



St. John's Lane Elementary School

School Office 410-313-2813

www2.hcpss.org/sjles

November 11, 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/14-18	American Education Week
11/15	Report Cards Issued
11/18	Grandparents & Special Guests Day
11/21	3 hour Early Closing for students – Parent/Teacher Conference
11/22	3 hour Early Closing for students – Parent/Teacher Conference
11/23	School Closed for Students - Parent/Teacher Conference
11/24-25	Schools & Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
11/29	Mindsets for Parents Book Study @ 6:00pm (preregistration required)
11/30	Fall Picture Retakes
12/1	Vision & Hearing Screening – gr. K, 1, & students new to Howard Cnty
12/2	Next newsletter

From the Principals:

November brings several opportunities for our community to come in and visit our school. You are invited to SJLES during American Education Week, November 14th -18th. Come join us!

Next Friday, November 18th, we will celebrate our extended community partners in life-long learning during our annual Grandparents and Special Guests Day. The very important RSVP forms and further information for Grandparents Day were sent home last week. We look forward to sharing this day with you!

Our parent-teacher conference days are November 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. The parent-teacher conference is a vital support to your child's academic success and an important way to connect with SJLES. Scheduling your conference through HCPSS Connect began on Nov. 7th and will close on Nov. 14th. As always, we thank you for your partnership as we work together for the strong achievement of our students. Remember, our pilot classrooms will be holding student-led conferences this quarter and all classrooms will be holding student-led conferences in March. Classrooms using student-led conferences in November will receive detailed information from the teacher.

We look forward to seeing our many visitors this month and to share our love for learning with you!

Mrs. Sarro and Mrs. Redd

Happy Veteran's Day!

St. John's Elementary School pauses today to thank our many veterans, past and present, who have served our country with great dedication and courage. This year our students have created beautiful cards and posters, expressing our thanks and gratitude, to honor veterans served through the Baltimore Station.

Our appreciation and admiration runs deep for the many sacrifices our service men and women have endured for the sake of our freedom. Today we thank you, we salute you, and we honor you. Happy Veteran's Day!

Staff News

Evening Custodian, Ms. Janice Whalen, has retired! Ms. Whalen has served the school system for 15 years. Please join us in expressing our gratitude for her years of service at St. John's Lane and best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable retirement!

You're Invited!

November 14th -18th is **American Education Week** and you are invited to St. John's Lane Elementary School. Please feel free to come in and visit your child's classroom, related arts instruction, lunch, recess or any other time of his/her day at school. Take this opportunity to become more familiar with the school day, the routines, the expectations, your child's teachers and classmates, the school staff, the school building and how we work together towards continuous school improvement every day. Check your child's backpack for grade level invitations, schedules and possible events. We are very proud of our SJLES community and look forward to having you share some time with us as our honored guests during this week!

Grandparents and Special Guests Day

This year, SJLES will again honor the generations of families who walk through our doors and play a vital role in the lives of our students by hosting our annual "**Grandparents and Special Guests Day**" on Friday, November 18th. Grandparents and special guests of our SJLES students are invited to visit our school and engage in a classroom STEM lesson that promotes our intergenerational partnership in life-long learning! We realize that not all of our students have grandparents that can attend this day, so, for those students, we extend the invitation to a relative or friend such as an aunt, uncle or close family friend that has a special relationship with your child. Please ***carefully*** read the details below regarding the grade level activities schedule, parking, RSVP, and signing your child out for dismissal with a grandparent or special guest that day. In order to accommodate all of our guests, students, and staff safely and comfortably on Nov. 18th, we will **not** be able to accommodate our guests eating lunch in the cafeteria.

We are looking forward to this exciting day and the many ways our guests support and enhance our learning environment.

Details for this special day have already been sent home in hard copy last week. Please send your guests' RSVP, and, permission for dismissal with a guest back to school ASAP and no later than Monday, November 14th. No child will be dismissed with a grandparent or guest without signed permission from the parent.

Grade	Special Activity
Kindergarten	12:05-1:05
First	9:00-10:00
Second	1:15-2:15
Third	11:00-12:00
Fourth	10:05-11:05
Fifth	10:45-11:45

Parent-Teacher Conferences

HCPSS will be using Synergy Conference Management to schedule parent-teacher conferences. Synergy Conference Management provides a simple user interface and easy navigation. Starting 11/07/16 at 8:00 a.m., and ending on 11/14/16, parents can log into HCPSS Connect to view and select from the time slots provided by their child's teacher for the conference.

The parent-teacher conference is an important event in your child's education every year. During the conference, you will receive information about your child's performance based on classroom assessments and daily work, the curriculum areas where your child excels, and any areas in need of strengthening or improvement. The teacher will also discuss the important learning behaviors that support your child's continued success in school. The parent-teacher conference is an excellent support to your child's academic achievement and another way for you to learn about the expectations and curriculum standards in your child's grade level. We look forward to your participation.

Important Seasonal Reminders:

It is the time of year when snow and/or ice can cause school closings or delays based on the safety of transporting our students. With that in mind, please be sure that the emergency closing information that you provided in the beginning of the school year is still current.

Emergency Closing:

Be sure that your child knows what the plan is should there be an **emergency closing** day. It is not possible for the front office to call over 700 children's families to ask how a child should go home. Every child must have a current and valid Emergency Closing Plan. In the event of an early closing, the school must close as quickly as possible and the school staff, including the front office, is not able to provide child care until a parent arrives. If any of your child's Emergency Closing information has changed, please provide that information to your Family File and the school ASAP so that your child will be dismissed on time and properly. If the forecast indicates that there might be inclement weather during any school day, be sure to keep tuned to radio or TV for information and check your emails and text messages for an HCPSS News Bulletin about school closings.

Delayed Opening:

When there is a **delayed opening**, the Before Care program is **also delayed for the same amount of time**. Please do not drop off students at the regular time on a late opening day because there is no one at school to supervise them. On a late opening day, staff does not arrive at their regular time

and when they do arrive, they are engaged in professional duties and cannot provide childcare services. Each family should have a plan for how they will manage their children arriving to school one, one and a half or two hours later than usual on a delayed opening day.

Guidelines for Outdoor Recess:

It's also a good time for a reminder about **recess**. The HCPSS Wellness Policy and good common sense remind us that outdoor exercise is a healthy and important part of each day. It provides a break from the classroom routines, a chance to get some outside air and an opportunity to run off excess energy which revitalizes children and physically prepares them for additional sitting and academic learning throughout the day. Children should come to school prepared for outdoor recess every day and wear clothing that considers the season and outdoor conditions.

There are various factors that determine if recess is to be indoors or outdoors on any given day, however, it should be assumed that students will be outside for recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the same guideline that has been used throughout the county for many years. Special health or medical conditions that must regard outdoor conditions are always managed appropriately through the Health Room. We greatly appreciate your help and cooperation in providing a safe and healthy environment for our students in every way.

Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Reading Council is proud to sponsor the local Young Authors' Contest for 2016-17. All students in grades 2-5 are encouraged to submit a poem or short story for the contest. Information about the contest and the required cover sheet for all submissions are being sent to all parents via Synergy by your child's ELA teacher. All entries are due by Dec. 23, 2016. No entries will be accepted after this date. If you have questions you may contact our Reading Specialist Mrs. Taylor at Elizabeth.Taylor@hcpss.org

Post Election Concerns

As you may be aware, some schools are experiencing signs of stress in their students related to the election. At this point, we have not seen specific student concerns related to the election. Our staff is remaining vigilant in monitoring interactions among students and our student services team is available to assist with any needs. To assist students with any concerning words or images they may be encountering, the following message was read to our students, and in each HCPSS elementary school, this morning.

"Tuesday's presidential election has caused strong feelings for many people. Some are happy, some are worried and others are scared. Emotions are never wrong and no matter how you feel or how the adults who love you feel, I want you to know that our school is a safe place for you. We care about you and one of our main jobs is to keep you safe. This is a school where no one should be teased or bullied because of who they wanted to be president. If you see this happening, please tell an adult so we can help.

Our social studies curriculum teaches about the democratic process and what it means to be a United States citizen. One of our most important rights and responsibilities is the right to vote and millions of Americans voted on Tuesday in a peaceful and respectful way. As we move forward, I know that our country will continue to be one where there is "liberty and justice for all".

A Request for Allergy Safety:

We have some students at SJLES with life-threatening allergies to shelled nuts. When the shells are cracked, the particles in the air create a life-threatening situation for sensitive students. We kindly ask that you do not send your child to school with any shelled nuts, for your child's lunch, snack, or after school activities. A common example of shelled nuts is, peanuts in the shell, however, we are referring to any shelled nuts. Thank you for helping us to keep our school a safe environment for all students

Job Opportunity:

Would you like to spend a few hours at SJLES for pay? We are currently searching for **substitute** lunch and recess monitors. Monitors work for 3 hours between the hours of 10:30 and 2:00 with other adults to supervise and assist students on our playground and field during outdoor recess and in the cafeteria for lunch. While our current positions are full, we have periodic days throughout they year when a monitor is unable to come in to work and we need to call a substitute. If you are interested in the position of Substitute Monitor, please call Assistant Principal, Barbara White, (410-313-2813) for details.

Community Notices

Please visit the Community News and Programs page <http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/> on the HCPSS website for announcement of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.