



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

Greetings Parents,

Can you believe another month has already begun? The school year is rapidly moving forward. Our teachers are working diligently to prepare our students for promotion to the next grade. The teachers and I would like your support with making sure students have done their homework. There are several students returning to school each day without their homework. Homework allows the teacher to determine whether students have learned skills and can work independently. Please assist by checking homework each evening.

The Georgia Milestones state test will occur on April 12 – April 19, 2017. There will be some changes to the testing requirements this year. We will host a Milestones Parent Night on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 5:30 PM. It is mandatory that all parents of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students attend this event. We will provide several testing tips and show parents sample test questions. There will be a raffle and refreshments will be served. Your students need you to attend this event.

Registration packets were recently sent home for parents to complete and return. The packets and the necessary documents are due by Tuesday, March 7th. Pre-k students returning for kindergarten must provide all original documents again. This is a state requirement. Also, if you know of any students who will begin kindergarten in the fall, let parents know we register new kindergarten students soon.

Our students have been excited about the recent field trips they have taken. On February 15th, all 3rd – 5th grade students went to see the movie *Hidden Figures*. They learned about the work of three extraordinary African-American women who were talented in math. They were amazed to learn the women helped send a man to space. Our kindergarten – 2nd grade students went to see the Discover the Dinosaurs walking exhibit earlier this week. They enjoyed seeing the puppets and learning about dinosaurs. The students were excited to learn away from school.



March 2017

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 6 Roadrunner Rally
- 12 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 12 Purim
- 14 Pi Day
- 15 Parent Night 5:30 pm for parents
Of grades 3-5
- 17 Professional Learning Day
Students do not report**
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 23 Parent Day

There are approximately four more weeks until spring break. It will occur from April 3 – April 7, 2017. We need our students to attend school every day until then. These are our last weeks to finish learning skills before testing. We thank you for getting the students to school. We are still the holder of the South Atlanta Cluster traveling trophy. With your help, we have kept the trophy now for almost three years.

Thank you parents for working with us to prepare and develop your students' futures. Together we are creating excellence in the next generation.

If your child is in grade 3, 4 or 5, attend Parent Night on March 15, 2017. Learn important information to help your student succeed on Georgia Milestones.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten will be focusing on our new set of sight words "Orange Words". We will continue to review all the previous list of words to get ready for our end of the year Spelling Sight Word Bee! Our focus in math is adding and subtracting numbers and solving word problems. Parent, please continue to work with your child at home with their reading, math and sight words. We truly need all of your assistance. Like they say "It takes a village to raise a child".

First Grade News

March is here and we are looking forward to the beautiful spring weather! In reading we will continue to work on drawing conclusions as we read which a strategy is good readers learn to do naturally. We are using punctuation and context clues to help us read with expression. Below you will find what we are working on in the following subjects listed below:

- Reading & Language Arts. Fiction, non-fiction, realistic fiction, and informational genre. Text-self connection, comparing and contrasting characters, text features Narrative and informational writing.
- Math. Non-standards units of measurement, Word problems, Math fluency facts
- Science Sound
- Social Studies Good and Services

Grade Two News

This month in Reading, we are diligently working with your students on citing evidence from the text when asked questions, making connections, and determining the meaning of unknown words. In Math, we are working with using various strategies to solve multi-digit addition and subtraction equations. Please check with your scholar's teacher to discuss which strategies to use at home so that they will remain consistent in the classroom!

Lastly, please schedule a conference with your scholar's teacher to discuss academic and behavior progress for the year.

MOID K-2

Happy March! Greetings from the MOID K-2 Unit at Humphries' Elementary. We have so many accomplishments that there will barely be enough room in the newsletter to share them all. First, we are truly Special Olympic Champions! In Bowling, during the tournament, championship, We had two first place winners (Joseph Gould and William Morris) and two second place winners (Jacob Hendrix and Ja'Taylor Edmondson). Also, at the Motor Skills Competition, we competed in the Throwing and Tossing, Kicking, Basketball, Striking, Bowling, Bocce, Technology,

Art, Table Top Games, and Parachute Competitions. Each and every one of us received a Challenge Award Ribbon to bring home. We experienced a great deal of success at these games. Finally, academically, we are telling time to the nearest hour, continuing measurement, completing our gravity unit, and beginning our unit on sound. Look forward to great things to continue to come from the MOID K-2 Unit at Humphries' Elementary! We are on the fast track to success!

Grade Three News

We are working on the following skills:

- Math: Fractions / Review
- Reading: Constructed Response/ R.A.C.E.S strategy
- Keyboarding Skills: Typing Skills

Please be sure that the students are reading daily! Continue to practice your Division & Multiplication Facts. (Continue to study multiplication facts 0-7 for mastery). The GA Milestones test is less than 30 days! Please allow our students to practice their keyboarding skills at home. I have included helpful websites below. Please review the websites to give your students some additional practice prior to the big test. Preparation is key!! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if there is any way we can help assist your child!

- Keyboarding practice <https://www.speedtypingonline.com/typing-games>
- GA Dept. of Education Third Grade test sample <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Item-Samplers.aspx>
- RACES strategy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0zB3KTdRng>

Grade Four News

Hello everyone! The Fourth-Grade Team hopes that everyone enjoyed the Winter Break. 2017 is picking up speed and our excitement is building as we prepare to keep accelerating the learning and growth of our incredible 4th grade students. Over the next few months, we will work diligently to ensure our students are prepared for the our different assessments and ready for the challenge that will be 5th grade.

Our students are ready and able to reach and exceed our lofty expectations. As a team, we will continue to excel in all areas of academic studies. The following are the skills we are or soon will be covering:

- Reading Skill: informational texts and research
- Language Arts: writing, vocabulary
- Social Studies: American Revolution and expansion of the USA
- Science: sound, light/energy, simple machines
- Math: equivalent fractions, adding, subtracting, and

comparing fractions

Our students work hard each day to live up to the Humphries Pledge ...to “become independent thinkers, responsible learners and law-abiding citizens.” We celebrate their outstanding accomplishments. At Humphries, we recognize that there are still areas where we can grow and we embrace the challenge to make good better. Good decision making, respecting ourselves and others, and being attentive to one another are the skills we continue to emphasize. Please continue helping us build a strong school-to-home connection by discussing these important concepts and helping your child with homework at home.

Don't forget to ensure each student reads for at least 20 minutes daily and studies their multiplication and division facts. Let us also work on improving our vocabulary by striving to learn new words daily. We are the best elementary school in the city of Atlanta because of our students and families. Let us all strive to be even better in 2017.

Grade Five News

This year is flying by. Your child will soon be leaving their elementary careers behind and heading towards the next chapter in their academic careers. The 5th grade will be attending a transition field trip to Crawford Long Middle School on March 24th. Please encourage your child to stay focused as instruction is far from over. In Math, students are finishing up fractions and beginning a unit on Geometry. In Social Studies, students are learning about conflicts in history like the WWII and the Cold War. Writing in response to reading passages continues to be a challenge. Please join us for a Milestones informational meeting on March 15th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to gain information on testing expectations and its impact on promotional requirements. Thank you for partnering with us this year and please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team is continuously working collaboratively to provide students the foundation preparation for college and career readiness in the areas of Spanish, Art, Music, and Physical Education. In Spanish, students are exchanging simple spoken and written information utilizing the target language, Spanish. In Art, students are applying techniques of two-dimensional art processes while utilizing tools and materials safely. In Music, students are playing melodic instruments to experience reading simple music notation. In Physical Education, students are demonstrating skills and exercises to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

Also, students, grades 3rd through 5th are recognizing the American Heart Association through a fundraiser activity to raise funds in order to enhance the quality of life for others.

From the Media Center Books for Women's History Month

March is Women's History month. This month highlights women's contribution to history and 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*
- Bruchac, Joseph. *Skeleton Man*
- 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, Jan *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. *A Voice of Her Own: the Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet.*
- McCully, Emily *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became and Inventor*
- Phelps, Ethel. *Tatterhood and Other Tales*
- Pinkney, Andrea. *Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*
- Polacco, Patricia. *The 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*



From the Parent Center



Humphries Parents and Community:

GA Milestones is near but have no fear—we have the tools to make it crystal clear. There are workshops, websites, and constructive response that will help make testing much more fun. We're typing using our home row keys, log into www.typing.com and you will see just how fun it can be. Third graders, fourth graders, and fifth graders too, we just want you to know that we believe in you!

We welcome the parents and the community to the Parent Center everyday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The center is located in room 206 on the 2nd floor. I, Ms. Howard, am here to assist you with resourceful information, materials to help with student projects, homework assistance tools, and job lead assistance, resume writing assistance, GED classes, academic workshops, etc.

We are committed to seeing that all parents have the opportunity to become fully engaged with the learning process of their students. One of our goals this year is to give every opportunity for parental in-

volvement. Parent Day which is held every last Thursday of the month is an opportunity for parents to become fully engaged with other parents in the process of learning and volunteer time. To find out more information about this please contact Ms. Howard in the Parent Center. We look forward to meeting and building a partnership with all of our Humphries Parents. We are building a healthy community family!

*Ms. Howard
Parent Liaison*

Upcoming Dates to Remember

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15
5:30PM PARENT NIGHT
FOR 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH PARENTS,
GEORGIA MILESTONES TESTING
STRATEGIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
11:00AM TO 1:00PM
PARENT DAY