

The Waterloo Wildcat

[En Espanol](#)

January 30, 2026

Dates to Remember:

TODAY- Scheduling window closes for Feb. Math conferences; 4pm

February 3- PTA Glow Party; 6-7:30pm

February 4- School is closed.

February 5- School closes 3 hours early; February math conferences

February 6- School closes 3 hours early; February math conferences

February 9- Report cards issued in Synergy; 4pm

February 10- PTA Restaurant Night: Bella Mia Pizza

February 16- School is closed

February 17- School is closed

February 23- PTA General Hybrid Meeting; 6:30pm

March 3- School closes 3 hours early; student dismiss at 12:55pm

March 5-6- Waterloo's Dental Clinic (new date)

March 17- Spring Picture Day!

March 20- School is closed.

March 23- PTA General Hybrid Meeting; 6:30pm

March 30-April 6- Spring Break. School is closed

April 15- School is closed.

April 20- PTA General Hybrid Meeting; 6:30pm

April 23- STEAM Fair; 6:30pm

April 25- Waterloo's Carnival! 2pm

Congratulations to Waterloo's National Board Certified Teachers!



We more than doubled our number of National Board Certified Teachers since last year! Our school is proud to now have 11! This is a tremendous accomplishment and demonstrates each teacher's commitment to providing high quality instruction to their students and to their own growth as reflective practitioners! Read more on our school website here:

<https://wates.hcpss.org/news/2024/2024-12/congratulations-waterloos-newest-national-board-certified-teachers>

Our National Board Certified teachers are:

Mrs. Megan Manglitz- Recc Teacher and Co-Team Leader
Ms. Erin Sloan- Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Sarah Wagoner- Grade 1 Teacher and Team Leader
Mrs. Emily Ruffing- Grade 1 Teacher
Mrs. Stephanie Pazornik- Berenzin- Grade 2 Teacher and Team Leader
Mrs. Courtney Shoemaker- Grade 3 Teacher and Team Leader
Mrs. Gretchen Gray- Grade 5 Teacher and Team Leader
Mrs. Amanda Tzan- Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Elena Puig- Special Education Teacher
Ms. Kelly Gardner- Reading Specialist
Mr. Mike McClellan- Reading Specialist

Share your Family's Snow Day Pictures!

We hope you've been enjoying all the snow! Please upload your candid pictures below for a chance to be featured in the yearbook! Link: <https://plicbooks.com/go/WYUKUE>

Coming Soon! Learning Together Program Applications!

The Waterloo Early Childhood Classes are making preparations for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. Beginning in mid February applications for general education students to participate as peers through the Learning Together Program (LTP) will become available. These classes include general education and special education students. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 by September 1st, may apply.

In alignment with [Maryland's Blueprint for the Future](#), new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 are not available. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer Prekindergarten for income eligible children who will be 4 years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/>

Register for the HCPSS Spring Training for Parents of Anxious Children

This spring, HCPSS again will offer its [Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions program \(SPACE\)](#), a no-cost, evidenced-based training program to assist parents/guardians in helping their children manage anxiety. HCPSS will offer five SPACE groups, listed below. Each group will be facilitated by two licensed HCPSS mental health staff members.

- Two groups for parents of middle and high school students (one virtual and one in-person)
- Two groups for parents of elementary students (one virtual and one in-person)
- One group for parents of Pre-K students (ages 4 & 5)

All groups will meet weekly, starting the week of March 9, 2026 and ending the week of April 27, 2026, for a total of seven sessions. There will be no meetings the week of Spring Break (March 30-April 6, 2026).

Register [here](#)

HCPSS 2026 Family Academy Conference

HCPSS families are invited to attend the 2026 Family Academy Conference on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 5:30–8:30 pm at Long Reach High School. This free, districtwide event brings families, educators, and community partners together for an evening of learning, connection, and support. Families can enjoy a light dinner, a community resource fair, interactive workshops focused on academic achievement and well-being, and free childcare. Workshops will include topics such as college and career readiness, special education supports,

curriculum updates, and hands-on learning strategies for use at home. Interpretation services will be available. Register online: [English](#), [Español](#), [中文](#), [한국어](#)
Flyers are available in [English](#), [Español](#), [中文](#), [한국어](#)

HCPSS Special Education Parent Resource Fair Information!

Saturday, March 14, 2026 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Cedar Lane School

The HCPSS Special Education Resource Fair provides families with information available from the community and HCPSS to support their students receiving special education and related services. Get connected to: Services within HCPSS, Recreational Activities, Camps, Community Groups, Service Providers, Transition Information, Assistive Technology, Behavioral Health, Howard County Government Resources, and Much More!

We'll have several activities for children! For information, please contact FSRC@hcpss.org. Registration is not required. This event is part of the HCPSS Parent Empowerment Series including training sessions related to special education and events for families of students with an IEP or IFSP.

Join us for the HCPSS Family Empowerment Academy!

The [HCPSS Family Empowerment Academy](#) is designed to equip parents and guardians with practical strategies, resources, and insights to support their children's academic, social, and emotional success. The academy will take place on four consecutive Saturdays- March 7 through March 28, 2026, from 9:00-10:30 AM- and will feature interactive learning experiences, guest speakers, and opportunities to connect with other HCPSS families. Participation is limited to 30 participants, and registration is first-come, first-served. Attendance is encouraged for all four sessions. Language interpretation and childcare will be provided. Please complete the [application form](#) to be considered for participation.

Free Online Tutoring Help through the Howard County Library System!

Brainfuse HelpNow is now available 24/7 for all library users, expanding access beyond the previous 2 p.m.–midnight live tutoring hours. This means students and caregivers can connect with live online tutoring and academic support anytime that fits their schedule. Brainfuse HelpNow is available on the [HCLS website](#) and video and written instructions on how to use the resource are available [here](#). First-time users will need to create a username and password.

Order Your 2025-2026 Yearbook Online!

Order Online at www.Strawbridge.net

Online Code: YB33686

1. Click Order Pictures and Yearbooks. Enter your Online Code.
2. Enter your name and email, then click Access Yearbook.
3. Enter your student's information, then click Submit Details.
4. Select your product and quantity. Click View Cart to proceed to checkout.

\$19 until 3/13 - early bird rate

\$25 until 4/10

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS for our PTA Glow Party: February 3 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM!

We are excited to announce that we are hosting a Glow Party for our students on Tuesday, February 3! To make this event a success, we are looking for parent volunteers to help with various tasks, including setup/cleanup, checking in registrants, running a raffle table, supervising student activities, etc.

If you are available to lend a hand and join in the fun, please let us know by Friday, January 30. You can sign up by visiting the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EABA923ABFEC70-61516872-waterloo>

Support the Waterloo Elementary School Music Program with a glow party for all ages! Proceeds will benefit new musical instruments for Waterloo General Music classes, Grades Pre K-5. Tickets are \$10 per child (Waterloo students only), and adult supervision is required. Raffle prizes available to win! Games and activities for all ages! Online registration is required to attend and is open through January 30. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). See the flyer [here](#). Contact maura.s.arnold@gmail.com with questions.

The Kindness Cupboard is Here!

We are thrilled to introduce the *Kindness Cupboard*, a new initiative launched by our Student Support Team (SST) to ensure everyone in our school family has what they need to thrive. This resource will be stocked with non-perishable food items and essential household goods, available to all students and staff during school hours. We believe that by looking out for one another and removing barriers to basic necessities, we can foster a more supportive and caring environment for everyone. This program is rooted in compassion, dignity, and confidentiality. All items are distributed discreetly, with the goal of helping every child feel supported, safe, and valued.

We are currently accepting donations of non-perishable food items, including:

- Canned goods (soups, vegetables, fruit)
- Boxed meals and pasta
- Breakfast items
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Peanut butter and other shelf-stable items

Donations may be sent to school clearly labeled "Kindness Cupboard" or dropped in the Kindness Cupboard bin labeled outside within the vestibule. Every contribution, large or small, makes a meaningful difference in the life of a child.

Jump Rope for Heart is Going Strong!

Waterloo is pleased to continue our 24 year relationship with the American Heart Association by offering our Waterloo Kids Heart Challenge! This community fundraising program helps us learn about our hearts and how to keep them healthy, in addition to earning equipment to use in PE. In Physical Education, we will be Jumping Rope in an effort to maintain our personal heart health. Our Kids Heart Challenge fundraising drive began on January 1st, 2026 and will run through March 27, 2026. **Collecting donations is completely voluntary and 100% online.**

Get ready to change and save lives! To start, sign up [here](#) and earn your wristband!

Thank you for supporting our partnership with the American Heart Association. Don't forget to check out the online heart games where you can complete tasks and earn badges as well when you join our Waterloo Kids Heart Challenge Team. Thank You!

~Mr. Richardson & Mr. Hurd

Restaurant Night - Tuesday, February 10th, 11am-9pm at Bella Mia Pizzeria & Restaurant

Join us for our next PTA Restaurant Night at Bella Mia! They will donate 20% of all their sales on February 10th when you mention Waterloo or enter "Waterloo Fundraiser" in the special instructions online.

Save the Date for February Math Conferences!

On Thursday, February 5th, and Friday, February 6th, all elementary schools will close 3 hours early for parent-teacher conferences. Teachers are excited to conference with their math class families! Please note that Mr. Croushler will conference with his 5th grade GT math families.

Please pay careful attention to the details below:

- On February 5th, from 1:15-4:00pm, all conferences will be held **in-person only**.
- On February 5th from 4:15-7:15pm, all conferences will be **virtual only**.
- On February 6th, **all conferences will be held virtually from 1:15-4:15pm**.

On January 22, the scheduling window opened for families to schedule math conferences in synergy at 8am. TODAY, the scheduling window closes. If you miss the window, please email your child's math teacher directly to schedule your conference.

Recess and Winter Gear Reminders

As outdoor temperatures continue to drop throughout the season, we want to share a quick reminder about outdoor recess. To help support your child, we ask families to:

- Send students to school with winter outerwear for cold weather
- Clearly label your child's name on jackets, coats, and other outerwear
- Reinforce your family's expectations with your child about what to wear during recess

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to keep students safe during the colder months!

Save the Date for Waterloo's Spring Carnival!

We'll see you Saturday, April 25th from 2-6pm! More details to come!

Have you Joined our PTA?

We have almost 100 families signed up for the PTA! If you haven't signed up yet, please become a member now on our [PTA website](#)! Every member matters! Thank you for supporting your child(ren)!

Interested in getting more involved in the PTA? We are always looking for parents and families to help volunteer, join one of our amazing committees, or take on a leadership role. You can fill out our PTA Interest Survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9jGNygf46PaTMnqnE1a1hmmDDE23sRDwlkRw9UXYYoZxWhw/viewform> or email ptawaterloo@gmail.com to let us know how we can best engage with you!

PTA News

Restaurant Night - Tuesday, February 10th, 11am-9pm at Bella Mia Pizzeria & Restaurant

Join us for our next PTA Restaurant Night at Bella Mia! They will donate 20% of all their sales on February 10th when you mention Waterloo or enter "Waterloo Fundraiser" in the special instructions online.

It's Time to Sign up for Waterloo's Winter/Spring After School Enrichment Activities!

Please click [this link](#) to see all the great classes offered for students!

Thank You to Our Community Sponsors!

A huge thank you to our generous community sponsors for supporting Waterloo Elementary School! Please see our sponsors below:

[Bella Mia Pizza](#)

[Flagship Orthodontics](#)

[Abbotts Plumbing](#)

[Ricasa Automotive](#)

[Great Harvest Bakery & Cafe](#)

[Howard County Psychological Services, LLC](#)

[Jacobson Family Law](#)

[Peak Kitchen & Bath](#)

Their contributions help fund important PTA initiatives like Staff Appreciation Week and family events such as Back to School Night, Bingo Night, and the Spring Carnival! We encourage all families to show their appreciation by supporting these wonderful local businesses!

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Email us at WaterlooESfundraising@gmail.com for more information.



Stay Connected on Facebook

Stay up to date on school news, PTA events, and volunteer opportunities by following us on

[Facebook](#)!  Follow and “like” our posts to help us reach more Waterloo families! Every like, comment, and share helps spread the word!

Calling all Local Businesses!



Waterloo Elementary School PTA is looking for community sponsors for the 2025-2026 school year. Sponsorships help us fund critical school initiatives and in return, businesses will receive valuable marketing exposure to our amazing school community.

Do you own or love a business? Email us and we'll be in touch!

WaterlooESfundraising@gmail.com

Some Business Ideas:

- *real estate agents
- *cleaning services
- *dentists or orthodontists
- *beauty services
- *plumbers
- *mechanics
- *family photographer

Lunch Volunteer Information

We are looking for parent volunteers to help during lunch! The role of a lunch volunteer is to support the Waterloo staff by assisting with tasks that help lunch run smoothly, such as opening food items, guiding students, and keeping the cafeteria environment safe and organized. Please note that this volunteer role is not intended for visiting or socializing with your child, but rather to provide valuable support to the school community as a whole. Please review [these guidelines](#) before you sign up.

[Click here to sign up.](#) Please note, we will not have lunch volunteers on half days and unplanned school closures or delays. Additionally, we want as many families as possible to have

an opportunity to volunteer if they wish, so please be mindful of the number of times you sign up per week/month.

When you arrive for your volunteer shift, please sign in through the front office.

Please note, you must complete [required volunteer trainings](#) prior to your shift (Confidentiality Training and Child Abuse and Neglect Training) and print or email your certificate to:

Brooke_O'Neill@hcpss.org

HCPSS Community News

In alignment with Howard County Board of Education, the following announcements have been approved by the Public Information Office for distribution. To view upcoming events click:

<https://community-programs.hcpss.org>