

PAW PRINTS

Guilford Elementary School
410-880-5930/Fax: 410-880-5935
www.hcps.org/ges

Issue 14: December 20, 2013



Greetings Guilford Families,

We would like to share the results of the Football Food Drive with the help of one of our 5th grade students...

A Touchdown of Kindness

-Written By Student Reporter and Fifth Grade Student, Jaelyn Rogers

When watching football, you hope that your team wins. Unfortunately it is often a game of chance. So, Guilford Elementary School came up with a creative idea for the holidays. They would have the students and staff compete as part of a food drive, and use their favorite football teams as the "catch." In doing so, an act of kindness would be rendered and families fed through a partnership with the Monarch Mills Food Pantry. Knowing that the Baltimore Ravens, Washington Redskins, and the Pittsburgh Steelers were the student and staff favorites, they started their mission.

From Wednesday Dec. 4th through Dec. 18th, GES students, staff and families brought in canned goods and nonperishable items daily trying to fill in one of the four team boxes; the fourth box representing Team Other (Detroit, Philadelphia, Dallas, Patriots and a host of others). The goal was to fill the teams box with the most items, which would make your team the best team at Guilford. Each day students from grade 4 tallied the results. By the competition's end **379 food items** were collected! The box for Team Other consisted of 61 items. The **Redskins** scored the 3rd place win with a total of **74 food items**! The **Steelers** scored 2nd place with a total of **84 food items**! The good news for the Baltimore **Ravens** fans was that their box won 1st place totaling **134 food items**! Congratulations Ravens!!!



Thank you for giving so generously and making this food drive a success.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing Winter Break! (School resumes for students on Thursday, January 2nd.)

Happy Holidays,

Genée Varlack, Principal

Connie Stahler, Assistant Principal



Do you know about Dreambox?

Guilford is fortunate to be included in a grant that gives all students PreK-Fifth grade, 24 access to this great math website.

DreamBox Learning empowers students to master key concepts, increase achievement, accelerate student learning, and boost long-lasting confidence in math.

Dreambox Family Night-

Tuesday, January 14 from 6-7 pm

An opportunity for you to play Dreambox with your child and learn all about its features!

Guilford Readers Are Leaders

Each month students keep track of their reading homework, reading for 20 minutes each night, on their Reading calendar. At the end of the month they make sure a parent reviews it and signs it. Then it is returned to their teacher and they earn a Pizza Hut certificate. Our Reading Leaders will also get a group photograph by grade level to be posted on our Reading Leaders bulletin board outside the media center. Be sure to check it out!



Here are our November results. Third place goes to the students in Mr. Murphy's 4th grade class with 62% participation. Second place goes to the students in Mr. Magulick's 3rd grade class with 67% participation. And first place goes to one of our 1st grade classes, Mrs. Braswell's class with 72% participation!

Way to go to our Reading Leaders!

Mission Statement: Guilford Elementary will ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in our diverse and changing world.

Information Sessions - The Road to Kindergarten

Howard County parents with children who will be five years old by Sep. 1, 2014 are invited to attend one of four free Kindergarten information sessions:

- Tues., Jan. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wilde Lake High School
- Thurs., Jan. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Long Reach High School
- Mon., Feb. 3, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Marriotts Ridge High School
- Wed., Feb. 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Hammond Middle School

Registration is not required, and childcare is available at each session.

For more information see flier [online](http://www.hcpss.org/schools/kindergarten/road2Kflyer.pdf) - <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/kindergarten/road2Kflyer.pdf>



Did you know that your Target RedCard can earn cash for Guilford Elementary School? Through Take Charge of Education, Target has already donated over \$7000 to our school! Be sure that if you have any type of Target RedCard, you log on to your account and designate Guilford Elementary School (school ID: 58037) as your Take Charge of Education school. Then when you shop at Target, you are helping Guilford Elementary School too!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER

23-31 Winter Break - School Closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day - School Closed**
- 2 Students return to school from Winter Break
- 3 Flu Mist Clinic at GES
- 8 Kindergarten Math Learning Party 6:00pm
(Numbers)
- 9 Orchestra Concert 7:30pm
- 14 Dreambox Parent Night 6:00pm
PTA Meeting 7:00pm
- 15 No School for Pre-K Students
Kindergarten Math Learning Party 6:00pm
(Shapes & Patterns)
- 16 Early Dismissal (12:50pm) No Pre-K
Professional Development Day
- 17 Early Dismissal (12:50pm) No Pre-K
Professional Work Day
- 20 School Closed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 School Closed
Professional Work Day
- 22 Student Banking Day
- 29 Report Cards Issued
Kindergarten Math Learning Party
(Building Math Skills)



In times of emergencies/school closings, information will be shared with the community through the following:

- The HCPSS Website: www.hcpss.org
- HCPSS News email and text alerts: Register at www.HCPSSNews.com. For step-by-step instructions on signing up, go to www.hcpss.org/news/newsletter/subscribe.shtml.
- HCPSS-TV: Cable TV, Comcast Channel 95 and Verizon Channel 42.
 - HCPSS Information Hotline: 410-313-6666
 - HCPSS twitter.com/HCPSS: follow us @HCPSS
- NotifyMeHoward: notifyme.howardcountymd.gov and choose to receive news from the HCPSS.
 - **Local TV:**
 - WBAL - Baltimore Channel 11
 - WRC - Washington, D.C. Channel 4
 - **Local Radio:**
 - WBAL-AM - Baltimore 1090 AM*
 - WTOP-FM - Washington, D.C. 103.5 FM*
 - *Regional Emergency Broadcast Alert System

Please note: The HCPSS does NOT use schools-out.com or e-schoolnews.com for any notifications.

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A complete list of emergency closing sources, and more details on weekend closures can be found online at www.hcpss.org/news/weather.shtml.

The Family Portal

Have you "activated" your parent account on the Family Portal? The last day for parents to complete their child's ER card (Emergency Card) on-line thru the Family Portal was October 4. However, parents are urged to follow through with activating their account. Parents are still able to log-in and view their child's attendance and/or sign up to receive email notifications when their child is marked absent. For assistance you may call the main office, 410-880-5930.

HCPSS NEWS

Already signed up? Receiving regular news from the school and the county? This is great! Thank you for partnering with us and staying current with school news! If you have not UPDATED your child's grade in HCPSS NEWS, you may however be missing out on grade level information, sent only to that particular grade. Please take a moment, follow the link below and ensure that your child's information is up to date. <https://www.hcpssnews.com/user/userdefault.aspx>

SCHOOL HOURS

Grades K– 5 9:25a.m. – 3:55p.m.
Preschool AM - 9:25 – 11:55a.m./ PM – 1:15 -3:55p.m.
Students may enter the building at 9:05am, when the bell chimes.

LATE ARRIVALS

Students who arrive at school after 9:25a.m. MUST be accompanied by a parent to the Main Office to be signed in before reporting to class.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Teachers may not dismiss students to parents/guardians. Parents/guardians must come to the Main Office, with identification, to sign out students and the office will request that the teacher send the student to the office. This procedure is for the safety of all our students.

ABSENCE POLICY

A parent note explaining a student's absence is required when a student is absent for any portion of the school day. Please include date(s) of absence(s). When a student in absent 3 or more consecutive days a doctor's note is requested upon the student's return to school.

BUSES

Children are assigned to buses by the Pupil Transportation Office based on where they live. Lists of students who ride a particular bus are kept on record in the office. Children are not permitted to ride on another bus. If an emergency arises, please call the main office 410-880-5930.

WALKERS

The Crossing Guard will be on post from 8:55-9:20a.m. Please do not send your children before this time. Students will not be permitted in the building until 9:05a.m.

GES Paw Prints Newsletter is issued weekly or bi-weekly as needed.

Community Events

The following events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

STEM The GT Program is designed to introduce current graduating high school students who possess outstanding academic credentials in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to the NSA/CSS missions. This program provides a tremendous opportunity to gain valuable work experience in the area of STEM. http://www.nsa.gov/careers/opportunities_4_u/students/high_school/stem.shtml

Misako Ballet Company "Winter Wonderland" Misako Ballet Company will present a FREE Studio Concert tailored to young audience members on Fri, Dec. 27, 1 p.m. This concert will feature dance pieces from Nutcracker! Harpers Choice Village Center, 5485 Harper's Farm Road, Suite 203, please contact [410.884.9690](tel:410.884.9690) or [443.805.1350](tel:443.805.1350).

Wilde Lake Community Assoc. Community Meeting on Education-Tues., Jan 28, 7-8:30 p.m., Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia MD. Special Guest will include
Dr. Renee Foose, Superintendent, Howard County Public School System
Kelly Hough, Principal, Bryant Woods Elementary School
Troy Todd, Principal, Running Brook Elementary School
Lisa Smithson, Principal, Wilde Lake Middle School
James LeMon, Principal, Wilde Lake High School
Each Guest will give an overview of their school and then will answer questions.
For more information contact Slayton House at 410-730-3987

Howard County Office of Children's Services Preschool/Child Care Information Fair, "Children On Board." The 2014 Fair will be held on Sun., Jan. 26, 1-4 p.m. at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. Admission is free; however, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank. For more information about the Fair, contact the Office of Children's Services at either 410-313-1940 or via e-mail at children@howardcountymd.gov.

Smashing ANTS Fun and enlightening program helps kids realize they have the power to create their own success and self-confidence through personal and group leadership skills! With a toolkit of strategies to recognize their own ANTs, (Automatic Non-Supportive Thoughts) along with the empowerment skills to smash them, kids lead and inspire themselves and others. Experiential activities, games and charming cartoon videos connects and resonates with kids, making learning these important life lessons enjoyable to learn. Sponsored by either HoCo Rec and Parks or the schools's PTA. Visit www.smashingants.com for details and schedule/enrollment.

UMBC Swim Lesson Program Our Swim Lesson Program offers lessons for swimmers of all abilities...from first time water safety to advanced swimming technique. The cost is \$10 per half hour lesson, Rob Bellamy 410-455-2716, bellamy@umbc.edu For more info, or visit us at www.umbcretrievers.com/info/aquatics

Spend your day off from school SNOW TUBING with friends and Recreation and Parks! Register now for the School's Out Snow Tubing & Movie Trips this winter, offered by the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks. Spend your time off snow tubing, socializing with friends and enjoying a new movie. Families welcome! Zoom down the perfectly carved lanes at Liberty Mountain Resort, retreat inside for a pizza lunch, and then head off to a local cinema in the afternoon to see a movie with your new snow tubing friends! No experience is required; anyone can tube and have a blast doing it! The fee is \$90 per participant, and includes snow tubing, movie, lunch, supervision, and transportation from the Long Gate Park and Ride in Ellicott City. Information: Matt Medicus, 410-313-4719. Register: 410-313-7275 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/schoolsout.htm. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged!

RP9433.601 Long Gate Park and Ride Jan 21 8 AM- 6 PM

RP9433.602 Long Gate Park and Ride Feb 14 8 AM- 6 PM

Rebuilding Together Howard County offers free repairs to Low income homeowners. To apply, you must own your own home and that home must be located in Howard County. Complete an application at www.rebuildingtogetherhowardcounty.gov Repairs provided include; plumbing, electrical, carpentry, appliances, painting, roof repair, flooring, heating, etc. FREE OF CHARGE. Applications are being accepted through Jan. 2014 for the next Rebuilding Repair Day, April 26, 2014.

The DOOR to HealthCare Do you need Insurance? Get FREE HELP finding affordable, quality, health coverage, every day M-Fri at our location at: 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia. Every Tues. at East Columbia and Central Libraries from 12-4 p.m. Weds at Miller and ElkrIDGE Libraries from 12-4 p.m. Sat., at 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, MD 21045. Via our toll free number at 855-288-3667

SPORTS

Greater Laurel United Soccer Club (GLUSC) winter and spring soccer programs Jan. through June 2014, Local area fields and schools www.glusc.com

Steven Haversack greaterlaurelunitedsoccerclub@gmail.com or 301-821-5335

Reservoir Boosters is helping to organize a middle school field hockey team that will play in the Howard County Sun. evening league at Meadowbrook Athletic Center in Ellicott City. For more information, email Dona DeZube at dezube@comcast.net or call 301-490-9997.

Howard High Softball Program is hosting a one day clinic (2 camps), Feb. 1, 12-4 p.m. The Reapers Dens chuck6107@msn.com 410-379-6650 (Chuck Rice)

