

AHS NEWSLETTER 11-17-17

Atholton Community,

Report cards were given to students today and we are proud of all our students. We had a total of 1026 students on our Honor Roll with 175 students on the Principals Honor Roll, 797 on Gold Honor Roll, and 54 students on Silver Honor Roll. We will acknowledge their accomplishments with an Ice Cream Celebration on December 1st during 5th and 6th periods.

Next week we will post an update and not a full newsletter due to the holiday weekend so I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. This is a perfect time to spend with friends and families and to reflect on our blessings. I personally feel fortunate to be part of this warm and supportive community. I know everyone contributes in many ways to our community and I appreciate all of you.

Come out and support your Atholton Raiders Football team tonight as they face Long Reach HS for the 3A Regional Finals. The game will be played at Long Reach HS at 7pm.

Regards,
JoAnn C. Hutchens

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will host their annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration on Sun., Jan. 14th, 2pm at Reservoir High School. <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Human-Rights/Boards-and-Commissions/Contests>

One of the highlights of the celebration is the presentation of the Student Essay Awards contest winner. The essay question this year is; "How do you translate Dr. King's vision in today's times?"

For more information or questions, contact Farheen Sheik in the Office of Human Rights at 410-313-6467 or email fsheik@howardcountymd.gov.

EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE MUSIC SUITE

Poinsettia Sales!

Atholton Music Boosters will be sponsoring a Poinsettia fundraiser. The flowers are stunning and will look beautiful in any home. Please click on the link to the flyer and place your order now POINSETTA FLYER. Orders are due November 20.

Tired of Turkey?

Join the crowd...and the boosters at Chipotle (Maple Lawn location) on November 28 from 4-8 pm. No flyer needed! Just tell them you're there to support Atholton Music!

Winter Concerts are right around the corner!

Please join us the week of December 11 for performances by all our ensembles.

THE CAST FOR OUR SPRING MUSICAL THE ADDAMS FAMILY WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE WEEK-END IS OVER!

Monday, Nov. 20 at brunch there will be an interest meeting for everyone interested in technical support for the musical. Make sure you have a valid email address that you can use to register.

There is a meeting for cast, and potential crew and orchestra members and their parents on Monday, Nov. 20 at 6:30 PM in the media center. The students will have a read through of the show while the parents continue the meeting. This is required for all cast members, and strongly encouraged for the crew and orchestra. The reading should be finished by 9:15PM.

Questions? Contact Nathan_rosen@hcpss.org

For more information on all the Music Department happenings, please check our website atholtonmusic.org !

TEEN ANXIETY; HOW TO HELP YOUR TEEN

Adolescence is a stressful time filled with academic, community and social pressures. Stress tops the list of concerns of most teenagers today. To manage anxiety, teens must learn to practice positive emotional resiliency skills rather than avoiding situations that cause stress and developing maladaptive coping strategies. This workshop will discuss how to recognize anxiety, gain a better understanding on how to support your child, communicate with your teen about their symptoms, and ensure you don't perpetuate or ignore anxious feelings to make them worse. Take part in an open discussion or submit questions anonymously.

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. at Atholton High School, Media Center

Who Should Attend: Parents and Guardians Only

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-anxiety-how-to-help-your-teen-tickets-39491785995>

NEW SUPPORT GROUP FORMING AT ATHOLTON HS

Parent Community Circle/Support Group Thursday Nights 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Parents and students in our community can benefit from an informal and confidential opportunity to listen and share concerns on a variety of topics. Trust and relationship building with other community members will be established through mutual sharing and support.

Topics include: Teens and parents managing stress, Anxiety and Depression in teens, Drug and Alcohol use among teens, Social Media, Social Skills (developing relationships), competition vs. community, community service. For further information, please contact Hugh Jessell at hjessell@verizon.net

HC DRUGFREE IS LOOKING FOR PARENT/ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Whether you have an hour a month or 10 hours a week to volunteer, please email only to Admin@hcdrugfree.org to let us know your availability. Be sure to say if you can type, are willing to drive to pharmacies or liquor stores, and if you have any special skills or interests.

DONATIONS FOR THE STAFF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

A Request to Atholton Families: Each December, on behalf of all AHS families, the PTSA serves a catered lunch to our fantastic AHS staff to show them how much they are appreciated.

This year's lunch will be on Thursday, December 21. We know that this is a busy time of year, so instead of asking for food contributions, we are asking for cash donations. Please consider making a donation (any amount) to support this scrumptious effort.

Contributions can be made in one of two ways:

1. By credit card: Follow this link <https://www.atholtonptsa.org/donate/> or access the PTSA website <https://www.atholtonptsa.org/> and select "Donate to the PTSA!". Please be sure to indicate that your donation is for Staff Appreciation.
2. By check: Mail check clearly marked in the address as Attn: PTSA to Atholton High School. 6520 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044 made payable to AHS PTSA. Please contact, PTSA President, Jamie Miller at wimjamie@gmail.com in case of any questions. As always, thank you for your support!

SAT® vs. ACT® Test - Which Test Is the Right Choice?

Students: SAT or ACT: Which test is right for you? Find out during National Practice Test Weekend: Free Live Online SAT vs. ACT Test this weekend 11/18 or 11/19 - spaces are filling fast - reserve your spot now at www.kaptest.com/practicetestweekend .

Understand the differences between the SAT® & ACT®. Try sections from each test to see which is a better fit. See your scores instantly. Learn effective test strategies from our team of experts. Reserve a spot at www.kaptest.com/practicetestweekend. Hurry - spaces are filling fast!

LAST CHANCE THIS YEAR TO SIGN UP FOR GREG'S DRIVING SCHOOL

New classes are forming! The following are classes this fall/winter:

November 27 – December 8, 2017 (M - F) 2:45 – 6pm

December 11 – December 22, 2017 (M - F) 2:45 – 6pm

The cost is \$375 and a portion is donated back to the PTSA. You have 30 hours of classroom time and then 6 hours of driving with an instructor. For more information or to register, please contact Greg's Driving School: <http://www.GregsDrivingSchool.net> or 301-882-8000.

JOIN THE PTSA!

The After Prom Party keeps our children safe and entertained on a night that can be dangerous to them. Staff Appreciation shows our teachers that we value them and the job that they do. SAT/ACT Test Prep and Driver's Education are educational areas that are outside the main curriculum, but are invaluable to our children. The Snack Shop, Scholarships and club/activity funding are integral to the richness of the AHS community.

Do you agree? Then please JOIN THE PTSA! Our numbers are down this year, and membership dues and donations are our primary sources of funds. The first adult household member is \$20 and each additional household member is \$10. Students join for \$5! To join online go to the PTSA Website: Use PayPal or credit card at www.atholtonptsa.org/join. Questions? Email membership@atholtonptsa.org. Thank you in advance for your membership!

SNACK SHOP

The PTSA sponsored SNACK SHOP needs volunteers for the 2017-18 school year! We are open every day from 2:10-3:10. Just one hour of your time! You can choose how often you'd like to volunteer. Working in the Snack Shop is a really fun volunteer opportunity & you get to make the students smile. If you are a new volunteer, we will pair you up with one of our experienced volunteers.

Please sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa8ae2daafe3-ahssnack> or email me directly at SnackShop@atholtonptsa.org. Invite your friends to join you or come in & meet some new friends! Let me know if you have any questions for me.

FOR BOOSTERS' ORGANIZATIONS NEWS:

Athletic Boosters- <http://atholtonboosters.org/athletics/>

Drama Boosters - <https://www.atholtondrama.org/>

JROTC Boosters - <https://sites.google.com/site/ahsajrotcboosters/>

Music Boosters - www.atholtonmusic.org/

Technology Boosters - <https://team2537.com/>

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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 20 & 21-Parent/Teacher conferences. Schools close 3 hours early.

November 22-Parent/Teacher conferences. Schools closed for students.

November 23 & 24-Schools and offices closed.

November 25 & 26-Holiday tree sale

December 6-Teen Anxiety: How to Help Your Teen at 6:30pm in the Media

December 12-PTSA Executive Board Meeting

December 25 through January 1-Schools closed for students.

May 12, 2018-Prom

GO RAIDERS!