

# STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY



## ***BOBCAT NEWS***

March 9, 2018

Ernesto Diaz  
Principal

(410) 313-6900  
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Tracey Albright  
Assistant Principal

<http://sfes.hcpss.org/>

School Hours are 9:00am to 3:30pm

**Doors open at 8:45am**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 12** - Uno's Restaurant Night to benefit 5<sup>th</sup> Grade end-of-year activities

**March 14** - PTA Meeting, 6:30pm

**March 23** - PTA Dinner and Auction, 6:00pm

**World Language Program Update**

You may be aware that the school system is facing significant budget challenges, which include addressing a 22.5 million dollar deficit. The Board of Education has examined numerous ways to submit a budget that addresses the deficit. As a result, the Board of Education has made the difficult decision to eliminate funding for world language instruction in grades PreK-6 from the 2018-2019 budget. The Board of Education voted on this measure during the FY2019 Budget Adoption meeting on Monday, March 5, 2018. This budget will now be submitted to the County Executive.

For more information about the HCPSS budget and budget process you can visit <http://www.hcpss.org/about-us/budgets/>.

**Registration for the 2018-2019 School Year**

While the focus week for new student registration ended on Friday, please encourage and friends and family to contact the front office to register new students for the 2018-2019 school year. The registration process is always open at SFES. Front office staff will be happy to guide them through the process. More information can be found at this link <http://www.hcpss.org/enroll/>

**Interim Progress Reports**

Interim progress reports were issued on March 8 to all students. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and families to sit with

their student to discuss strengths and areas for growth as we head towards the last quarter of the year. Please reach out to teachers to discuss any questions or concerns.

**Personal Toys/Sports Equipment at School:**

This is a friendly reminder to please monitor what your child is bringing to school on a daily basis. We have noticed an increase in toys or personal sports equipment coming in to school.

The school cannot assume responsibility for toys that are misplaced or taken and it is difficult to console a child when that occurs. In addition, toys are a distraction to the learning. We have recess games/equipment for student use during outdoor and indoor recess.

Please note that this does not include items brought in for "show and tell" or other instructional purposes with teacher and family permission. If you believe that your child needs to have an item at school to help him or her, please contact our School Counselor, Ms. Jennifer Carlson or our School Psychologist, Ms. AnnMarie Kasuda to discuss the matter in further detail before sending the item. Thank you for your support.

**School System Calendar Update**

To make up for the five inclement weather school closings this school year, 2017-2018, schools will now be in session: Wednesday, April 4; Thursday, April 5; Friday, April 6; Friday, May 18 (dismiss three-hours early); and Friday, June 15 (dismiss three hours early).

Additionally, to adjust for the June 15 last student day, Tuesday, June 12 is now a full day for students. An updated calendar can be found on the HCPSS website.

June 15 falls on the Muslim holiday of Eid al Fitr. Per Howard County Board of Education policy, school may be held but no activities or exams can be scheduled on this day. As such, all school assemblies, promotion ceremonies, celebrations and final exams will be held prior to, or on June 14.

The State has mandated that the school year must be completed by June 15. Should additional inclement weather closings become necessary, HCPSS will petition the Maryland State Department of Education for a waiver of the additional days.

The 2017-2018 academic calendar designated five possible inclement weather make-up days: February 19, April 4, 5, and 6, and June 15. Using February 19 (President's Day) would have required a state waiver, as it is a state mandated holiday, and would have caused significant budget pressures. Instead, the Board of Education approved the use of May 18 in lieu of February 19 as a make-up day. This information was communicated to the full HCPSS community earlier this school year.

HCPSS carefully weighs all decisions to close school when inclement weather threatens the safety of students and staff. Staff, parents and the community will be informed as soon as possible should any additional calendar adjustments become necessary.

### **Coffee & Conversation with the Board of Education**

The next Coffee & Conversation session with members of the Howard County Board of Education will be held on Thursday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. The session will be held at Jeffers Hill Elementary School, 6001 Tamar Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

The Board of Education regularly holds Coffee & Conversation sessions at schools throughout the county. These meetings provide citizens with an opportunity to speak informally with Board members on a variety of topics.

The meetings are held in various regions of the county but interested persons from throughout

the county are invited to attend any or all of the meetings.

### **Youth Art Month Exhibition**

Artwork by HCPSS students, including SFES students, is currently on display at the Youth Art Month Exhibition at the Howard County Library System's Miller Branch in Ellicott City. The exhibition features approximately 144 pieces on display representing 72 HCPSS schools.

The exhibition is a teacher-juried art show. Teachers select artwork for special recognition. This countywide show is one of three annual exhibitions in which students receive recognition and certificates, including the Honoring the Process exhibit held in November at the Walters Art Museum and the Senior Show/Junior Portfolio Development exhibit in April.

The Miller Branch is located at 9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City and is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sundays 1-5 p.m.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**MEET THE AUTHOR: LULU DELACRE**  
**CANCIONES Y CUENTOS: SONGS AND STORIES**  
Families; 45 min. Registration preferred, but not required. Meet the author, Lulu Delacre as she plays some of the song games of *Arorro mi nino*, and reads one of the stories of *Rafi and Rosi: Pirates!* Learn about her collection of stories in *Us, in progress: short stories about young Latinos*. Followed by book sales and signing. More event details are listed below:

**EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**  
**6:30 - 7:15 pm** (45 min) There will also be a translator available for the event.

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