

# Bushy Bear Tales



Bushy Park Elementary School -  
March 21, 2014

From Mr. Cosentino and Dr. Via

You may have heard a lot recently about PARCC or the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career. PARCC is a consortium of states working together to develop new assessments in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy for grades 3-11. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the PARCC mathematics and ELA/literacy assessments will replace the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) and High School Assessment (HSA) in those subject areas.

Howard County Public Schools will be conducting a field test for PARCC beginning Monday, March 24. Bushy Park has one class involved in the field test. The field test is designed to help the consortium make final decisions about test design, test items, and scoring. The PARCC assessments include two test components, a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and an End of Year Assessment (EOY) that are administered in two separate testing windows during the year. The window for the PBA component begins this Monday, March 24 and the window for the EOY component begins May 5. When fully implemented in 2014-15, the PARCC assessments will be administered online for most students. However, this year, both online and paper-and-pencil assessments are being given. Bushy Park was selected to administer the paper-and-pencil version. Additional information about the PARCC field test can be found at [www.parcconline.org/field-test](http://www.parcconline.org/field-test).

The PARCC mathematics and ELA/literacy assessments will include many different types of questions. Sample items can be found at <http://parcconline.org/computer-based-samples>. In ELA/literacy the PARCC assessments will look much deeper at student writing abilities and critical-thinking skills. Sixty percent of the PARCC ELA/literacy assessments will involve writing. All multiple-choice questions will be based on a text and require students to provide evidence to support their answer. In mathematics, students will have to solve complex problems, show their work, and demonstrate how they solved the problem. More than 60 percent of the mathematics questions will focus on the mathematics standards that have been identified as the "major work of the grade" (as outlined in the PARCC Model Content Frameworks, available at: [www.parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks](http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks)).

Additional information about PARCC can be found at the following websites:

Field Test Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): [www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsabouttheFieldTestAdministration2-11-14.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsabouttheFieldTestAdministration2-11-14.pdf)

The PARCC website:  
[www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)

Maryland Online Testing: <http://marylandonlinetesting.org>

## Upcoming Dates To Remember:

March 24 thru 28 - Book Fair 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM ( 3/25 also 6:30 - 8:00 PM for Give Away!!)

March 27 - PTA Ice Cream Social 6:30 - 8:00 PM in Cafeteria

March 28 - 3 Hr. Early Dismissal (No RECC/PreK) / End of Marking Period

March 28 - Twin Day for Spirit Day!

# SCHOOL NEWS

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH ROOM**

CPR Across Howard County is on April 26, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Howard County General Hospital Wellness Center (located on the campus of HCGH in the Medical Pavilion at Howard County, Suite 100, 10710 Charter Drive, Columbia). This course is the American Heart Association Family and Friends CPR for the Adult and Child Victim. It is designated for the community and is not a certification course. Advance registration is required. Register online at [hcg.org](http://hcg.org)

## **LEO CLUB NEWS**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Leo Club is collecting non-perishables and pantry essentials for the Baltimore Ronald McDonald House as their current service project. The Ronald McDonald House provides temporary housing for families who need a place to stay in Baltimore while a young family member receives critical medical treatment. A stocked pantry is a welcome sight to these families. The Bushy Park community can help by donating anything that you'd like to see in your pantry if you were in that situation (instant mac & cheese, healthy juice boxes and water bottles, granola bars, individual snack packs, etc...). Collection boxes can be found in each grade's pod for donations. The extended deadline is Friday, April 11th. Please consider helping the 5th graders make this project a success.

# PTA NEWS

## **\*\*\*\*\*Seeking to Fill PTA Vice President Position\*\*\*\*\***

A last minute change has created an opening to fill the PTA Vice President position for the 2014-16 school years. Our PTA board has two vice president positions. We are in need of one more volunteer.

The role of Vice President is as follows:

Acts as an aide to the President; performs the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to serve; performs such other duties as may be prescribed in the bylaws or assigned by the PTA. This position (along with other members of the Executive team) will be responsible for chairing or co-chairing a committee.

Currently, the nominations for the 2014-16 PTA Board are:

President – Tamara Westhoff

Vice President #1 – Kina Morton

Vice President #2 -

Recording Secretary – Jenny Schaefer

Corresponding Secretary – Rebecca Bollweg

Treasurer – Christy Baehr

If you would like the opportunity to make a difference in your child's school, education, and community, think about the serving on this board. Contact Allison Cornelius ([anewmister@hotmail.com](mailto:anewmister@hotmail.com)), Erin Flavin ([erindflavin@comcast.net](mailto:erindflavin@comcast.net)), or Kristen Healey ([healeyk4@verizon.net](mailto:healeyk4@verizon.net)) to discuss this exciting opportunity. You will be glad you did!

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# PTA NEWS continued

## YEARBOOK ORDERS

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT** to order yearbooks for BPES! This year it couldn't be any easier. Go to [www.strawbridge.net](http://www.strawbridge.net) and follow these easy steps. Price is only \$20.00. Deadline is 4/11/14.

1. Click on order button
2. Select state, county, and school. Select yearbook for program type.
3. Enter your e-mail and click continue
4. Choose your product and click on 'continue'.

## SchoolKidz School Supply Kits

Support your PTA and be prepared for next school year by purchasing a "SchoolKidz" school supply kit. This is a supply kit is designed by your teachers so your student will have everything they need for next school year. Information forms should have arrived earlier this week. This is an **on-line sale only** this year. You may order your kit at [www.shopttkits.com](http://www.shopttkits.com) using account number 32543. The sale will start **Monday, March 10** and end **Friday, March 28**. You have a chance to win cool prizes this year such as an Ipad mini! If you have any questions or need assistance placing an order, please contact Christy Baehr at [christy0903@verizon.net](mailto:christy0903@verizon.net) Thank you!

## PTA Reflections Cultural Arts Program Update

Howard County had thirteen winners at the state level competition. Two winners were from Bushy Park Elementary: Kennedy Richman in the Primary Dance Division and Michael Richman for his poetry in the Primary Literature Division. Congratulations! The goal of the PTA's arts in education programming is to partner with schools to provide opportunities for students to explore and be involved in the arts. All students from PreKindergarten through 12th grade can participate. Next fall's contest will have the theme of "The World would be a better place if..."

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*These events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.*

The **Glenelg United Methodist Church food pantry** is open every third Saturday of the month from 9 - 11 AM to serve those in need of grocery assistance. GUMC is located at 13900 Burntwoods Road, Glenelg. Call 410.489.7260 or email [glenelggumcpantry@gmail.com](mailto:glenelggumcpantry@gmail.com) Anyone that is interested in making a donation, please contact us by phone or email. Thank you.

## Kite Festival (Howard County Recreation and Parks)

Ages: 4-9

Cost: \$5 per child

Time: Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 PM

Location: Schooley Mill Park

Come and enjoy an afternoon of kite-flying fun at Schooley Mill Park. Family-friendly activities including a How to Make a Kite Workshop, children's activities, kite competitions and a kite hospital on site. Refreshments are available for purchase. Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

# COMMUNITY NEWS continued

*These events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.*

**Glenelg Marching Unit** fundraiser Mama Millies Deli, Mar. 31 to Apr. 4

Mon.-Wed. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Thurs.-Sat. 11a.m.-10 p.m. closed Sun.

**3881 Ten Oaks Road, Glenelg.** No coupon needed, just say that you would like to support the Glenelg Marching Unit. 410-489-4498



March 24th - 29th  
Present to donate blood &  
receive a Red Cross Tote!\*



**American Red Cross**

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March is Red Cross Month and the American Red Cross recognizes the country's everyday heroes who reach out to help their neighbors when they are in need.

**Discover your inner hero by donating blood at an upcoming blood drive!**

## HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**Thursday, March 27, 2014**

**2:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

4-H Activities Building

2210 Fairgrounds Road

West Friendship, MD 21794

**Please schedule your Life Saving Donation **TODAY!!****

To schedule an appointment go to: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
and enter Sponsor Code:05314395, you can also search by zip  
code or call 1-800-RED-CROSS!!!

For questions on eligibility please call Donor Services at:  
1-866-236-3276