THES PTA Newsletter

http://thespta.yolasite.com/ September 30, 2014

Dear Thunder Hill Community,

Last week we sent home information in your child's Friday Folder regarding the Happy Hope Bags collection for critically ill children in Baltimore area hospitals. The information sent home indicated that the bags would be assembled by volunteers on October 4th at the Wegman's Store in Columbia. Our Thunder Hill school community was invited to be part of this activity.

After the distribution of this information we became aware that October 4th is Yom Kippur and that not all of our THES families will be able to attend this activity. Although we did not set the date for the assembling of the bags, we apologize for this oversight in our distribution of this material and endorsement of this activity. We will continue to endeavor to ensure that all of our school community can participate in school/PTA sponsored or endorsed activities.

- John Birus, Principal
- Jen Soler, PTA President

Reflections Chair Needed

National PTA's Reflections program encourages students to explore and be involved in the arts.

The theme for the 2014-2015 school year is:
The world would be a better place if...

Thousands of students will reflect on the theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, music composition, literature, photography and visual arts.

THES needs a chairperson who can recruit a committee to coordinate submissions. Thunder Hill's entries will be divided into two age groups: grades K-2 and 3-5. The deadline to submit entries in any category is January 5, 2015. This committee needs to start organizing now in order to request student submissions for judging.

More info, including a detailed toolkit, is available at www.mdpta.org/bridge_reflections.html.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Jen Cisneros at jencisneros@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

Oct 11 **Girls Get Science**. 6-8pm. Northfield Elementary.

Oct 12 **HCPSS Community 5K & Fun Run**. More info at www.hcpss5k.com

Oct 14 **PTA Board of Directors Meeting**. 7pm. Media Center. All are welcome to attend.

Oct 20 **Restaurant Night: Uno Chicago Grill in Long Gate Shopping Center**. All day. Bring the ticket on page 3 to benefit the 5th Grade class.

Join the Wellness Committee!

Do you have ideas related to wellness at THES? Would you like to help out with wellness initiatives, including the popular Spring Fun Run? Contact Erin Villard at erinvillard@gmail.com with your ideas or for more information!

ATTENTION: CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS!

Classroom volunteer forms have been sent home in student folders. If you have misplaced your child's form or did not receive one, please contact Woli Schantz, PTA Volunteer Coordinator, at wdschantz@aol.com to request a volunteer form specific to your child's grade.

Please also alert your child's teacher that you will be completing a form ASAP. Forms are being processed NOW in order for classroom support activities to begin in October. Thank you.

TO PARENTS OF ALL 5TH GRADE VORACIOUS READERS

Battle of the Books is for YOU! The HCPSS and the Howard County Libraries have an A+ partnership, and Battle of the Books (BOB) is part of our joint endeavor to get our children to develop "voracious" appetites for books. I will be talking about BOB to all 5th graders during media the week of September 27. See below for more information. Perhaps you will even consider being a coach for a team!!!

THES ALWAYS has at least one team, and we can enter as many teams as we can find willing adult coaches for. Questions??? Please email Mrs. McIlvain at leah_mcilvain@hcpss.org.

2015 Battle of the Books: Friday, April 10, 7pm

Presented by the Josephine B. Scheffenacker Education Trust
Also sponsored by Friends of Howard County Library, Frank and Yolanda Bruno Fund, Columbia-Patuxent Rotary Club, Howard County Public School System, and M&T Bank.

One of the most exciting components of A+ Partners in Education, Battle of the Books gets fifth grade students excited about reading. A lively academic competition, Battle of the Books improves reading comprehension, builds vocabulary, and teaches teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Teams of five students and one adult coach each read the same 15 pre-determined books. Selected by HCLS instructors and HCPSS media specialists, titles include a wide range of reading levels and subjects. Thanks to generous sponsors, all teams receive a set of books. In addition to reading the books, teams choose a team name then dress accordingly.

uring the "battle" (a 50-question exam), a moderator asks questions that relate to one of the following: a direct quote from one of the book characters; a statement about something that happens in the book; a passage taken directly from the book; details about an illustration or picture. Winning teams receive prizes.

(2014 WINNERS)

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Informational Meeting**: October 21, 2014 7pm at HCLS Miller Branch (410-313-7750)
- **Online registration:** October 20 - November 3, 2014.
- **Mandatory coach meetings** - December 2, 2014 **OR** December 4, 2014, 7pm at HCLS Miller Branch (410-313-7750)
- **Mandatory logistics meetings** - March 17, 19, **OR** March 24, 7pm at HCLS Miller Branch (410-313-7750)
- **Last Day to Change Team Info & Permission Forms Due**: **February 7, 2015**
- **Battle of the Book Contest:** Friday, April 10, 7pm at locations to be announced

Each coach and student member of the team must fill out the appropriate two-sided form below to participate in Battle of the Books.
Coach Form
Student Form

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Rules and Procedures
- Information for coaches
- Sample Questions

2015 book list: TBA
2014 book list - Online version

Frequently Asked Questions

If you still have questions, please email **Battle of the Books**.

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Thunder Hill PTA

UNO® will donate up to 20% of your check

DATE:

October 20, 2014

VALID AT:

4470 Long Gate Parkway
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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