (name & email/phone: _____)

CONTACT US

- If you have questions about your NHMS PTSA membership, please contact Michelle Schell at schell.michelle@gmail.com
- If you have general questions for the NHMS PTSA, please contact Kim Hackett, NHMS PTSA President, at nhmsptsa@gmail.com

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

INFLUENZA Q&A



What is influenza (flu)? It is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It is estimated that 5%-20% of the US population gets the flu each year; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications—20,000 of these are younger than 5 years of age; and a range of 3,000-49,000 people die each year from the flu. Some people, such as older people, young children, and those with certain health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), are at high risk.



How does the flu spread? The viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Or, a person might also get the virus by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their mouth, eyes or nose.



What are symptoms of the flu? Symptoms include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose and muscle aches. Stomach symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can also occur, and are more common in children than adults.



How long is a person contagious? This depends on the age and health of the person. You may be able to pass the flu on to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick; from 1 day before symptoms develop to 5 –7 days after becoming sick.



What is the difference between a cold and the flu? They are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. Colds are usually milder than the flu and are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally don't result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections or hospitalizations. Children or teenagers with flu-like symptoms should NOT take aspirin. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness and dry cough are more common and intense.

** It can be difficult or even impossible to tell the difference between the two viruses based on symptoms alone. Special tests may be helpful if done within the first few days of illness, to tell if a person has the flu.*



What can I do to protect myself? The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease. There are many different flu viruses and the flu vaccine can protect you from the main viruses (three or four depending on which vaccine you get). It can protect you from getting sick or it can make your illness milder if you get a different flu virus.

IMMUNIZATION



REQUIREMENTS

Students entering grades 7 and 8 in school year 2016-2017 must have:

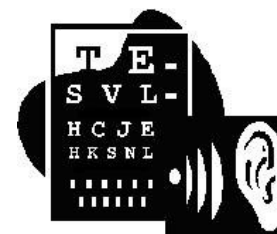
- **One Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis booster)**
- **One Meningitis vaccine (MCV, MCVP4)**

Check with your doctor to see if your child has had these vaccinations. Please do not delay; schedule an appointment to receive these vaccines or get documentation of vaccination as soon as possible. Your child will be excluded from school next year if they are not in compliance with these regulations.

Visit www.hcps.org and click the "health center" button for more information.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Vision and hearing screening for 8th graders run from September through December. If parents have any questions, please call me at 410.638.3658—Marcia Whitmire, RN

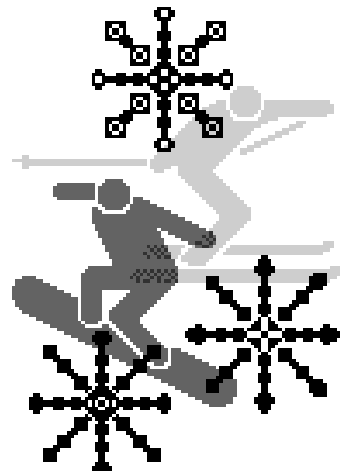


School Counseling Corner

December 2015

We are excited to see North Harford Middle School students off to a great school year! In addition to students working hard on academics, we are seeing positive peer relations continuing from last year and being built. It is also encouraging to have so many students approach us about future academic and career opportunities, including our four magnet programs.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns via phone or email. Our policy is to return your message within 48 hours.



December Event:

12/4- DEADLINE for magnet school applications.

Hoofprints Bereavement Program for Children and Adolescents

The Hoofprints program is an equine-facilitated bereavement program specifically designed for school-aged children and adolescents who have lost a loved one.

For information about upcoming sessions, contact Cathy Schmidt at 443-528-7793. Fees: \$60 per participant. Held locally in Jarrettsville, MD

Mason Dixon Community Services

Mason-Dixon Community Services provides emergency food and energy assistance to low-income residents of Harford County. The following free services are provided:

- Food Locker
- Energy Assistance
- Holiday Giving Programs
- School Supplies
- Soup Kitchen
- Summer Camp Scholarships

The Maryland office is located at 708 Highland Road, PO Box 34, Street, MD 21154. Phone: (410)452-9025

Clients will need a valid photo ID, SS card, Proof of Residence and proof of income. Adults 18+

Email:

6th Grade: Peggyjo.Teague@hcps.org
 7th Grade: Laura.Grace@hcps.org
 8th Grade: Patricia.Schlough@hcps.org

HONORS ASSEMBLIES

If your child has made Honor Roll for the first quarter, you will receive an invitation to our assembly with the report card. Please come help us recognize your child's successes. All assemblies will begin at 7:50 am.

6th Grade: Dec. 1
 7th Grade: Dec. 2
 8th Grade: Dec. 3

CARSON SCHOLAR'S FUND

Mrs. Teague will be meeting with eligible students during early December. For information about this program, please contact her at 410-638-3658.

NHMS may only have one school nominee for this scholarship.