



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2015

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

Greetings Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday break. I think we all needed a rest. I am excited to share that our school just had the first Sight Word/Spelling Word Bee. The students in kindergarten and first grade competed by either recognizing their sight words or spelling them. We are trying to push our students from the very first years of learning. The teachers are working to build strong readers. We had many parents who worked with their students to recognize their sight words. This was a great way for parents to support their learners.

The South Atlanta Cluster principals have hosted several community meetings to explain the STEM model that our cluster will offer to students. In addition, each school in the cluster will have a team that supports instruction in the schools. The Local Governance School Team will work closely with the principal to support how learning can be improved. They will also assist with making decisions about budget and school operations. In January, there will be an election for parents in our school to vote for parents to represent on the team. If you are interested in running, please contact me.

The heating and air conditioning project is well under way. All teachers who will be relocating to another classroom will begin packing next week. We appreciate parent's understanding during the construction project. Our teachers have remained focused on teaching, in spite of the work going on around them. They will work after school hours to get their packing done. The teachers will also return from the Winter Holiday Break early to have their new classrooms ready in January.

Our school has earned the attendance trophy for the month of November. We thank all parents for sending your students to school. On Monday, December 7, 100+ students will be rewarded with a field trip for satisfactory attendance. They will dress up and travel to a downtown location for a cocoa and cookie program. The students are extremely proud of themselves for their attendance accomplishments.

We are nearing the end of the semester. Please ensure that students continue to submit their homework and submit all assignments. We want all students to finish the semester strong. Parents, we thank you for your continued support. Happy holidays to all of our roadrunner families!



Important Dates

December

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
Commerce Club Field Trip
First Day of Hanukkah
- 11 Grade Two Field Trip
Birthday Celebration
- 12 Holiday Program 1:00 pm**
- 14 Last Day of Hanukkah
- 17 Wright Brother's Day
- 18 End of First Semester
- 21-Jan 5 Winter Break No School**
- 22 December Solstice
- 24 Prophet's Birthday
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa begins

January

- 1 New Years Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 6-Feb 22 Computer Adaptive Testing
- 5 Professional Learning Day
Students do not report**
- 6 Students return from Winter
Break**
- 18 Martin Luther King Day
Holiday—School is closed**
- 25 Tu BishVat

Kindergarten News

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

For the next few weeks in ELA, we are focusing in on informational, or non-fiction text. Please find out what your kids are curious about, then find books on the topics. This gives them a foundation for what is real in our world. 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 will describe objects in terms of the materials they are made of and their physical properties. We will compare and sort materials of different composition such as common materials including clay, cloth, paper, and plastic. We will also use our senses to classify common materials, such as buttons or swatches of cloth, according to their physical attributes (color, size, shape, weight, texture, buoyancy, flexibility).

Our diverse communities are the focus in Social Studies. Why do we have diverse communities and family celebrations and customs? Discuss some of the traditions you and your family celebrate during this holiday season. 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 on the move as we wind down this first semester! We are reading, writing, and spelling those famous sight words. We are becoming super readers.

In science we have explored magnets and magnetic forces. In social studies we are learning about how we fit in our world and famous Americans. We enjoyed our trip to the High Museum and learned that artists see the world in a variety of ways and use art to express themselves.

During our career day, we learned about all the great careers that are waiting for us when we graduate! We can't wait for next semester.

Grade Two News

We are quickly approaching the holidays and the end of the first semester. Some of the skills have changed for the different subjects. In math, we are studying measurement, which will also cover time and money, In Social Studies we are still studying our great state of Georgia but it is focusing on the first people of the state and in science we will begin to talk about matter. Parents it is imperative that you stay on your child about his/her homework, classroom behavior, and assignments. As always, you are encouraged to volunteer in your child's classroom.

Grade Three News

The 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: nonfictional text, comparing two or more texts with the same topic,
- Language Arts: informational writing ,
- Social Studies: Causes of the American Revolution
- Science: sound, light/energy, simple machines
- Math: equivalent fractions, adding, subtracting, and comparing fractions

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

Grade Five News

Seasons Greetings,

The first half of the school year is quickly coming to a close. Several weeks ago your child received a progress report and their fourth grade Milestones test scores. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher. Success on the fifth grade Milestones is a state requirement for promotion to the 6th grade. Attitude and regular attendance have a great impact on academic achievement. Several fifth graders have been chosen to attend a special event at the Commerce Club for having good attendance and excellent behavior. Our current topics of study are fractions, poetry, westward expansion, and chemical and physical change. Please make sure that your child is studying and completing all assignments. We look forward to working in tandem with you in 2016. Happy Holidays!

Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team is preparing for an exciting and entertaining holiday program titled "Joyous Sounds of the Season" which will occur on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 in the multi-purpose building. Your child will be engaged in singing popular holiday songs, as well as singing songs in Spanish, and moving to the beat of the music to famous musical tunes. So come out, and help us celebrate this holiday season. 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!



From the Media Center

December and January are good times to read about winter and all the holidays that happen at this time of year. Here are some suggestions:

- Bunting, Eve December
- Burton, Virginia Lee Katy and the Big Snow
- Chocolate, Deborah A First Book of Kwanzaa
- De Paola, Tomie Night of Las Posadas
- Farmer, Jacqueline O Christmas Tree
- Gibbons, Gail Christmas Is
- Hader, Berta and Elmer Big Snow
- Hopkins, Lee Hanukkah Lights: Hanukkah Poetry
- Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane Three Kings Day
- Krensky, Stephen Hanukkah at Valley Forge
- McCutcheon, John Christmas in the Trenches
- McKissack, Patricia The All-I'll-Ever-Want for Christmas Doll
- Medearis, Angelus Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story
- O'Connell, Rebecca Penina Levine is a Potato Pancake
- Patrick, Dennis Longest Ride
- Paulsen, Gary Brian's Winter
- Pfeffer, Wendy The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice
- Polacco, Patricia Trees of the Dancing Goats
- Porter, Connie Addy's Surprise
- Roberts, Bethany Christmas Mice
- Simmonds, Posy F-freezing ABC
- Steig, William Brave Irene
- Stone, Lynn El Invierno
- Stringer, Lauren Winter is the Warmest Season
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls Long Winter
- Yolen, Jane Owl Moon
