



RUNNING BROOK



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Reaching the Best in Every Student

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MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATORS

Dear Running Brook Families and Friends,

March has been a busy month for our students and staff! We believe we are finally starting to see signs of spring weather! As we gear up for this month's Spring Break, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful time off. Please remember that Howard County Public School's Spring Break begins March 25th and ends April 1st. **All schools will be CLOSED from March 25th through April 1st. Schools will REOPEN on Monday, April 4th.**

As we return from Spring Break, we encourage our students to continue setting goals and putting forth their best effort in everything they do. We love seeing our students each day, on time and ready to learn. Your children have grown so much this school year and we want to see this growth continue throughout fourth quarter. We look forward to celebrating each child's continued growth as we commit ourselves to finishing the school year strong! Just a reminder, our 3rd quarter ends on April 8th. **We are scheduled to have an early dismissal on April 8th at 12:50 pm.** Report cards will be issued to students on Friday, April 22nd.

Thank you for your continued support and have a great weekend!

Mr. Todd and Mrs. Jenkins



COUNSELOR'S CORNER - A MESSAGE FROM MRS. FINKELSTEIN

This Month's Strength is *Competing!*

How does a student with the Competing theme interact with the world?

Students with the competing strength see many things in life as a game and feel great joy when they win. "You truly hate to lose because you are always striving for first place. Every day you compete. Winning first place is your goal in any contest that you feel is worth your time. If there is no one to compete against, you compete against yourself to do more or accomplish a goal faster or better. Others look to you for the motivation to win." - **Clifton Strengths Explorer Report**

SUPERINTENDENT'S BLOG

Please visit Dr. Foose's most recent blog post on the HCPSS website ([CLICK HERE](#)) where she discusses strengths based education. Dr. Foose would also like to invite our families to post their thoughts on how they see strengths based education impacting our children in the comments section of the HCPSS Facebook page.

AACR PARENT
ACADEMY

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

3/18 Girls Night Out (6:00 to 8:00 PM)	4/12 5 th Grade Field Trip: Morgan State University
3/25 - 4/1 Spring Break: SCHOOL CLOSED	4/14 Class Pictures - Spring Individual Pictures
4/4 SCHOOL REOPENS	4/22 Third Quarter Report Cards Issued
4/8 SCHOOL CLOSED - 12:50 (End of Marking Period)	4/26 SCHOOL CLOSED: Primary Election Day

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run is returning to Running Brook for the spring season! The program will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:15pm and is open to girls in grades 3-5. Financial aid is available. [CLICK HERE for more information.](#)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORLD LANGUAGE TEAM

Saludos! We will be completing Unit 5: Hábitos Saludables (Healthy Habits) next week. Look out for the Unit 6: Nuestro Ambiente (Our Environment) parent letter coming after Spring Break. Also, join us for “A Celebration of Languages and Cultures” at the HCPSS World Language Day on Saturday, April 9, 2016! There will be a language fair, poetry, performances, and more!



SAVE THE DATE: SCHOOL PLAY

WHAT: Performance of “*The Wiz meets the Wizard of Oz*”

WHO: Starring Members of Our Fifth Grade Class

WHEN: Friday April 29th (Time TBA- More information coming soon!)

A MESSAGE FOR OUR FIFTH GRADE FAMILIES

Please have your students complete their "college application" in preparation for our upcoming field trip to Morgan State University on Tuesday April 12th. Completed "applications", including permission slips, are due by Friday, April 8, 2016.

AACR PARENT ACADEMY – MARCH 19TH

Please join us at the AACR Parent Academy **this Saturday at Oakland Mills Middle School from 10:00 to 12:00 PM**. Learn valuable information about how to resolve school-related concerns, including bullying and student discipline. To register for this session, please visit: <http://goo.gl/forms/zWx117YyRS>

PARCC ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE:

With spring comes testing season! This year our 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students will once again be administered PARCC, our Maryland State Assessment. Please take a look at the following schedule and take a moment to put these dates on your calendar. Please make every effort to avoid making any doctor or other appointments during these weeks. Our students have made great strides academically this year, and we want them to be able to show what they've learned this year on the PARCC state assessment. Please contact Mrs. Jenkins at 410-313-6893 if you have any questions.

Grade 4: English Language Arts - April 21st, 22nd & 25th – 10:15-12:15

Grade 4: Math - May 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th - 10:15-11:45

Grade 3: English Language Arts - April 27th, 28th & 29th - 9:30-11:30

Grade 3: Math - May 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th - 9:30-11:00

Grade 5: English Language Arts - April 27th, 28th & 29th - 10:15-12:15

Grade 5: Math - May 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th - 10:15-11:45

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



It's time to register for Kindergarten! Kindergarten and new First Grader registration will take place beginning on **February 29, 2016**. Please stop into the Running Brook Elementary School front office **between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm**, no appointment necessary. Kindergarten is mandatory in Maryland. State law requires that **children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2016 must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2016**. Children entering first grade in the fall of

2016 must be 6 years old on or before September 1, 2016. For information about exceptions to this law (e.g. waiver, early admission) visit <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/kindergarten-registration/>.

A Parent or Guardian Must Present the Following Information at the Time of Registration:

- The child's evidence of birth (i.e. birth certificate)
- An authorized record of immunization
- Proof of residency in the form of a current/complete lease or deed
- A utility bill in the parent/guardian name
- Photo ID of the parent/guardian
- Proof of custody

Driver's licenses and voter registration cards will not be accepted as proof of residence. State law prohibits a child from attending school for even one day unless proof of immunization has been provided. Immunization and health forms are available at each elementary school.

Families who require interpreter services can contact the Office of International Student Services at 410-313-1525 or 410-313-7102 for registration assistance.

PreK APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

What is the Pre-K program?

The Pre-K program is a high-quality, full-day prekindergarten program. **Students must be four years old by September 1, 2016** to be considered for enrollment. The curriculum supports early learning and school readiness, as well as provides experiences that foster children's academic, social, emotional and physical development.

Is my child eligible for the program?

Per Maryland regulations, Pre-K is provided to any child who meets first priority criteria, which includes income eligibility, homelessness, and foster care. When space allows, as determined by countywide enrollment projections, additional children who meet second priority criteria (i.e. English Language Learners, health concerns, learning difficulties) may be enrolled.

How do I apply?

2016-17 Pre-K applications are now available. Applications may be downloaded from <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/> or picked up at your districted school – no appointment necessary. Applications should be submitted to the Pre-K site that serves your attendance area. All application information will be kept confidential and reviewed only by school staff. The school will review applications and then invite students to be enrolled according to the criteria described above. **If your child is invited into the program you will need to register (please see Kindergarten registration for the documents needed).**

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. 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.



**TITLE I
SCHOOL**

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: jodi_aikens@hcpss.org and Kim Filler: kimberly_filler@hcpss.org



facebook



COMMUNITY NOTICES

For more information or questions regarding the “Community Notices” below, please use the contact information provided within each notice. These events are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System or Running Brook Elementary School.

Center for Creative Life and Learning

The Girls on Fire Mentoring program is designed to help girls build self-esteem. The program targets girls between the ages of 8-14, 8-11 and 12-14. Girls participate in a variety of art forms activities and self-esteem building group sessions. Meets the 4th Sat. each month at the Columbia Art Center. For information call 410-312-0758.

University of Maryland

iEngineer is a summer STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camp for rising 4th and 5th grade girls. **July 11-15**, deadline **Mar. 7th**, this one-week commuter day camp is an exciting opportunity for girls to learn more about STEM. Contact: Candice Staples, 301-405-6610, cstaples@umd.edu, <http://wie.umd.edu/k12/iengineer>

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

Art Classes for children of all ages. Check out the Winter Brochure on www.columbiaartcenter.org. For inquiries or to register, please call Columbia Art Center at [410-730-0075](tel:410-730-0075) or email art.staff@columbiaassociation.org.

Food on the 15th

Volunteer opportunities for students of all ages. Our next delivery is Sat, **Mar. 19** at 1 p.m. in Ellicott City. We have 10 volunteer spots available. E-mail us if you'd like to volunteer.

To learn more about what we do, visit our website at www.foodonthe15th.org/.

Columbia Gym

KidSpace Adventure Days, Grades K-6, **Mar.- 28 –Apr. 1** and **Apr. 26**, Full Day 7 a.m.-6 p.m. \$50 per child, half day 7 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25 per child. Register online, over the phone 410-531-8984 or in person at the Columbia Gym KidSpace.

Viking 5K

24th Annual Viking 5K Cross Country Race/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run on Sunday, **Apr. 3**. Details and registration for the event can be found at <http://viking5k.wikispaces.com/Details>.