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Reaching the Best in Every Student

Running Brook Panther Press

September 8, 2017

A NOTE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATORS

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Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! It has been a GREAT first week of school! We would like to officially welcome everyone back to school and express our appreciation for all of your cooperation, flexibility and support as we begin another amazing school year at Running Brook!

As many of you know, our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Jayme Brewrink, was expecting a baby last year. The entire Running Brook staff is thrilled to announce the birth of Mrs. Brewrink's second child, Miles! **While Mrs. Brewrink is on maternity leave, we would like to send a warm welcome to our interim Assistant Principal, Mrs. Shari Lorch.** Mrs. Lorch has worked at Running Brook as an occupational therapist and administrative intern for the last five years. She is incredibly excited to begin the school year in her interim role and is looking forward to getting to know all of our amazing families!

We also want to thank our families for your patience during our carpool dismissal. **We are piloting a new procedure in the carpool lane, which will be more efficient and safer for all of our students. Just a reminder, for the safety of our children, pets are not permitted in the carpool lane or at school during arrival and dismissal time.** Please also remember to make our front office staff aware of any adjustments to dismissal procedures prior to 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your support with this procedure. The safety of our students is our first priority. As always, thank you for your cooperation!

Please feel free to contact me by phone, 410-313-6893, or email (troy_todd@hcpss.org) if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to another exciting year as we work closely with your family to build an even stronger home-to-school connection. Thank you for your dedication and support to making this school year a success!

Mr. Todd

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

9/13 Ice Cream Social (6:00)	9/25 Fall Individual Picture Day
9/18 Back to School Night: Gr. K-2	10/12 1 st Quarter Progress Reports Issued
9/19 Back to School Night: Gr. 3-5	10/13 Hispanic Heritage Night
9/21 & 9/22 SCHOOL CLOSED	10/20 SCHOOL CLOSED

2017-2018 LUNCH SCHEDULE

<i>Grade Level</i>	Lunch	Recess
<i>Pre-Kindergarten</i>	12:00-12:30	1:45-2:15
<i>Kindergarten</i>	11:30-12:00	11:00-11:30
<i>Grade 1</i>	12:00-12:30	11:30-12:00
<i>Grade 2</i>	1:15-1:45	12:45-1:15
<i>Grade 3</i>	11:30-12:00	12:00-12:30
<i>Grade 4</i>	12:45-1:15	1:15-1:45
<i>Grade 5</i>	1:15-1:45	12:45-1:15



In order to update your student's emergency contact information, the Howard County Public School System is again utilizing the Connect family system, which can be found on the HCPSS website at <http://www.hcpss.org/connect>. Thank you to the many families who have already made a huge effort to complete the Family File! **ALL Emergency Contact Information contained in the Family File must be updated annually.** We have asked all of our families to **update this crucial information by Friday, September 22, 2017.**



PTA NEWS

Please consider participating in some of the many community opportunities offered by our PTA, as well as our teachers. Even coming to school to support lunch or recess time is a great way to be a part of our school community!

In addition to PTA information that was sent home with families, PTA information can also be found on our website at <http://www.runningbrookpta.org>.

Upcoming PTA Events:

- **September PTA Meeting:** Monday, September 11th - Come out and meet the PTA!
- **Ice Cream Social:** Wednesday, September 13th - Join us at 6:00 p.m. on the blacktop!
- **Amazon Smile:** Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7111264> and support our school via Amazon Smile. (Select Running Brook.) Amazon will donate a portion of your purchases to the PTA.

Back to School Nights!

We look forward to seeing our families at our Back To School Nights! Back to School Night is the perfect opportunity to learn more about your child's classroom, schedule, and also meet their teachers. Families will be invited into their child's classrooms following a brief meeting. Although students are welcome, Back to School Nights are geared towards our parents/guardians. **Please Note: A Gifted and Talented Information Meeting will be held prior to Back to School Night at 6:00 each night.**

K-2: Monday, September 18th at 6:30 PM

Grades 3-5: Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 PM

BAND AND STRINGS INFORMATION

It's almost time to sign up for Band and Strings at Running Brook! Our 3rd and 4th graders will have presentations soon that will demonstrate the instruments that students can choose to play at school. Returning students will receive information about starting up Band and Strings again for this school year. Students in 4th grade who played in strings in 3rd grade will also have a choice this year of continuing in strings or switching to band. Please keep an eye out for information coming home! I hope to see many of our students playing instruments this year!

RBES FALL CLOTHING SWAP AND BOOK SWAP

Upcycle and exchange your clean, gently used clothing and books at our Back to School Nights (9/18 and 9/19). We offer and accept all sizes in clothing and offer all levels in books - from picture books to books for adults! Families are welcome to make donations even if they're not shopping.

Don't have anything to swap? You can pay **\$1** per shopping bag of clothing or **25 cents** per book. Students can also use their Panther Points to buy books (10 points).

Be sure to bring your own shopping or tote bags to carry items home.

Please Note: We cannot accept used undergarments, bathing suits, or socks. Unswapped items will be donated to a local charity.

SCHOOL HOURS

Students may enter the building beginning at 9:05 am. Breakfast will be served beginning at 9:05 a.m. Morning announcements will then begin at 9:15 a.m. and instruction will start immediately following announcements.

Students arriving **9:25 or later are tardy and must be signed in by a parent/guardian in the front office.** Dismissal will begin at 3:50 PM. Please make sure your child has the best start possible. Let's get our students to school on time and ready to learn.

**9:05: Students may enter the building. Staff members are on duty beginning at 8:55 am.*

**9:25: Late Bell for students*

**3:50: Students Dismissed (Please report dismissal changes in advance.)*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORLD LANGUAGE TEAM

¡Saludos! The year has started off great! We are excited to have all the students back! Spanish workbooks are going to stay in the classroom this year. Resource sheets will be sent home with your child at the beginning of each unit so that families can practice at home. Have questions on how to help your students with the workbook? Find us on Back to School Night for more information!

Hispanic Heritage Month is held each year from September 15th through October 15th. **Save the date for Running Brook's 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Night on Friday, October 13th!** Invitations will come home soon. We look forward to seeing your whole family at this fun event!



CHORUS INFORMATION

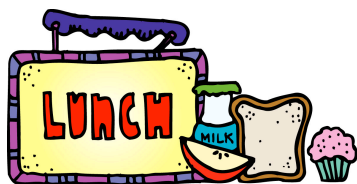
Do you have a child who loves to sing? Why waste that talent in the shower or the car? Sign them up for the Running Brook Chorus! Chorus is open to all 4th and 5th grade students, and will be offered this year as a specialized version of our general music class that meets regularly during related arts time. Students will be selected on a first come, first serve basis, so be on the lookout for the yellow form titled **"Running Brook Elementary Chorus Contract"**, coming home with your child this week!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

As we enter into flu season, this is a reminder that good hand washing and covering sneezes and coughs with tissues and sleeves are essential steps to preventing the spread of "germs." Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of other children) is most important of all. For this reason, we ask you to please:



- Call the school nurse to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat, or the flu. Please provide any documentation from your physician about diagnosis and release to return to school.
- Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of over 100.0. A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear but he/she will still be contagious to others. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school! Students vomiting or with diarrhea should be symptom free, able to eat and drink a regular meal, and resume normal bowel habits before returning.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Students who require medication to be administered during the school day need to have new forms completed for the new school year. These forms are available on-line at the HCPSS website by clicking on the link for Physician's Orders at:
<http://www.hcpss.org/aboutus/forms.shtml>.



UPDATE: LUNCH ACCOUNTS AND FARMS

We will continue to use the Point of Sale System for purchasing school lunches. Please remember you can add funds to your child's account electronically or your child can bring money to school to be added to his/her account. (We encourage families to have money placed on their students account to prevent from being lost throughout the school day.) Student Pin Numbers are required at checkout and will be sent shortly. **Please help your child remember their pin for checkout.** It is our priority for all of our students to have lunch every day!

Students who did not receive a current FARMS Direct Certification letter **MUST** fill out a new form for the 2016-2017 School year. During the first 30 school days, students with free and reduced meal eligibility from the prior school year will be carried over. **Any student who has not filled out an application by September 30th will have their status changed to full pay status until a new application is received.** More information can be found at <http://www.hcpss.org/food-services/farms/>.



Title I School

SCHOOL-WIDE TITLE I PROGRAM

Did you know that Running Brook has a school-wide Title I program? Title I is a federally funded program designed to ensure that all children have an opportunity to access a high quality education. The goal of this federal program is to close the achievement gap for all students. The goal of this federal program is to close the achievement gap for all students. As a result we receive additional funds from the federal government that have allowed us to secure additional staff members, funds for family events, and materials of instruction to benefit all of our children. We value input from our parents, community, and staff.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or feedback about our Family Involvement programs or School Improvement Plan, please feel free to contact our Title I contacts Jodi Aikens at (jodi_aikens@hcpss.org) or Kim Filler at (kimberly_filler@hcpss.org).

PICTURE DAY IS COMING - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Individual student pictures will be taken throughout the school day on Monday, September 25th. An envelope used for purchasing school pictures from Classic Photography will be sent home the week before. Please complete the form and return the envelope to your child's teacher by Monday, September 25th. Please Note: Every child will be photographed for the yearbook unless otherwise indicated.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization that works to support the more than 62% of elementary students in America who qualify for the free and reduced meal program. Each Friday during the school year, students supported by the Blessings in a Backpack Program are given a certain amount of food to ensure they do not go hungry over the weekend. The cost per student is \$100 for the thirty-eight week school year. Backpacks include easy-to-prepare, shelf stable food items (juice boxes, mac and cheese, fruit snacks, and oatmeal). One hundred percent of funds donated directly feed the children of the program. Donations can be made via online or by check. Online donations are accepted at <http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org>. (Please be sure to check the "other" box in the dropdown section of the "Designation" section and type "Running Brook Elementary School"). Checks should be made out to **Blessings in a Backpack** with Running Brook Elementary School on the memo line. Checks can be dropped off at the front office to Mrs. Anne Drnec. Donors will receive a thank you letter containing the Blessings in a Backpack Federal Tax ID# which serves as a charitable gift receipt. Please contact Jane Hartlove at Jane_Hartlove@hcpss.org with questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS UPDATE

Please visit the Community News and Programs page (<http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>) on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

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*Coming Up in Our Next
Newsletter...*

- REMINDER: School is closed
September 21st and September 22nd.
- Fall Picture Day is coming!
- Please join us at Hispanic Heritage
Night!
- Have you updated your student's
Family File?