

# Thunder Hill Elementary

## November 15, 2024

School hours: 9:25 am – 3:55 pm

\*Doors open at 9:15 am



### Important Dates

- Nov. 18-22 American Education Week
- Nov. 18-22 Scholastic Book Fair
- Nov. 20 Education Support Professionals Day
- Nov. 21 Parent/Teacher Conference Window Closes at 4:00
- Nov. 25-26 **Schools Close 3-hours Early** (12:55pm) - Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - November 25th - In-Person Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - November 26th - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 25 Parent Session, 2:30-3:30; **In-Person Session with Technology Teacher, Ms. Stephen**
- Nov. 26 Parent Session, 2:00-3:00; **Virtual Session with School Counselor, Ms. Douglas**
- Nov. 27-29 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

### [Related Arts Color Calendar](#)

### [A Message from Administration](#)

Greetings THES Families,

Thank you for helping us have a wonderful week. Our Veterans Day celebration was a huge success. We appreciate the support from Mrs. Lesinski, our PTA, and community for making Monday memorable!

Please remember to schedule a Parent/Teacher Conference if you wish to meet with your child's teacher on November 25 or 26. The conference scheduling window will be open until November 21st. We hope that you will be able to find some time to visit us next week, during American Education Week. You can find additional details further along in this newsletter.

Proudly partnering with you,

Sonia Hurd, Principal

Brian McMahon, Assistant Principal

# THES Veterans Day Celebration



## **American Education Week**

American Education Week is the week of November 18th-22nd. Each year, we look forward to honoring public education and the many individuals who contribute to ensuring that every student receives a quality education.

American Education Week is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our collaboration and partnership with families. We invite parents and guardians to visit the class during this special week.

Each grade level will be engaging in a spotlight activity. Parents are welcome to join the grade level team during the spotlight time. Parents are also welcome any time throughout the week.

### **Spotlight Activities:**

Kindergarten: Wednesday 10:00-11:00

1st Grade: Tuesday 9:30-10:40 or Wednesday 2:00-3:00

2nd Grade: Any Day 10:40-11:40

3rd Grade: Friday 1:00-1:40

4th Grade: Thursday 2:30-3:00

5th Grade: Thursday 3:00-3:30

Due to school security, student confidentiality, and limited space, we ask our parents/guardians to follow these guidelines:

- Only parents/guardians are allowed to visit.
- All parents/guardians sign in at the front office with Lobby Guard.
  - Visitors must bring a scannable driver's license to access Lobby Guard.
  - Visitor stickers are worn in a visible location at all times.
- Be mindful of confidentiality while visiting. Visitors are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of all private, sensitive, and personally identifiable information they may see or hear while visiting HCPSS schools. Please [click here](#) for more information.
- No photos/videos please.
- Please silence your phone throughout your visit.
- If you are joining for lunch, please understand that there may not be space for all parents to sit for our grades with larger numbers of students. Please ensure that all students have a place to sit to eat.

### **Parking Reminders:**

- Parking will be limited, so please consider carpooling or alternative parking options!!!

- No cars can be parked in the bus loop from 8:50 - 9:30 AM.
- All cars must leave the bus loop no later than 3:30 PM.
- Please do not park in the fire lane at any time.

## **New Information**

### **Native American Heritage Month**

Native American Heritage Month Resources: November is Native American Heritage Month. Let's celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the Native American community!

[Native American Heritage Month Resource](#)

### **THES Turkey Trot**

The THES Turkey Trot will be held on Monday, November 25th with a rain date of Tuesday, November 26 during your child's Related Arts time. Please make sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather and is wearing sneakers that day. We are looking forward to a great event! – Mrs. C and Mr. Kortick

### **Lost and Found - Coats and Water Bottles**

Families, as you visit for American Education Week or Parent Conferences, please ask to check our Lost and Found! It is overflowing with coats and jackets. We also ask that families label water bottles and coats/jackets so we can easily make sure lost items return to the proper owner. After conferences, we will donate any items not claimed.

### **Family to Staff - Feel Good Feathers**

Have you been impressed with the efforts of a THES Staff member? If so, take a moment to send them a Feel-good Feather to brighten their day! Some Family to Staff shout outs will even be highlighted in upcoming Thunder Hill Happenings and shared with staff. Thank you for the encouragement!

[Feel Good Feathers Form](#)

### **November 25th and 26th Parent Sessions**

Parents will have the opportunity to join a session focused on technology & parent access as well as a session about social emotional support for students.

**Monday, November 25 2:30 - 3:30**

**\*\*In-Person Session with Our Technology Teacher, Ms. Stephen**



Join us for a hands-on technology help session designed for parents! Learn how to navigate and make the most of platforms like Canvas, Class Dojo, and Synergy. We'll walk you through key features, communication tools, and tips for staying connected with your child's education. Whether you're new to these platforms or looking for a refresher, our session will help you feel more confident in supporting your student's learning journey. Bring your questions and devices for an interactive experience!

**Tuesday, November 26 2:00 - 3:00**

**\*\*Virtual Session with Our Counselor, Ms. Douglas**

Supporting your child's social and emotional growth is significant. This presentation offers insights and practical tips to help your child build strong, positive friendships, as well as how to emotionally support your student(s).

## **Information Worth Repeating**

### **Arrival & Dismissal Procedures**

To ensure smooth and safe arrival and dismissal for our students, please be reminded of the following information:

**SCHOOL HOURS: 9:25 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.**

**ARRIVAL TIMES: 9:15 a.m. First bell rings/students may enter the building.**

**9:25 a.m. Second/late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.**

**Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:15 a.m. Supervision is not guaranteed for all students before this time.** Before and after care is available through Columbia Association as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

All children who are late must be accompanied by a parent and be signed into school in the front office.

**DISMISSAL TIMES: Dismissal begins at 3:45 p.m.**

If you need to change your student's dismissal, please send a note to their teacher. If you need to make a change during the day, after your student has arrived at school, please email your child's teacher **AND** call the front office. **No students will be released from the front office for early dismissal after 3:30pm.** This will help to ensure the safety of our students and cut down on confusion at the end of the day as afternoon dismissal begins.



**Please click here for the [PTA Weekly Newsletter](#)**

## Conference Reminders

Parent-Teacher Conference time is quickly approaching! Conferences with Homeroom/Language Arts teachers will take place on November 25-November 27. Ms. Kozikowski's and Mrs. Parsons' 4th grade math families may also schedule. For your planning purposes, please note the schedule below:

- In- person conferences will be held on Monday, November 25th *only*
- Virtual conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 26th or Wednesday, November 27th *only*

Families will sign up for conferences using Synergy beginning November 8th. The sign up window will close on November 21st. After November 21st, families must call the front office secretaries directly to schedule a conference. We look forward to seeing you!

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held next week, Monday November 18th – Friday November 22nd in the THES Media Center. We are super excited about seeing many of you there!

### **BOOK FAIR HOURS/TIMES are as follows:**

- **BEFORE SCHOOL**, 9:05 – 9:25am; Monday, November 18th – Friday, November 22nd
- **DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**, 9:25am -3:45pm - Monday, November 18th – Friday, November 22nd
  - Accompanied by THES staff members, students will be scheduled to visit the Book Fair during the school day. These times will provide students opportunities for previewing/browsing and purchasing items from the Book Fair.
- **AFTERSCHOOL, from 4:05-6:00pm ---Monday, November 18th – Thursday, November 21st** **Note: during this time children must be accompanied by a parent/adult.**

More helpful Book Fair information can be found on the Book Fair Homepage link below, including how to set up eWallet payments, an opportunity to preview books, and details about online ordering.

[Book Fair Homepage](#)

Book Fair  
Volunteers  
Needed!



The Book Fair will be held during National Education Week in the Media Center beginning Monday, November 18 through Friday, November 22.

Important information about the Fair will be sent home with your student(s) within the next week.

Currently, I need parent/adult volunteers to help out with...

- Setting-up on Friday, November 15 after school
- Working with the students who come to the Book Fair during their Media Classes that week,

- Working afterschool in the Book Fair to help customers
- Break-down of the Book Fair at its closing on Friday afternoon, November 22nd.

If you are interested and available to volunteer in any of these areas, **be sure to look for the Sign-Up Genius coming your way on Monday, November 11th!"** If you have any questions, you may contact me at [leah\\_mcilvain@hcpss.org](mailto:leah_mcilvain@hcpss.org) and I will give you all pertinent information needed to fulfill the job.

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR YOUR STUDENT(S)' Teacher's WISH LIST before you shop in the Book Fair. You may want to add one of the books the teacher wants to add to their classroom library!!! Thank you for your consideration & support – Leah McIlvain, Media Specialist/Teacher

## Young Author's Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 1-5 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called **The Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the attached [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [THES YAC Student Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to [sara\\_stevenson@hcpss.org](mailto:sara_stevenson@hcpss.org) by **Monday, December 2, 2024**.

Contact Sara Stevenson with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#).

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.



## PTA Information

### Save the Date!

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>November 20th</b> | <b>Delivery of Joe Corbi's Fundraiser Orders</b> , THES Cafeteria, 4:00-7:00 p.m.  |
| <b>November 25th</b> | <b>PTA THES Staff Dinner</b> - Donations and Volunteers Needed<br><a href="#">Thunder Hill Elementary PTA: THES Staff Dinner - Parent Teacher Conferences Donations/Volunteers</a> |
| <b>December 5th</b>  | <b>THES PTA Meeting, 6:00 - 7:00 pm</b> - Childcare provided. All are welcome.   |
| <b>December 10th</b> | <b>THES PTA RNO Fundraiser at Eataliano Market &amp; Deli</b><br>5325 Phelps Luck Drive (All Day) Be sure to mention THES PTA!   |
| <b>December 14th</b> | <b>THES PTA Holiday Mart and Yard Sale</b> , 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. (Located in the Cafeteria and Gym)  |

## PTA Holiday Mart & Yard Sale

The THES PTA Fundraising Committee is looking for local artisans, artists, makers, crafters, bakers, direct sale businesses, food and beverage vendors/trucks for our upcoming Holiday Mart and Yard Sale on Saturday, December 14th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you have any questions please email Natalie Miskimins at [vpfundraising.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:vpfundraising.thespta@gmail.com)

Vendor Registration Link: <https://thespta.givebacks.gives/thespta/Campaign/Details>

## Community Information

### “Alice in Wonderland” with a Mad Hatter Tea Party\*!

Join us for “Alice in Wonderland” and an exclusive tea party before the show at **Mt. Hebron High School on Sunday, November 24**. Meet the characters, enjoy delicious snacks, and create fun crafts from **12:00pm-1:30pm**. After the tea party in the cafeteria, you will be escorted to your VIP seats in the auditorium for the **2pm show**. Tickets for the tea party and show are **\$20 for children and \$16 for adults (all children must be accompanied by an adult)**. Tickets are limited and you can purchase tickets [here!](#) Don’t miss out on this chance to join Alice and friends for a day filled with laughter and fun. Remember, it’s always time for tea in Wonderland!

*\*Activities are geared to students 10 and under but all are welcome. This is not a drop off event. An adult is required to accompany young children.*



### Join us at Plot Twist!

Saturday, December 7, 2024  
2:00PM - 4:00PM

Join us for our fifth LGBTeaQi&A!

This program is an opportunity for parents and students in grades 3-12 to meet and connect.

While parents meet and connect, their students are invited to volunteer on the farm (service hours eligible). There is a variety of farm work to do - from cleaning animal stalls to painting fences. Students can also choose to take a hike with their peers.

**Space is limited.** Please RSVP using the link/QR code below.

<https://forms.gle/3F1mzsTKu2XzvwWTA>

