

COUGAR CLUB NEWS 9/1/17

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I want to invite all parents, but especially 6th grade parents, to our first Cougar Club PTO meeting on Thursday, September 7 at 8:30am in the HCMS Library. As three schools come together, this is an excellent way to extend your village by meeting other parents. Plus we'll have coffee and snacks!

Mrs. Sullivan will join us and provide school updates. You'll learn about what's going on with the Cougar Club, the progress of our Friends of Hill Country campaign and get answers to any questions that have come up in the first couple of weeks.

Our speaker will be Danielle Wiest, 6th grade counselor, sharing tips for successful 6th grade transition, some potential pitfalls to avoid and answering any other concerns you may have.

We sure hope to see you there!

Alice Meadows

#rawr

HCMS FINANCE 101

Ahh Fall...that magical time where all the schools, clubs and EEF ask for your donations. Sorry it all comes at once, but here's a brief explanation of what to expect at Hill Country.

HCMS Student Fees: \$55 required fee for each student which covers: \$30 toward field trips/grade level events, \$10 toward classroom consumables, \$15 pays for carnival wristband. Hopefully you've already paid this. If not, head over to the online store and check that box – our budget counts on these fees!

Cougar Club Membership: \$20 per family. All families are automatically welcomed in the club, but the Cougar Club simply can't exist without financial support and participation from our parents. This fee goes toward dances for each grade, Career Day, monthly teacher lunches, library support and more!

Friends of Hill Country Campaign: Any donation amount is happily welcomed! ALL of the funds collected stay at our campus to fund the "things" our campus needs. Your FRIENDS dollars ensure we have our crossing guard, bus transportation for all school events, as well as teacher and department start up funds to enrich the learning environment on our campus. This is also how we pay for needs that come up throughout the year – for example last year's contributions helped pay for library improvements, an iPad mobile lab, Drama workshops, classroom calculators, science equipment, hallway bulletin boards, sound system, orchestra podium, health DVDs, poetry kits, classroom software, HCTV equipment, special ed. needs, teen skills equipment, and science subscriptions. Whew!

Cougar Dash: Cougar Dash is the portion of the Friends of Hill Country Campaign that's visible to the kids. During the Cougar Dash, each grade competes to have the

highest percentage of donations based on their class size - winner gets an ice cream party out on the fields during school! *Any donation made to the Friends of Hill Country Campaign over the summer or online or during Hello will go toward these Cougar Dash numbers.* If you have two kids in two different grades, your donation will be split between them. Can kids donate? Sure, some do, especially if the dash gets close, there's a box for donations in the office and envelopes will come home next week. We have a giant poster in the gym to track the progress of each grade and we'll be updating you here in the newsletter and online. It's all about participation! This year's Cougar Dash ends September 30th.

COUGARS IN THE KNOW

We make it easy for you!

[HCMS Cougar Club Website](#)

[HCMS Cougar Club Facebook](#)

COUGARS NEED TO KNOW

Tip of the Week

Have you checked student lunch purchases? Middle School offers many more enticements than lower schools. Parental sticker shock is a real thing!

Student Planners

A new shipment has arrived! If your student is in need of an agenda, they can now purchase one at The School Store. Agenda's are \$10 each. Students can pay cash or check (made out to HCMS Cougar Club) at The School Store during their lunch period.

Volleyball Spirit Wear & Meal Orders

The deadline to order Spirit Wear & Meals is September 1st at 6:00pm. Don't delay! Click [here](#) for the online store.

PE & Athletic Wear Exchanges & Refunds

Pre-ordered PE & Athletic wear is available in the School Store during lunch periods. You can also exchange PE and spirit wear at the School Store during lunch. For refunds, you or your child will need to fill out a refund sheet, which you can obtain in the school store or download from the "forms" section on HCMS Cougar Club website. Contact Zelda Minors with questions: ZELDADMINORS@YAHOO.COM

COUGAR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Picture Day September 6th

We have just a couple of spots available! Come experience Middle School and help students navigate to & from class to get their photos taken! Quick 2-hour shifts! Click the link to sign up: <http://signup.com/go/VDcvpKP>
Questions? Contact Zelda Minors/ZELDADMINORS@YAHOO.COM

Teacher Appreciation Lunches

Each month the HCMS Cougar Club provides lunch for the staff as a thank you for all the hard work they do for our kids. The main course is provided, but we need additional items to be donated each month. Please consider signing up to help set up, clean up or donate an item or two. It's a great opportunity to get to see some of your kid's teachers and show some love. Donations can be dropped in the office the day before or morning of the lunch.

First lunch is September 12th. We are still in need of a few donations items!

Want to volunteer and/or donate? [Teacher Appreciation Lunch Volunteer Signup](#)

Questions? Contact Laura Clark l_h_clark@hotmail.com

School Store

Let's not be a bunch of School Store Slackers this year! The kids need you... well, they NEED their tic-tacs and mentos! 8th grade parents, no pressure, but this is your last chance before the middle school cougars leave the safety of their den for greater high school pastures... never to be seen again! Please remember, if there are no volunteers, the store is closed for business.

Sign up today! <http://signup.com/go/NZUSPJq>

September Openings:

A = 0

B = 2

C = 18

Pit Ticket Sales

Pit tickets are sold every Thursday and Friday during lunch before home football games – another great opportunity to see your kiddos in their natural lunchroom environment.

Interested in volunteering to sell tickets? Email Clarissa McWilliams

clarissa.mc@me.com.

COUGAR KUDOS – A Shoutout to Rock Star Parents!

Cristina Feldott – Organizing School Store Volunteers and planning and implementing training is a huge undertaking during this busy time of year! Many thanks for all you do for HCMS!

Trina Keathley – We thank you and more importantly, our teachers and staff thank you for organizing meals for their first day back on campus, at Hill Country Hello and Back to School Nights! And we look forward to our first Cougar Club meeting coffee and treats on 9/7!

FRIENDS OF HILL COUNTRY CAMPAIGN: 100% Participation

The annual Friends of Hill Country campaign is underway and we need you! This is a one-time donation to the Cougar Club that pays for things we use throughout the year.

To learn more about our campaign, [click here](#).

[Or better yet here to donate today!](#)

Check out our Cougar Dash Grade Level Competition Update at the end of the Newsletter! We would LOVE to see your name on the list of participants!!

COUGAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/1: Volleyball Spirit Wear & Meal Orders Deadline

9/4: Labor Day Holiday

9/6: HCMS Picture Day – volunteers needed!

9/7: First Cougar Club Meeting @ 8:30 in the HCMS Library – coffee & snacks

9/19: Author Visit – Mike Lupica – Afternoon Assembly Schedule

9/26: District Early Release & No Homework Night

9/29: Pep Rally – Assembly Schedule

9/30: Cougar Dash Crosses the Finish Line



**Thank you to our HCMS Families
for supporting the Cougar Dash!**

(as of 8/28/2017)

6th Grade is at 11.9%

7th Grade is leading THE DASH at 11.3%

8th Grade is **WINNING at 13.3%**

THANK YOU 6th GRADE!

Anonymous
Aaron
Basu Roy
Bernard
Brinkley
Casey
Cockrell
Combs
Cooke
Coulter
Crockett
Dennis
Dwyer
Finger

Finger
Flores
Haddock
Jones
Kabiri
Kayser
Kocs
Law
MacRae
Marcus
Masters
McCabe
Medina
Narvaez

Nicola
Ohlmeyer
Ott
Patel
Perry
Pflum
Quinn
Richert
Sanders
Stokes
Thomas
Thompson
West

THANK YOU 7th GRADE!

Anonymous
Beck
Berry
Bishop
Briggle
Brinkley
Browning
Brunel
Brydson
Carlton
Corbett
Curtis
Davis

Depwe
Ferguson
Fisher
Gillespie
Hamlin
Hicks
Hubert
Kotagiri
Lara
Morales
Muench
Newton
Newton

Ott
Patterson
Peterson
Rajesh
Restivo
Seiders
Shapiro
Soltero
vanVoorhis
Wall
Wilkes
Yates

THANK YOU 8th GRADE!

Aaron
Anderson
Barksdale
Basu Roy
Biles
Blahuta
Brinkley
Brown
Butler
Carr
Coffee
Cox
Deviney
Dickinson
Franke
Harper

Hendrix
Horton
Hubert
Hudson
Humble
Jarrett
Kenney
Klubnik
Lee
Lowrimore
McIntire
McMahan
Meakin
Newton
Newton
Parfan

Perkel
Perkel
Prince
Riezebeek
Robertson
Rodriguez
Rose
Russell
Salisbury
Shah
Torkelson
Walls
Wiltshire
Woodruff
Woodruff
York