

Cheetah Chatter

December 3, 2016

Calendar

Dec 9 – Purple Friday

Dec 12 – PTA Meeting 7PM

Dec 5-9 – CogAt Testing
Grades 3-5

Dec 12 – PTA Meeting 7 PM

Dec 13 - 5th grade Math Olympiad
9:30 AM

Dec 13 – 4th Grade Math Olympiad
11:30 AM

Dec 14 – Advanced Band and Strings
Concert 7 PM

Dec 15 – 2nd grade Field Trip

Dec 15 – Red, White and Blue Day
Bill of Rights Day

Dec 16 – Purple Friday!

Dec 21 – Interims go home

Dec 23 – Pajama Day

Schools CLOSED for Winter Break
Dec 24 thru Jan 1.
School reopens Jan 2

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<http://ies.hocoschools.org/>

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From the Principal

Helping our children understand that providing service to others in their community, ultimately helps them. Volunteering has a positive effect on our community — and it's good for children, too. We can help our children see that "a win-win situation." They can feel good because they're helping others, and the others feel good because they're getting help."

Giving back to your community is valuable in itself, but helping others also offers many benefits. For example, it can help you learn more about yourself and even put you on a path to your future career.

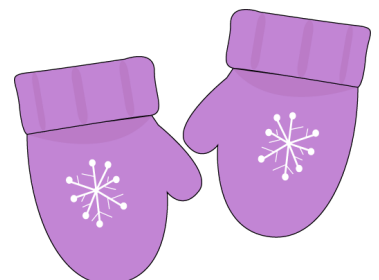
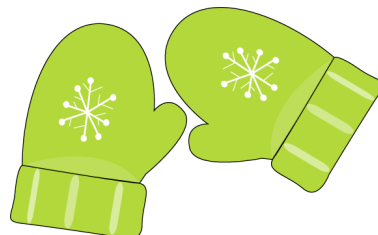
Service to others can provide our children with valuable life experiences and skills. Whether you help build houses for the homeless or collect pet supplies for an animal shelter, children can experience the real world through hands-on work. They can learn that both the people they are helping and their fellow volunteers can provide insight and broaden their scope of understanding and impact on their community.

To help our children get the most out of their experience, ask them these questions before you help them get started:

- What have you done in the past that you've enjoyed?
- What do you want to do as a volunteer?
- How much time can you commit?
- What talents or skills can you offer?
- What kinds of people do you want to work with?
- What would you most like to learn by volunteering?

Together, think of 10 ways your family can serve others. Choose one idea. Pick a date to do the activity. Afterward, talk about your experience.

Joy B. Smith, Principal



The Hour of Code...More Like a Month of Code!

We live in a world surrounded by technology. We know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning **how** technology works. Fewer than half of all schools teach computer science.

That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (December 5-11). Ilchester students began coding on November 28th during their technology classes and will continue through December 23rd. Our Hour of Code is making a statement that Ilchester Elementary School is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to your students, we want to make our Hour of Code event huge. I encourage you to talk to your child about coding starting this week.

Students in grades 2 - 5 can login to [Canvas](#) to access more coding activities or just use this link (<https://clever.com/in/hcps>) to get to the Code.org website to login.

See <http://hourofcode.com/us> for details, and help spread the word.

MUSIC NOTES from Mrs. Baker & Mrs. Maglocchi

We are starting the countdown to concert time! If you are in ADVANCED BAND or STRINGS you have already received your concert form. If you haven't handed it in yet, please take the time to read, sign and return it to me as soon as possible. BEGINNING band and strings forms will go out soon.

Please remember to have your children hand in their practice logs. There are band folders in the third grade and fourth grade pods as well as each of the 5th grade homerooms and in my room so students can place their completed practice logs in them if they can't find me. Students are to be filling out these monthly practice logs and submitting them to me with a parent's signature. Home practice is essential for students to make suitable progress on their instruments. I understand that the children have many activities and other homework to complete, but beginners should be practicing 10-15 minutes every day and advanced students should be practicing 15-30 minutes every day. Practice sessions can be broken up into 10-minute increments if that works better for your schedule or child's attention span. I email all practice assignments home so parents are aware of what their child should be practicing. Please note that practice should be done a little every day, not an hour and a half on Saturday to make up for the time missed (although that is better than nothing.) Any time I have typed in a practice time, (such as over Thanksgiving or winter break), I am giving you free minutes. If you practice on those dates, please fill it in and I will use it

to replace time on weeks where you didn't get such a good grade. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 313-2524 or via email: laura_baker@hcpss.org. You may also visit your child's instrumental music course pages in Canvas.

Please make sure you look at the December schedule closely. Due to the Advanced Band and String concert on December 14th, many Advanced Band and Strings students will need their instruments on a different day of the week than normal and some times have been changed/adjusted.

Fifth Grade Chorus Performs at Feeder System Concert:

The Fifth Grade Chorus will perform at the Feeder System Concert alongside the Bonnie Branch Middle School and Howard High School Choruses on Thursday, December 8th at Howard High School at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful experience for our fifth graders to meet the choral teachers of each of the other schools and to perform with and listen to the other ensembles!

The Lyric Chorus of the Howard County Children's Chorus.

We be performing a concert (along with the HCCC Cantus Chorus) on Sunday, December 11th at Mt. Hebron High School at 3:00 pm.

Our Ilchester ES members of the HCCC Lyric Chorus are:

Macy Andrus
Keyonc'e (Molli) Coleman
Krish Dube
Mary Gorsky
Sophia Nasir
Braelyn Peterman
Bojan Zivkovic



