News from the Hill!

October 16, 2026

Great morning, JHES families!

I truly hope you are enjoying a wonderful, restful day with your family! Days like today provide a great opportunity to slow down, spend quality time with the people who matter most, and recharge before we jump back into our busy routines.

Personally, I always appreciate opportunities like this to catch up on paperwork, collect my thoughts, and reflect on how things are going at Jeffers. As a school community, I believe it is important that we consistently take a step back to celebrate what is working, identify areas where we can grow, and consider how we can continue to make JHES an even better place for our students, staff, and families. Growth requires reflection, communication, and a willingness to keep getting better!

As we approach the end of the first quarter, I want to encourage all families to take a few minutes to check your child's grades in Canvas. **The last day of the first quarter is October 27.** This is a great opportunity to see how your child is progressing, celebrate accomplishments, and identify any areas where additional support may be needed.

Remember, grades are just one piece of the puzzle. They can help us start important conversations about learning, effort, growth, and next steps. If you notice that your child is struggling in a particular area or you have questions about an assignment or grade, please reach out to your child's teacher. Our teachers are valuable partners in your child's education, and maintaining open

lines of communication between home and school helps us work together to ensure every child has the support they need to succeed.

If you are having trouble accessing your child's grades in Canvas, please use the HCPSS Canvas Guides for step-by-step instructions. If you still need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out for help.

Enjoy the rest of your day with your families, take some time for yourselves, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to JHES!

As always, thank you for being such an important part of our Jeffers Hill community.

Have a wonderful weekend!

This week's newsletter includes:

-Important Dates

-Related Arts COLOR Calendar for the Week

-OMHS Mattress Fundraiser

-PTA Fall Festival

-JHES Jaguar Food Pantry

-Parents Night Out Interest Survey

-Family File

-Girl Scouts

-HCPSS News

-Get Your Flu Shot

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Important Dates

October 27

- **End of Quarter 1**

October 28

- **Schools closed for Students. Staff Professional Learning/Workday**
- **End of 1st Quarter**

October 30

- PTA Fall Fest Trunk or Treat @ 6pm

November 3

- **Schools and Offices closed.**

November 6

- **Report Cards issued at 4pm**

November 11

- **Picture Retakes**
- Veteran's Day-Military Parent Visit to Classrooms
- PTA Meeting (Virtual) @ 6pm

November 12

- PTA Fall Bingo Night @ 6pm

November 16-20

- **American Education Week** (More details will follow with quarterly awards information and times for parents to come to visit the classrooms)

November 23

- **Schools close 3 hours early (12:15pm).** Parent/Teacher Conferences.

November 24

- **Schools close 3 hours early (12:15pm).** Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Turkey Trot

November 25

- **Schools closed for Students.** Parent/Teacher Conferences.

November 26 & 27

- **Schools and Offices closed.**

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Related Arts Color Calendar

10/19 Yellow Day

10/20 Green Day

10/21 Blue Day

10/22 Red Day

10/23 Orange Day

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PTA Updates

Weren't able to attend this month's PTA Meeting?

Check out the meeting notes for October!

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We are excited to kick off preparations for our upcoming Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat on Friday, **October 30 (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM)**

Students, families, and staff can bring candy donations to *feed the monster*.

Teacher & Grade-Level Trunks: We strongly encourage our teachers and staff to participate by setting up a trunk for their grade level! Having a designated trunk per grade is a great way to join in the fun and show school spirit.

Event Flyer & Sign-Up:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050945A5AF2AABF49-66450211-jhes

Attached is the official event flyer with details on all planned activities (Live DJ, Trunk Contest, Pumpkin Painting, Face Painting, Magician Show, Bouncy House, and lots of candy).

Thank you so much for your support!

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⭐Girl Scouts- 2nd and 3rd Grade! ⭐

Free First Meeting **October 26th in the Library 5-6pm.**

If your daughter is interested, or still on the fence about joining, come check out the first meeting for **FREE.** It's a great opportunity for your daughter to have fun, and see what Girl Scouts is all about before making a commitment.

Let us know you are joining!

Sign Up Here!

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Bullying Prevention

Bullying prevention starts at home, too. Families can make a difference by keeping the lines of communication open and regularly talking with children about friendships, school experiences, group chats, social media, and how they and their peers treat one another.

Encourage your child to identify trusted adults they can turn to when something doesn't

feel right. Talk about what they can safely do if they witness someone being mistreated such as getting an adult, refusing to join in or laugh, checking on the student afterward, or reporting what they saw.

Being an upstander applies **online, too.** Remind children that liking, sharing, forwarding, commenting on, or reposting hurtful content can increase its impact. Instead, encourage them to avoid participating, save evidence when appropriate, support the person being targeted, and tell a trusted adult.

Children also learn from what they see. Modeling kindness, empathy, inclusion, and respect for others helps reinforce the behaviors we want to see in our schools and communities.

Talk. Notice. Include. Speak Up. Together, we can help create communities where every student feels safe, supported, and valued.

More bullying prevention information and resources can be found on the **HCPSS Stop Bullying website**.

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Religious Observations

Absences for the religious/cultural observations listed on the HCPSS website can be excused at the school and do not require a religious/cultural observance request.

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SCAN ME
To Learn More

Oakland Mills High School

4th Annual Mattress Fundraiser

@ The High School

Sunday, Oct. 25th, 2026, 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Savings on mattresses from top brands!

Twin Mattresses from $249 | Full Mattresses from $399
Queen Mattresses from $499 | King Mattresses from $699

purple

HELIX

Adjustable Bases

Mattresses

Protectors

Pillows

Benefits Performing Arts

- All sizes & firmness levels available
- 25+ styles on display
- Brand new with full factory warranties
- Adjustable bases available
- Mattress protectors, premium pillows & more!
- Home delivery available
- All forms of payment accepted
- Financing available

Oakland Mills High School Mattress Fundraiser

$50 OFF Any Mattress Over $500

Credit goes to: ____

Sunday, Oct. 25th, 2026, 10:00AM - 5:00PM @ The High School | cfsbeds.com
Questions? Contact: MattCFSBeds@gmail.com

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JHES Jaguar Food Pantry

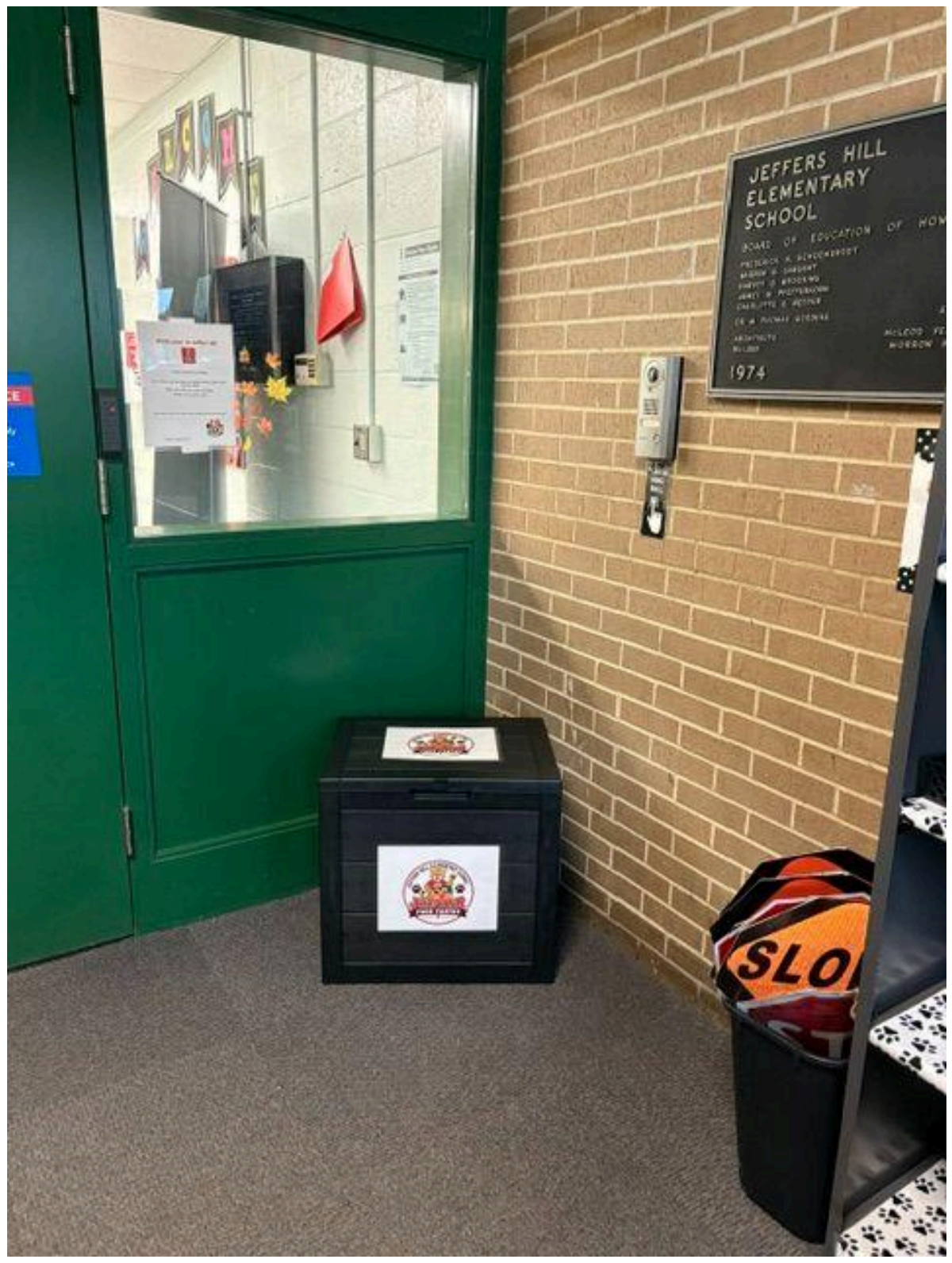
Our Jaguar Food Pantry helps ensure that students and families in our school community have access to everyday essentials when they need a little extra support.

We're asking our generous school community to help keep the pantry stocked by donating items from our Amazon Wish List.

You may also donate items directly. A clearly labeled bin (pictured below) featuring the pantry logo will be located in the vestibule for your convenience.

Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference and helps us continue supporting families throughout our school community.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Please contact Kenisha_burks@hcpss.org for more information.

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Parent’s Night Out



Please see the link below for the 5th Grade Fundraiser Parents' Night Out survey.
https://forms.gle/oNhW5gLpTVqZXEVW9

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Family File

Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File for each child. HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. HCPSS requires that your Family File before your child(ren) can attend a field trip. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to HCPSS Connect PARENT ACCOUNT and selecting the MORE OPTIONS tab on the left and then click on Family File.

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

Again, it is important that you complete the Family File in order to receive the name of your child's teacher for the upcoming school year.

https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-quick-guide.pdf

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (ENGLISH) -
https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions.pdf

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (SPANISH) -
https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions-spanish.pdf

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Please Label Your Items

As the temperatures change, we encourage children to wear an extra layer of clothing. With that in mind, please be sure to label your child's sweaters, jackets, and let's not forget water bottles!

Labeling these items will help us ensure that your child's belongings make their way back to them if they happen to end up in the Lost & Found.

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Clothing for Cash

Our Clothing for Cash recycling program helps Jeffers raise money! We earn money for every pound of clothing that is donated to our bin.

The bin accepts:

- 👚 Clothing

- 👟 Shoes
- Other textiles

Every donation makes a difference, so keep cleaning out those closets and keep the donations coming! 💙

Thank you for supporting Jeffers!



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HCPSS News

Get your Flu Shot!

¡Vacúnate contra la Gripe!

Estudiantes Saludables Futuros Más Brillantes



El Departamento de Salud del Condado de Howard ofercerá vacunas contra la gripe **gratuitas** en múltiples eventos comunitarios este otoño.

GRATIS para todos

No se necesita cita previa

Todas son bienvenidas (6 meses de edad en adelante)

Ayude a protegerse a usted, a su familia y a nuestra comunidad

Clínicas de Vacunación contra la Gripe del Condado de Howard

Preséntese. Vacúnese. Manténgase saludable esta temporada.

Fecha y hora	Evento / Socio comunitario	Dirección
Jueves, 10/1/26 2:30 – 4:30 p. m.	Clínica emergente en Owen Brown Place con Roving Radish	7080 Cradlerock Way Columbia, MD 21045
Sábado, 10/3/26 10 a. m. – 1 p. m.	Feria de Salud en la Iglesia Bautista St. John	9055 Tamar Dr Columbia, MD 21045
Miércoles, 10/7/2026 5:30 – 8:30 p. m.	Feria de Recursos del Mes de la Herencia Hispana de HCPSS en la Escuela Primaria Deep Run	6925 Old Waterloo Rd Elkridge, MD 21075
Sábado, 10/10/26 11 a. m. – 2 p. m.	Día de Puertas Abiertas del Departamento de Bomberos Voluntarios de Elkridge	5700 Rowanberry Dr Elkridge, MD 21075
Viernes, 10/16/2026 12 – 4 p. m.	Clínica Comunitaria de Vacunación contra la Gripe en la Mezquita Dar Al Taqwa	10740 MD-108 Ellicott City, MD 21042
Sábado, 10/17/26 10 a. m. – 12 p. m.	Distribución de Abrigos de Invierno de DCRS en el Centro Comunitario de North Laurel	9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd Laurel, MD 20723
Martes, 10/20/26 4 – 7 p. m.	Clínica Comunitaria de Vacunación contra la Gripe en la Biblioteca de Elkridge / Centro 50+	6540 Washington Blvd Elkridge, MD 21075
Miércoles, 10/21/26 5 – 7 p. m.	Clínica emergente en la Escuela Primaria Laurel Woods con Roving Radish	9250 N Laurel Rd Laurel, MD 20723
Sábado, 10/24/26 1 – 3 p. m.	Sistema de Bibliotecas del Condado de Howard – Sucursal East Columbia	6600 Cradlerock Way Columbia, MD 21045
Miércoles, 10/28/2026 11 a. m. – 3 p. m.	Clínica Comunitaria de Vacunación contra la Gripe en el Centro Interreligioso de Wilde Lake	10431 Twin Rivers Rd Columbia, MD 21044
Lunes, 11/9/26 3 – 6 p. m.	Sistema de Bibliotecas del Condado de Howard – Sucursal Miller	9421 Frederick Rd Ellicott City, MD 21042
Domingo, 11/15/26 3 – 4:30 p. m.	Iglesia Chin Bethel Elkridge	6801 Douglas Legum Dr Elkridge, MD 21075
Martes, 11/24/2026 4 – 6 p. m.	Distribución de Canastas de Acción de Gracias de DFRS en el Centro Comunitario de North Laurel	9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd Laurel, MD 20723

Escanee el código QR para obtener la información más reciente sobre la gripe y otras enfermedades respiratorias, incluidas las actualizaciones de las clínicas.

www.howardcountymd.gov/health/flu-respiratory-illness

Proteja lo que Importa Vacúnese

No hay ningún costo por la vacuna contra la gripe en los eventos del Departmento de Salud, pero se les pedirá a los pacientes que están inscritos en Medicare que proporcionen su número de cuenta si está disponible.



Have a GREAT weekend!

Click here to see the **News from the Hill** archives.