



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2016

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

Winter Break has arrived! Students will be out of school starting Friday, February 12th through Tuesday, February 16th. **Students must return to school on Wednesday, February 17th.** While students are home from school, it's a great time to schedule doctor and dentist appointments. When school reopens on February 17th, all students will be taking practice assessments. It is extremely important for students to return to school on time. The test results will help determine if students are ready for the next grade level.

After the break, all parents will receive a unique password to vote for parent representatives for the GoTeam. The GoTeam is short for Local School Governance Team. This group of parents will work closely with me and other staff members to make academic decisions. If additional parents are interested in joining the ballot and running, please go to the APS website by February 15th. If there are any questions, you may email me at mcmitchell@atlanta.k12.ga.us or call the school.

I am looking forward to seeing all parents on Literacy Night on March 1st. The event will begin at 5:30. The teachers will have a make and take activity for you to work with your child at home. Parents, as the academic expectations for your child increase each year, I ask that you participate in opportunities to help your student at home. It takes us working together to help each child accomplish success.

Thank you for continuing to send your students to school. Although it's been cold and rainy, our school won the attendance trophy for the month of January. I thank you for choosing to send your child to Humphries every day! We love your children and are honored to educate each one of our students.



Important Dates

February

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| 1 | National Freedom Day
Roadrunner Rally |
| 1-5 | National School Counsellor Week |
| 2 | Groundhog Day |
| 8 | Chinese New Year (Year of the Monkey) |
| 9 | Mardi Gras |
| 10 | Ash Wednesday |
| 12-15 | Presidents' Day Break. No school. |
| 14 | Valentine's Day |
| 15 | Presidents Day |
| 23 | Black History Program |
| 26 | Activity/STEM Day |



Humphries Elementary School
3029 Humphries Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

Kindergarten News

We are working hard and have a lot to cover. We in a very busy time of the year.

For ELA, we will be preparing for the next SIGHT WORD BEE. The event will occur on March 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The Bee will include the red, yellow, blue, and green words. Students will be expected to recognize words and read the words in a sentence. Our students are also building sentences so it is important for them to know their sight words. Studies show that 75% of what we read on a daily basis includes sight words.

In Math, we are on addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds (e.g., claps), and acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions, or equations.

Science is new and challenging! Students have been investigating how things move: push, pull, up, down, back, forth, zigzag, and round and round. We are also looking at how gravity affects all movement.

Economy is the focus in Social Studies. Discuss with your child about how goods and services are part of our daily lives. Also discuss the difference between needs and wants. Help your child to recognize money, coins and bills.

We are continuing to write across the curriculum. Talk to your children about each subject so they will feel comfortable writing about it.

Don't forget to go over the sight words every day! Our kids are making great progress, but we need your help. Practice! Practice! Practice!

As you can see, we are busy! Please work very hard on getting your students here every day and on time. They miss out on vital review when they are late. Please also make sure your child is getting adequate sleep which is 9-10 hours of sleep and a good breakfast to get them going.

Thank you for all you do!

First Grade News

First graders are picking up speed! We are so very proud of the great job they did on our first annual sight word bee! They have been flexing those brain muscles while learning how to think algebraically. They will be taking the winter Computer Adaptive Assessment this month to show how they have grown. We are so very proud of them.

Keep up the good work Humphries Firsties!

Grade Two News

The first semester is over and for many grade levels the countdown for state testing begins. Our second graders will not take the state standardized test this year but we are working hard to prepare them for these future endeavors. As the new semester began, many of our themes changed in the classroom. The students are studying energy in science, the early people of Georgia in social studies, and reviewing addition and subtraction with and without regrouping in math. The work is becoming very challenging for the students and daily attendance is necessary. Please make sure your child has his/her school supplies daily. As always, our classrooms are open to parent volunteers. Hope to see you soon.

Grade Three News

The Grade Three Team would like to remind you of how critical third grade is in your child's elementary career. Third grade is the crucial year when students make the leap from learning to read to reading to learn. It's a year filled with new academic hurdles. It's an academic hurdle that, if missed, students will struggle as their more fluent peers gain new knowledge at what seems like lightning speed. Once this type of learning lag exists, it is difficult for the kids to catch up. With this being said, it is important for YOU to emphasize that learning is the primary goal of attending school! We are noticing that many third graders are losing focus and are not actively engaged in the learning process. Learning is active and requires effort. Please discuss this with your child and as always please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher about an academic or conduct concern. Thank you.

Grade Four News

Greetings Parents! The fourth graders are working very hard. We only have three and a half more weeks until the next report card. The following are the skills we are covering.

- Reading Skill: poetry, text structures
- Language Arts: prefixes/suffixes, grammar rules
- Social Studies: Westward expansion
- Science: solar system unit
- Math: fractions/decimals

Please, be sure that each student reads for at least 20 minutes daily and studying multiplication facts.

Grade Five News

We are facing the home stretch! Our fifth graders are studying the causes and effects of WWI, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Great Depression. In science, they are building electrical circuits and exploring ways to create static electricity. Our math focus is two dimensional geometric shapes. We continue to struggle with reading stamina. Please make sure your student reads for at least twenty minutes nightly. Also, please drill them on week spelling and vocabulary lists to enhance vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension. As always, your support is appreciated and necessary in order to equip our students for their next milestone, middle school.

Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team is preparing the Black History Program which will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd at 1:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose building. The program is titled "Honoring African-American Heritage" during which your child will be presenting songs relating to African-American culture, and recitations of famous performing artists. Also, there will be a display of famous African-American visual artists' masterpieces for you to enjoy. Hope to see you there!!!



Congratulations for Humphries Attendance

Thank you, Parents, for making sure your children come to school each and every day!

Once again Humphries Elementary School has been recognized by Dr. Danielle Battle, Associate Superintendent for the South Atlanta Cluster, for our attendance.

Thank you to Ms. Grant, for her work on this. Thank you to all teachers for encouraging your students to show up. And especially, thank you to parents and students for coming to school, on time, every day!

Media Center News Books for Black History Month

Black History Month was founded by Carter G. Woodson to commemorate the history and contributions of people of African descent. Here are a few good books to share:

- Blumberg, Rhoda. York's Adventures with Lewis and Clark : an African-American's Part in the Great Expedition
- Bolden, Tonya. George Washington Carver.
- Brenner, Barbara. Wagon Wheels
- Brewster, Hugh. The Other Mozart: The Life of the Famous Chevalier de Saint-George.
- Cline-Ransom, Lesa. Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist.
- Douglass, Frederick. My Bondage and my Freedom.
- Flanagan, Alice. The Buffalo Soldiers.
- Freedman, Russell. The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights
- Haskin, James. Delivering Justice : W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights
- Hoose, Philip. Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
- Hughes, Langston. The Negro Speaks of Rivers.
- Johnson, James Weldon The Creation
- Krull, Kathleen. Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Randolph Became the World's Fastest Woman.
- Lasky, Kathryn. A Voice of my Own: the Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Slave Poet.
- McKissack, Patricia. Goin' Someplace Special.
- Myers, Walter Dean. The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage
- Nelson, Kadir. We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball
- Nelson, Scott Reynolds. Ain't Nothing but a Man: my Quest to Find the Real John Henry
- Pearsall, Shelley. Trouble Don't Last.
- Roberts, Brenda Jazzy Miz Mozetta
- Rockwell, Anne. Open the Door to Liberty: a Biography of Toussaint L'Ouverture.
- Stanley, Diane. Shaka: King of the Zulus.
- Taylor, Mildred The Well
- Walter, Mildred Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World.
- Weatherford, Carole Moses: When Harriett Tubman Led her People to Freedom.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. Show Way.

From Our School Counselor: Is your child ready for Middle School?

Middle school can be a trying time for students and parents because of the many changes that occur such as: responsibilities increase, accountability increases, bodies change, friendships changes, and students begin to experiment with different behaviors and personas. Here are ways to help your child and you make the changes:

- Develop Good Study Habits Now
- Talk about Friendships – existing and new
- Practice Using a Combination Lock!
- Develop Open Communication with Your Child. Listen, Listen, Listen! The more your child feels you are willing to listen to him/her, the more willing he/she will be to talk about problems.
- In addition—become familiar now with the middle school by:
 - *Knowing school's mission/vision
 - *Learning about uniform, behavior and attendance policy
 - *Attending school events and PTA meetings to learn about the school's environment and culture



Congratulations To our Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Team

On January 30, 2016, eight Humphries Students competed in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl at Drew Charter School. This competition requires the students to read the 17 Georgia Award Winning books and to answer college-bowl style questions on them.

This is the third year we have competed, and we increased our score by 33 percent!

Our competing team members were Aria Longmire, Mikel Watson, Redreakis Hargett, Jimmia Flanders, Maria Herrera, Alijah Moore, Carion Rodgers, and Sammaria Brown. Thanks to the teachers who assisted with the team: Ms. Humphries, Ms. Campbell, Ms. McNamee, Ms. Whitehead, and Ms. Woods. We are also grateful to Ms. Mitchell, our principal, Ms. Grant, our assistant principal, and Ms. Todd-Johnson for helping us acquire books. It was also great to see Dr. Biggins-Horton and Mr. Hundley who came to cheer us on. Thanks also the parents who provided transportation and support.

We look forward to competing again next year, and scoring even higher!