**Important Dates**

Dec. 24-31 Winter Break ~ School closed

Jan. 1 New Year’s Day ~ Schools & Offices closed

Jan. 2 Welcome Back!! ~ School & Offices reopen!!

Jan.10 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. ~ Media Center

Jan. 11 Friday Family Fun Night 6:00 p.m. ~ Gym

Jan. 25 Friday Family Fun Night 6:00 p.m. ~ Cafeteria

Jan. 31 Dental Clinic Cafeteria

Feb. 1 Black History Month Talent Show 6:30 p.m. ~ Cafeteria

Feb. 14 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. ~ Media Center

Feb. 22 “For the Culture” Black History

 Month Program 6:00 p.m. ~ Cafeteria

**\*\*\***NEW ADDITIONS TO THE CALENDAR

**NEW INFORMATION FROM PVMS**

**12/21/2018**

**BSAP spring session of the Math Academy**

BSAP spring session of the Math Academy will be on Saturday January 12, 2019 beginning at 9am.

Online registration form can be accessed from 9:00 am or until capacity is reached at: <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/bsap/saturday-math-academy>

Walk in registration is available at Oakland Mills Middle School beginning at 9am.

The academy is available for all students grades 3-12, however spaces are limited.

Please contact Ms. Thompson at Anisha\_Thompson@hcpss.org for additional questions.

**Smile Maryland dental**

If you would like your child to participate in the Smile Maryland dental clinic that will be held on January 31st, please remember to send in your consent form **no later than 1/4/19**. You may continue to sign up on line at www.MySchoolDentist.com.

**BELOW IS INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS GAZETTES**

**Looking for Leaders!**

* Undecided about your electives for next year?
* Want to add something fun and challenging to your high school schedule?
* Would you like to join a team that will build your character and help you stand out on college and job applications?
* We’d Like to Introduce You To Army JROTC!
* It’s Not Your Average High School Course!

Guidance for Out of District Students Interested in Army JROTC at Howard HS
December 3, 2018 is the opening date for students who do not have the JROTC program offered at their geographically designated school and are interested in enrolling in the program for the 2019-2020 school year.  Those interested should contact LTC (Ret) Marshall at Howard High School, 410-313-2878 (patricia\_marshall@hcpss.org) to arrange an interview.  January 11, 2019 is the last day we will accept interview requests. An interview is not a guarantee of acceptance in the program.  Interviews at Howard High School will be conducted during Dec 2018 and Jan 2019.  www.hcpss.org/jrotc/
Guidance for In District Students Interested in Army JROTC at Howard HS
If residing in the Howard High School district next school year the student can simply put JROTC down as an elective on their high school schedule for school year 2019-2020, no interview required for students in this category.

**Call for Student Literary and Photography Submissions!**

The Howard County Middle School creative works magazine, *Our Voice*, is currently accepting original poetry, non-fiction, and photography to be showcased in the annual publication. Submissions are open to all current 6th, 7th and 8th grade students attending Howard County Middle Schools. Entries are due January 23rd. See Mrs. Chelidona for more information and a cover sheet.

**School based talent show**

Students are invited to show their talent to the PVMS community for our school based talent show to be held on February 1, 2019. Whether you sing, dance, play an instrument, write poetry, create film, or draw we invite any student to share their talent with our school. Talent show auditions will be held on Thursday December 13, 2018 after school. Please sign up with Ms Francis(Music teacher) or Ms Thompson(BSAP Liaison) if interested. Contact Ms. Thompson at Anisha\_Thompson@hcpss.org with any questions.

**PVMS Marketplace**

Marketplace is a space located within PVMS.  This space was created to benefit any families within the school and our community.  We have been able to assist families with food items, clothing, shoes, etc.  Donations of new and gentley used items are accepted as well as much needed food items.  We accept snack items, juice, water and all non-perishables items.  Please no high sugar items such as soda or candy.  For further information please feel free to contact Ms. Deb Costley at Debbie\_Costley@hcpss.org or 410-880-5480.

**Family File Emergency Information**

Dear PVMS Parents/Guardians,

Every year, HCPSS requires that all parents/guardians complete the **Family File Emergency Information** for each student. Without this updated information, your student risks the possibility of not being able to attend field trips or participate in after school activities.  Safety is a primary consideration for all of our students, and updated Emergency Contact Information plays an important part.

Go to [www.hcpss.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.hcpss.org&d=DwMFAw&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=Y9l4dDBsZ0lFwoSUpnSfARcgeXKLikSJpuNaQdYvF7E&m=zEWNtBWP50WS5Fitn5kQyueh-d-5Dzv-ItaNrjmVjto&s=p8EukTnkSIdZLvRyirrAyrli69L6AszBnx75Wgwt36Q&e=) select HCPSS CONNECT, select HCPSS Connect Login, type your user name (parent email) and password.  Once logged in go to the Family File tab and follow the steps

to verify and/or update.  Forgot password?  See information link located on HCPSS Connect

Login page.   **PLEASE UPDATE FAMILY FILE INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Contact Mrs. Minnick or Mrs. Andersen with any questions or concerns at 410-880-5840.

**School Messenger Text Alerts:**Due to the number of late buses and bus changes this year, it has been requested that we send out directions on how parents/guardians can sign up their student to receive text alerts via School Messenger.  The directions are included below.

Step 1:  go to [https://www.hcpss.org/hcpss](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/YY-z9dD-z7gQ0kEg8zhsXA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRdpgXaP0QbaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuaGNwc3Mub3JnL2hjcHNzVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAAFrSxFsSH-2gUhhDb2xieV9BbmRlcnNlbkBoY3Bzcy5vcmdYBAAAAAE~)

Step 2:  go to [Sign-up (Non-HCPSS Parents/Guardians)](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/IKD93d-oVbgJ9CQIhM60XQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRdpgXaP0QmaHR0cHM6Ly9zdWJzY3JpcHRpb25zLmhvY29zY2hvb2xzLm9yZy9XB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAWtLEWxIf7aBSGENvbGJ5X0FuZGVyc2VuQGhjcHNzLm9yZ1gEAAAAAQ~~)

Step 3:  Complete Subscriber Information

Step 4:  Using you cell phone text the word YES to the number 67587 to activate your subscription after signing up.  Students will automatically receive HoCo Weather Alert.

Note:  You may deactivate your subscription by texting the work STOP to the number 67587.

**Ronald McDonald House**

Dear PVMS Community, In the past 12 years, PVMS has been collecting pull-tabs the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Philadelphia. The RMH is a “home-away-home” where families can stay when their child has a severe or terminal illness and is at Children’s Hospital. The RMH only charges the entire family $15.00 a night and that includes a kitchen. For children who spend up to 9 months in the hospital, the RMH makes it possible for families to stay together.

The pull-tab as opposed to the can has a higher percentage of aluminum which makes it valuable for recycling. The RMH accepts pull-tabs. They are weighed and recycled them for a cash flow which helps to support their program.

Any pull-tabs are accepted, from soda, vegetable, soup, beans, dog and cat food, beer, energy drinks and even tennis ball cans! For every 10 pull-tabs your child will receive 1 bark buck. In previous years, students have collected pull-tabs from their parent’s work, churches, recreation center and more. Some students have brought in thousands of pull-tabs.

My first year at PVMS we collected 500 lbs. of pull-tabs for the RMH. THIS PAID THEIR UTILITIES FOR A FULL YEAR! If anyone would like a labeled collection jar please contact me and I will get one to you ASAP.Sincerely, Bonnie L. Taylor Health Educator

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