

Hereford Middle School

News and Notes

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May/June 2008

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As this school year comes to a close, I want to thank you for supporting your children and their school for the past nine months. Hopefully we all can hang on for the remaining few weeks! Students still need to study, complete homework at night, and attend school regularly until June 10 when the last bell sounds. We have the High School Assessments in Algebra I, the county final exams in World Language and Algebra I and II, as well as final projects and tests coming up in the next few weeks. While there is a tendency to lighten up because we are close to the end, we hope you encourage your child to persist until the last day of school.

HMS will again this year utilize the Accelerated Reader (AR) as the foundation for our summer reading program for all grade levels. We will not be able to test during the summer due to renovations.



Catherine P. Walrod
Principal

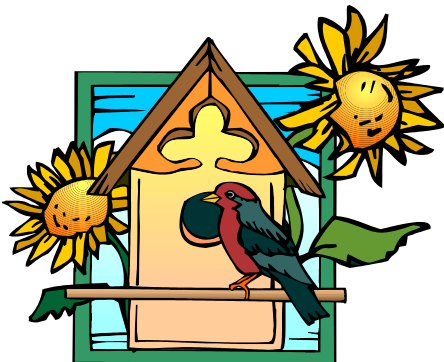
However, we will be scheduling AR testing when students return in the Fall. The full list of book selections can be found at <http://www.bcps.org/schools/CMS/hereford/library.html>. A program description and reading log can be found in this newsletter for more information and assistance.

The summer office hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. The main school building will be closed again this summer for renovation, but the administration, secretaries, and guidance will be housed in the main and guidance offices. Unfortunately this means that we will not have access to the building for tours, etc. due to renovation restrictions. The good news is that the renovations are scheduled to be completed by the end of September. We look forward to having our building back!

Again, on behalf of Lisa Perry, Brenda Thompson, and myself, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. This is truly an amazing community. **Best wishes for a pleasant and safe summer!**

Sincerely,

Catherine P. Walrod
Principal



MARYLAND BLACK-EYED SUSAN

Students can begin to read next year's Black-Eyed Susan books by selecting titles from this list of 2008-2009 nominees:

Grades 6-9 Nominees

- Auch, M. J. – One-Handed Catch
- Carter, Ally – I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You
- Key, Watt – Alabama Moon
- Kostick, Conor – Epic
- Lord, Cynthia – Rules
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth – Life As We Knew It
- Salisbury, Graham – Night of the Howling Dogs
- Shafer, Audrey – The Mailbox
- Smith, Roland – Peak
- Wells, Rosemary – Red Moon at Sharpsburg

NOTES FROM THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER:

Folks,

Our Precinct 7 website is operational! As we work on this site, we hope to provide links to recent crime alert emails, crime prevention tips, etc. I am excited about this because it gives us yet another avenue to stay in touch with our constituents. Hopefully, there will be a "Precinct" email address for you to contact to pass along your questions and concerns. In the meantime, you can still email or call me at the Precinct. You may access our website by going to Baltimore County's main page: www.baltimorecountymd.gov and choosing the "Public Safety - Police" links, then select "Police Overview" on the next page, click on "Precincts" and then choose Precinct 7, or access our page directly at: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/pc07/index.html

I also wanted to draw your attention to what we call "Deception Burglaries." For some reason, these types of incidents seem to increase with the arrival of warmer weather. Please review the information below and be aware of the method of operation of these burglars and thieves and - MOST IMPORTANTLY - *share* this information with your neighbors and families.

Deception burglaries have one common theme - to get the homeowner distracted by getting them to walk into another room, or more frequently, asking the homeowner to step outside and then getting them to move to the side or rear of the house (out of view) while a second suspect enters the house through the unlocked door and steals whatever is quickly accessible to them. This second suspect is almost always out of the house before the homeowner re-enters. Here's how it works:

The first suspect will come to the door, knock on the door or ring the doorbell, and use some type of ruse to win the confidence of the homeowner. For example, the suspect may tell the homeowner that he works for a fence company (or satellite TV company...or roofing company...or landscaping company...you name it, they've tried it) and tell the homeowner that he or she needs to step outside with him and examine a portion of their property. To gain the confidence of the homeowner, the suspect might say "he doesn't want to infringe on property lines, so he needs the owner to examine the line in the rear of the property." If the homeowner does step outside, he or she will generally leave the door unlocked and the first suspect will escort the homeowner around the back - out of view - of that door. Sometimes, the first suspect will use a cell phone he is carrying to "call his boss...or the office...or Land Records..." when in fact, he is ACTUALLY CALLING THE SECOND SUSPECT to let him or her know that entry into the home can now be made without detection. Sometimes, the first suspect will remain on the phone the entire time and actually feed information back to the person who has entered the house. After about ten minutes, the first suspect and the homeowner will walk back into the house AFTER the second suspect has slipped out. It may not be immediately apparent that items were stolen from the house (i.e. money and credit cards from a purse or wallet, jewelry, etc.) These burglars generally take smaller items that are easy to grab and conceal quickly.

One of the more recent "scams" is the BGE/Water Department Employee scam in which the suspect says he or she is from BGE or the Water Department and needs to get to the basement to investigate a "problem in the lines." When the homeowner walks that person down to the basement, the second suspect enters and steals the valuables.

That's how it works and we find that there are generally two common themes to all of these types of burglaries:

- 1) A ruse or "scam" is used to gain trust and confidence.
- 2) The elderly are more likely to be a victim of these burglaries.

Please remember - and make sure your neighbors know too - DO NOT let anyone that you do not know and trust into your house. Employees of BGE and the City Water Department carry photo ID and do not mind being challenged for proof of employment. My suggestion is that you don't stop there - CALL the appropriate agency for verification. But be aware of this as well - IF THE "EMPLOYEE" WHO IS SEEKING ACCESS TO YOUR HOUSE PROVIDES YOU WITH THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR VERIFICATION, DON'T CALL THAT NUMBER! CALL THE NUMBER LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK – while the person waits OUTSIDE. The reason for that is that if the person at the door is trying to scam you, the number he or she provides is probably the cell phone number of the second suspect who will tell you, yes, it's perfectly OK to let that person into your house! So, call the listed number in the phone book. Better yet, if you are really suspicious, tell the person you are calling 911. A legitimate employee will wait for the police... the deception burglars won't.

Now that you know how it works and the myriad of scenarios that are used, I hope you can see the common threads that I wrote about. Here's where we need your help - stay alert and get this word out, especially to your elderly neighbors, family members and friends. Awareness is the key. Tell them to call 911 immediately to report suspicious activity. Memorize the suspect's appearance (scars, marks, anything unusual.) If a vehicle description can safely be obtained (look to the license plate number...write it on your hand if you have to) provide that to the 911 operator so the officers can start looking right away. Be alert, be aware and be curious. Make that call to 911.

Thanks for your help.... please pass this along.

Captain Martin Lurz
BCoPD Precinct 7

MEMORY BOOK SALES

WHEN: Monday, June 2 - 8th grade only
Tuesday, June 3 - 7th & 8th grades
Wednesday, June 4 - All grades
Thursday, June 5 - All grades
Friday, June 6 - All grades

WHERE: Mrs. Holloway's room B-8

TIME: 7:15 - 7:40 a.m. (before homeroom)

COST: \$15.00

HEREFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th GRADE SUPPLY LIST

2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Hereford Middle School Planner (purchased at school through teams for \$7.00)

- 1 Three-hole dictionary insert for binder or pocket dictionary
- 2 Blank manila folders
- 5 Glue sticks
- 2 Packs of reinforcements
- 3 Packages of dividers (5/pkg.)
- 2 Packs of index cards (3x5 lined)
- 1 Ruler (inch/centimeter)
- 5 Red pens
- 1 Set of colored pencils (not markers or crayons)
- 10 Sharpened pencils with erasers
- 4 Blue or black pens - NO GEL PENS
- 2 Highlighters (yellow + 1 other color)
- 4 Odorless Dry Erase Markers (red, black, blue, green)
- 1 Pencil case (not permanently attached to the binder)
- 1 Pair of scissors
- 2 Large Kleenex
- 1 Pack of 100 sheets of wide-lined notebook paper (have extra for home use)
- 2 Marble notebooks (sewn binding)
- 2 Pocket folders with 3 brads inside (for MSA materials)
- 1 3-pack of Post-it-Notes
- 1 Spiral notebook
- 1 Protractor
- 1 4-function calculator (can be purchased at school) - To be left at home
- 1 2" Binder w/metal rings - No zipper binders, please
- 1 Backpack (without wheels)

NOTE: Our lockers are NOT large enough to accommodate backpacks with wheels or binders larger than 2"

- 1 White socks (for P/E)
- 1 Tennis shoes that TIE (for P/E)
- 1 P/E Uniform (purchased through P/E - \$20.00)

**Items are required for the first week of school. Supplies may need to be replaced frequently during the school year.

HEREFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th GRADE SUPPLY LIST

2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Hereford Middle School Planner (purchased at school through teams for \$7.00)

2 Spiral notebooks, 8 1/2 x 11, 100 sheets

Loose-leaf paper

Graph paper

(2) 2-inch loose-leaf binder. One will be for World Language and the other will be for general subjects.

NOTE: Lockers cannot accommodate binders larger than 2”

Notebook dividers (approximately 20)

5 Manila folders

2 Highlighters - different colors

Colored pencils (not markers)

#2 pencils with eraser (one box of twelve)

Pencil case

5 Red pens

5 Black pens

5 Blue pens

1 Felt tip black pen- fine point

12-inch ruler – customary and metric

2 Box of Kleenex for homeroom

1 Glue stick

Scissors

Book Sox

Post-it Notes

2 Dry-Erase Markers

Folder with brads and pockets

White socks - Physical Education

PE Uniform - \$20.00

1 pack of 3 x 5 index cards for World Language

French or Spanish Dictionary is recommended (small)

4 AAA Batteries (Math)

The following items should be purchased, but are for home use:

Compass

Protractor

Algebra I students only: graphing calculator; TI83, TI83 plus, TI84, or TI84 plus

*Please note- As the year progresses, individual teachers may request additional supplies.

HEREFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
8th GRADE SUPPLY LIST
2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Hereford Middle School Planner (purchased at school through teams for \$7.00)
Loose-leaf paper (8 ½" x 11")
Graph paper (4 to 5 squares to an inch)
2 - 2-inch loose-leaf binder – 1 for team and 1 for World Language (Lockers cannot accommodate binders larger than 2")
Notebook dividers (approximately 20)
5 Pocket folders with 3 brads inside (1 for math, 1 for social studies, 1 for English, 1 for science, and 1 for PE)
Highlighters (2)
Colored pencils (sharpened)
#2 pencils with erasers
Mechanical pencils with extra lead – optional
Red pen
Blue or black ballpoint pen
Felt tip black pen (fine point)
2 Dry erase pen (odorless) - math
Ruler (12 inch customary and metric)
Post-it-notes (3"x3" and 7/8" x 3")
Compass and Protractor (to be kept at home)
Glue stick
Scissors
Spanish or French dictionary – optional (small is recommended)
White Socks (Physical Education)
Tennis Shoes that TIE (Physical Education)
PE Uniform - \$20.00 (Purchased from PE)
4 AAA batteries (math)
Algebraic Thinking scientific calculator (to be kept at home)
Algebra 1 & 2 graphing calculator (to be kept at home)
VISA VIE marker (overhead), blue or black
Kleenex (3 boxes) - to be turned into last period teacher
Lined index cards
Spanish/French workbook (purchased from World Language if 7th grade workbook is not available from previous year.)
Memory Stick/Flash Drive (recommended)

MARCH MADNESS.....The Cunningham and Baseman families would like to extend a huge thank you to all who participated in March Madness. The event raised over \$9,000.00. Both Taylor's and Joey's scholarship funds received \$4,800.00 each as a result of the event. This would not have been possible without the support of many people. We would like to thank all who attended the games and who bought March Madness t-shirts. Families and teachers also donated snacks, candy and soda for the concession stand. Parents and staff volunteered selling tickets and t-shirts at the middle school and concessions the night of the event.

Thank you so much,
The Cunningham and Baseman
Families

HEREFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

May, 2008

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|-----------|--|
| 5/5 | Distribution of Report Cards |
| 5/6 | Spring Choral Concert at HHS |
| 5/7 | Spring Orchestra Concert at HHS |
| 5/8 | Spring Band Concert at HHS |
| 5/14 | Nat'l Honor Society Induction Ceremony, HHS,
5:00 - 6:30 p.m. |
| 5/15 | Distribution of Interims |
| 5/16 | 5th Grade Visitation, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. |
| 5/26 | Memorial Day (SCHOOLS CLOSED) |
| 5/28-5/30 | 8th grade Bay Days Activities |
| 5/31 | 8th grade Dance, Summit Manor, 7-11:00 p.m. |

June, 2008

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| 6/10 | Assessment Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSE 3 HRS. EARLY) |
| 6/11 | HMS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS |