

The Falcon Flyer  
August 26, 2011

Be sure to visit our website at <http://fqms.hcpss.org>!

## WEEKLY DATES

8/29 – All Classes will be held beginning at 7:40 AM

8/30 – Red B Day

8/31 – Orange A Day

9/1 – Yellow B Day

9/2 – Green A Day

9/5 – Labor Day – Schools and Offices Closed

WELCOME TO ANOTHER GREAT SCHOOL YEAR AT FOLLY QUARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL!

## HOMEROOM TEACHERS AND SCHOOL CALENDARS

You can find your child's homeroom teacher on the front page of our website: <http://fqms.hcpss.org>.

You can also download a copy of our color rotation and A/B schedule here.

## NEW STUDENT and PARENT ORIENTATIONS

A BIG thank you to everyone who was able to attend our orientation sessions yesterday. If you were not able to attend but want to review the information that was presented to parents, a .pdf copy is available on our website.

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CORNER

How Can I Stay Involved? Studies show that kids whose parents stay involved during these years do better in school. Some tips:

- Go to school when invited, get to know your child's teachers.
- Join the parent organization and volunteer to help when you can.
- Learn to help your child while he/she is at school: teacher, guidance counselor, etc.
- Read the newsletter and check the website regularly.
- Learn how to get in touch with teachers.
- Provide thorough information on your child's emergency procedure card and update it if changes occur.

## PHOTOGRAPH/VIDEOTAPE REFUSAL FORM

Newspaper and television reporters/photographers often visit Howard County schools to report on events and stories. If your child may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed, you do not need to do anything! If you **DO NOT** want your child to be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed, you can go to our website (<http://fqms.hcpss.org>), click on "Forms" and print the "Photo Refusal Form." Please have your child return this form to the front office.

## DRINKING WATER REPORT

A copy of the FQMS drinking water quality report can be found on our website at <http://fqms.hcpss.org>.

## FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION NOW ONLINE

Applications for free and reduced price school meals may now be completed online. Eligibility

information and a link to the online application can be found at [www.hcpss.org/foodservice/free.shtml](http://www.hcpss.org/foodservice/free.shtml).

#### SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULES ONLINE

School bus routes for the coming school year will be available on the HCPSS website on Aug. 10, and updated twice each week through Sep. 30. Each school will also have copies of their specific routes and street lists for transported and non-transported areas. Bus schedules will also be published in the *Columbia Flier* and the *Howard County Times*. Because the information published in the newspaper is subject to change, you are encouraged to check the most current information on bus assignments, stops and times on [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org): click on "School and Bus Locator" and enter your address. Please note that this is the last year that school bus schedules will be published in local newspapers.

#### HCPSS FAMILY PORTAL OPENS AUGUST 29

This year, parents of middle and high school students will have a new tool to help them monitor their child's school progress, including grades, attendance and homework assignments. The HCPSS Family Portal will go live on Aug. 29, when parents of secondary school students will be able to activate their accounts. Student attendance information will be updated daily, starting with the first day of school. Parents will also be able to request automatic notification when their child's grades fall below a designated threshold or their child is absent from school. Teachers will have their class grade books and grades on the system by Oct. 4, if not before. After that date, teachers will post grades for tests and projects as soon as possible, but no later than three weeks after the due date. Initially, parents will need to log in to separate accounts for each of their children in middle and high school. Soon, family information will be verified and students grouped into family accounts, so parents will be able to access information on all of their children through one account.

#### SCHOOL BOARD STUDY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES MEETING DATES

The Howard County School Board Study Commission, convened by County Executive Ken Ulman and headed by Dr. Nancy Grasmick, has announced the following meeting schedule. All meetings will be held in the George Howard Building at 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City.

- Mon., Aug. 22, 7 p.m., Vernon Gray Room
- Mon., Aug. 29, 7 p.m., Vernon Gray Room
- Thu., Sep. 8, 7 p.m., room to be announced
- Mon., Sep. 26, 7 p.m. Vernon Gray Room

The Commission will consider various options for selecting school board members in order to improve diversity and ensure that all areas of the county are represented. The meetings are open to the public and will reserve time for public comment. Additionally, a public hearing will be held on Mon., Sep. 12, 7 p.m., in the Banneker Room. Those wishing to submit comments or information electronically are encouraged to do so at [schoolboardstudy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:schoolboardstudy@howardcountymd.gov).

#### PTA NEWS

The PTA is gearing up for another great year! We have a lot of wonderful activities already planned for your student. Please look for all the forms and information from the PTA in the folder that comes home on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. We would love to get 100% membership from our school community. Remember you are always welcome to join us at any of the monthly meetings, which are the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7pm in the media center.

As you know we can only be successful with volunteers. We are still looking for a chairperson for the following committees:

- Hospitality
- Membership
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Directory
- After School Activities
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities

Please contact Cathy Corrao at [ccorrao1@verizon.net](mailto:ccorrao1@verizon.net) if you are interested in helping out.

#### GET READY FOR OUR SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISER

At back-to school night and on September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will officially kick off our September drive to raise over \$15,000 for this year's planned PTA sponsored programs. We have always had fantastic support from the FQMS community and expect no less this year to produce the finances we need to keep offering the highest level of programs and services to our students and faculty.

This year, we will be soliciting magazine subscription renewals and new orders, Mrs. Field's cookie dough, and cash donations to our PTA. The main effort runs well using an e-mail campaign but parental involvement will be key to accomplish this so please help your student and look for more details and suggestions to follow in early September. In addition to supporting our school, the students will be incentivized and awarded prizes weekly for their efforts.

One of the first hurdles we will present is a quick turn-around to submit a SubNet booklet with 7 names and addresses for out of town family or friends who might like to know about this drive. If you can help your child by working on this list so they can turn their booklet in on time, they will be guaranteed a prize, regardless of whether any orders follow. Booklets will be distributed on September 7<sup>th</sup> and due back next school day.

If you would like to browse our magazine and gift site, feel free. You can order anytime at your convenience – [www.aphearst.com](http://www.aphearst.com) – FQMS' Organization Code is WC6367. Later on, we will suggest an e-mail campaign using their site to register your student and prospects, along with your own personal "advance notice" e-mail. These "tips" and more will be available at Back to School night and will also be included in packages sent home with each student on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Until then – thank you for your consideration. We are counting on your support and we look forward to another great year at FQMS.

Your Magazine Drive Committee – Rachael Aiello, Sue Hopkins, and Mary Jayne Register

#### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

9/6 – Back to School Night at 6:30 pm

Happy New Year!