



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
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Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

It's that time again! It's the official countdown to statewide student testing. Students have exactly five weeks until testing (not counting spring break). The Georgia Milestones will be administered to students in grades 3, 4 and 5, on April 13 – 26, 2016. Students in the lower grades will take district assessments on those dates. Please make sure students are present each day of testing. We will begin daily at 8:15 AM. This year the test will determine if a student gets promoted. If students do not pass reading in grade 3 or reading and math in grade 5, they may be at risk for not being promoted to the next grade. The students have taken practice tests and will receive tutorial during school hours. The students who scored in the bottom 25% on last year's test will receive additional tutorial assistance through the FLP services offered to students during some of their enrichment time.

Parents it is time for you to vote for our Local School Governance Team (GO Team) members. The Go Team is a small group of parents, teachers and community members that will meet regularly to discuss updates on instructional information. They will relay the information to the parents of Humphries. Parents who signed up to work closely on school instruction topics will appear on the GO Team ballot for Humphries. Every Humphries' parent will have his or her own personal login code to vote. This will be sent home on March 3, 2016. The code and instructions will be included on your voting code sheet. Although there are only three names on the ballot, we must follow the procedure and vote for all three. Voting will occur through an online ballot on March 8-14. Any parent without computer access may come to the parent center to use a computer between the hours of 9:00 – 1:00. Thank you for using your parent power and voting for the GO Team members.

In closing parents, I need your help. Each day several parents call the school after 2:00 to change their child's dismissal route. If your child needs to go home a different route, please write a note to the teacher and send it by your student in the morning. When parents call the school, there is often a chance the message will not get relayed to the teacher. The teacher may be out of the room when the office tries to contact them. It is very chaotic for the school when the mode of trans-



Important Dates

March

7	Roadrunner Rally
13	Daylight Savings Time begins
14	Pi Day
17	St. Patrick's Day
18	Professional Learning Day (students do not report)
20	Palm Sunday Spring Equinox
24	Purim
25	Good Friday
27	Easter Sunday
31	Parent Day
April 4-8 Spring Break	

portation changes without early notice. Also, phone calls complicate the process. It is understood that emergencies may happen and we are happy to work with you. However, there are quite a few parents frequently calling at the last minute. Let us all work together to ensure students get to their correct destination each day. Thank you in advance for understanding.

Spring break will occur April 4-8. Your students will be home for one week. Please allow them to read each day. Our students are working to increase their Lexile levels (reading level). Reading is the number one way for it to happen. We must work together for the success of students!

Kindergarten News

We are excited about our SIGHT WORD BEE. The event will be this Friday, March 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The Bee will include the red, yellow, and blue words. Students will be expected to recognize words and read the words in a sentence. 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 has focused on day and night. Students should recognize things in the day and night sky and how it works in our world. We will soon focus on things that are on the earth such as rocks and soils.

Social Studies has helped our students recognize key presidents and what the president's job is. Help your child to recognize the presidents on money, coins and bills.

Please also make sure your child is getting adequate sleep which is 9-10 hours and a good breakfast to get them going so they can begin the day at 7:45.

First Grade News

The fabulous first grade team is excited about teaching and learning here at Humphries Elementary School! Parents, you have done an excellent job with getting your child to school every day so that he/she can take advantage of learning at the highest level possible. We are thankful for your continued support as we have watched our students show academic growth in the areas of reading foundations and mathematics.

School is not over; therefore, please continue to monitor daily homework and skills in each core subject area. We are focusing on the following areas: Reading - Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary Usage, Comprehension of Literary (Fiction) and Informational texts. ELA - Students will be able to develop a written piece composed of one to two paragraphs. In math, students will be able to understand that two digits in a 2-digit number represent tens and ones. In science - Observe, measure, and communicate weather. In social studies - Goods and Services, Scarcity, Harriet Tubman, Thomas Jefferson

Grade Two News

The year is quickly winding down and your child's daily attendance is very important. After the winter break, several units of study have changed. Math will now be focusing on shapes and fractions and science will be focusing on motion. Students will also be adding text features and text structure to their weekly learning goals in reading. Please continue to make sure your child is completing his/her daily homework assignments.

Grade Three News

The Third Grade 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. The following are the skills we are covering.

- Reading Skill: poetry, comparing firsthand and secondhand accounts
- Math: comparing decimals, geometry
- Social Studies : Challenges of a New Nation/Westward Expansion
- Science: Stars and the Solar System

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

Grade Five News

Our students need our collective support now more than ever. As we approach the high stakes testing season, many children begin to experience stress and anxiety. The best antidote to reduce stressors is encouragement and preparation. Your child should be studying across all content areas 1 ½ to 2 hours nightly. Students should be well versed in vocabulary in Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. Please take time to open the glossary in any textbook and quiz your student. All students should know multiplication facts from 1-10 fluently. Completing all homework assignments and completing the practice guide on the Georgia Department of Education website can also boost confidence. Please sign and return progress reports that were issued several weeks ago, and schedule a conference if you have any concerns. Many of you have inquired about year-end promotional activities. We are in the planning stages and will send out information shortly after Spring Break.

Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team has been busy preparing Humphries Roadrunners for the Student Learning Objective (SLO) in the following areas: Art, Music, Spanish, and Physical Education. In Art, students are identifying symmetrical and radical balance in artworks and nature. Also, students are applying processes of two-dimensional artworks and materials. In Spanish, students are exchanging simple spoken and written information in the target language (Spanish) while utilizing cultural references where appropriate. In Music, students have been performing on various instruments and reading simple notation. Students are also singing simple melodies, and identifying percussion instruments. In Physical Education, students have been achieving and maintaining a health enhancing level of physical fitness by participating in the fitnessgram. The Enrichment Team is looking forward to our Humphries Roadrunners excelling

Fuel-Up Play60 Grant

Humphries was awarded the Fuel-Up Play 60 grant for the 2016-17 school year which focuses on nutrition and physical activity. "Breakfast in the Classroom" and "Romp Up for Recess" are the areas in which our school has selected.

Breakfast in the Classroom will be a pilot program which students will go the classroom for breakfast. This will expedite time so that instructions may begin promptly. "Romp Up for Recess" includes aged-appropriate equipment for students to be utilized during their recess. Congratulations to Humphries Elementary School!!

Media Center News

Books for Women's History Month

March is Women's History month. This month highlights women's contributions to history and contemporary life. Here are some books about strong girls and women (both fiction and non-fiction) to share:

- Beard, Darleen. *Operation Clean Sweep.*
- Beatty, Patricia *Bonanza Girl*
- Borden, Louise *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*
- Brown, Monica *My name is Celia : the life of Celia Cruz*
- Chinn-Lee, Cynthia. *Amelia to Zora: Twenty Six women who changed the world*
- Christensen, Bonnie. *The Daring Nellie Bly : America's Star Reporter*
- Corey, Shana *Mermaid Queen: The Spectacular True Story Of Annette Kellerman, Who Swam Her Way To Fame, Fortune & Swimsuit History!*
- Dickinson, Emily. *Poetry for Young People.*
- Freedman, Russell *The voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the struggle for equal rights*
- Fritz, Jean *Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Beecher Preachers*
- George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves.*
- Henkes, Kevin. *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*
- Hensen, Heather. *That Book Woman*
- Hoose, Phillip *Claudette Colvin : Twice Toward Justice*
- Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*
- Kelly, Jaqueline *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*
- Lasky, Kathryn. *Vision of beauty : the story of Sarah Breedlove Walker*
- Lasky, Kathryn. *A voice of her own : the story of Phillis Wheatley, slave poet*
- McCully, Emily *Marvelous Mattie: how Margaret E. Knight became an inventor*
- Pinkney, Andrea. *Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*
- Phelps, Ethel. *Tatterhood and other Tales*
- Polacco, Patricia. *Keeping Quilt*
- Rappaport, Doreen. *Eleanor, Quiet No More*
- Schroeder, Alan. *Minty: A Story of Young Harriett Tubman*
- Silverman, Erica. *Liberty's Voice: The Story of Emma Lazarus*
- Weatherford, Carole. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer*



Our GO Team Candidates

Dyzala Foster

1) What has been your personal involvement with education in our community?

I have served as an after school teacher and school volunteer.

1) Why would you like to serve on the Local School Governance Team (GO Team)?

I would like to serve on the GO Team to offer support to my community.

2) Describe your vision for our school.

I desire that Humphries Elementary School test scores and students activities reflect that we are the best school in the city of Atlanta.



Toravia Hill

1) What has been your personal involvement with education in our community?

My personal involvement includes volunteering at my child's school and attending functions that are beneficial towards the learning needs of the students. I am interested moreso in how I can help to reach out and get other parents involved in helping to promote student needs.

2) Why would you like to serve on the Local School Governance Team (GO Team)?

I would like to get more involved with the community outside of the school and also within. I

want to find ways to contribute to help both students and parents become more involved.

3) Describe your vision for our school.

I would hope that Humphries will become more involved with the community. My vision is for students to be excited about being able to learn and teachers wanting more for the students. I would hope these kids can see that there is an entire world out there full of so many possibilities and if they want to be apart of that, learning is the key. I would hope that they can continue to venture out to get a taste of what is outside of their comfort zones.



America Ricardo

1) What has been your personal involvement with education in our community?

I am usually involved the school activities

2) Why would you like to serve on the Local School Governance Team (GO Team)?

I would like to be more involved in my children's school and help create new ideas that will help to have a safe environment for the children.

3) Describe your vision for our school.

My vision for the school is having a uniquely diverse population and a tradition of quality education, to ensure that each student achieves optimal academic and personal potential by providing a safe and nurturing learning environment, which builds a strong foundation for character development and lifelong learning.