



# HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**April 2017**

Melanie Mitchell, Principal  
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

## Principal's Message



**Melanie Mitchell**

Greetings Parents,

We have reached the countdown to starting spring break! School will be closed from April 3rd through April 7th for spring break. Students should return to school on April 10th. Please allow students time to read and use i-ready or Study Island. All students have passwords that work away from school.

**After reading the April newsletter, please call the office by April 14 and let them know your name, your child's name and grade level. Tell the office staff, "I read the newsletter" and you will be placed into a raffle for parent participation. I am trying to see how many people will call.**

The Georgia Milestones state assessment will be given to students in grades 3, 4 and 5 beginning April 5, 2017. I hope the Milestones Parent Meeting provided our parents with an understanding of the test expectations. Our students will be required to take the assessment on the computer. Students will have to read, think and respond in a timed manner. Our request is that parents ensure students go to bed early and arrive at school by 7:30 to have breakfast. The test will begin each day at 8:30 AM. Please assist by making sure students arrive on time and scheduling all appointments after 1:00. **Student performance on the Georgia Milestones assessment will be used to determine promotion to the next grade. All students must be present for testing.**

During the month of May, we will have a very busy calendar. Some very important upcoming dates are listed below:

Bookfair—May 1-5

Field Day - May 9

Georgia Milestones Re-Test—May 17-19

Pre-K Promotion – May 23, 5:00 PM

Kindergarten Promotion – May 23, 9:00 AM

5th Grade Promotion – May 24, 12:30 PM

Honor's Day 1st/2nd Grade – May 24, 8:15 AM

Honor's Day 3rd/4th Grade – May 24, 10:00 AM

Last Day of School – May 25

## April is National School Library Month and National Poetry Month



More information will be sent home prior to the date of each activity.

Please continue to check student book bags on Thursdays. We send flyers home to provide you with detailed information. We also ask that you check our website to stay updated on information.

### **April 2017**

- |              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1            | April Fool's Day                  |
| <b>3-7</b>   | <b>Spring Break (No School)</b>   |
| 9            | Palm Sunday                       |
| 9-15         | National Library Week             |
| 11           | National Library Workers Day      |
| 11           | First Day of Passover             |
| 14           | Good Friday                       |
| 15           | Tax Day                           |
| 16           | Easter                            |
| 23-29        | National Volunteer Week           |
| 24           | Isra and Mi'raj                   |
| <b>12-27</b> | <b>Georgia Milestones Testing</b> |
| 26           | Administrative Professionals Day  |
| 27           | Poem in Your Pocket Day           |

## Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten Team is winding down and preparing for the end of the year. We have planned a few activities for the students. Please mark your calendars and come prepared ready to celebrate. FYI, two of the activities involve your child knowing their SIGHT WORDS.

- Friday, April 21 Sight Word Egg Hunt 9-10 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 9 Field Day 9-2 p.m.
- Monday, May 15 Sight Word Bee (ALL students will participate) WHO will be crowned KING and QUEEN?
- Tuesday, May 23 Promotional Ceremony. ALL girls are to wear WHITE dresses and ALL boys need WHITE dress shirts and DARK pants

## First Grade News

April is a busy month as we continue to implement rigorous standards in all subject areas. Parents we NEED your SUPPORT to ensure that students are using the strategies taught in class at home as well. Please assist with homework, sight and math fact fluency recall.

**Reading:** The first graders have been doing super things as readers! They are reading carefully, thinking about the story while they are reading, and so much more! Students have been working on fluency while reading. They are working on reading their sentences smoothly and with expression, while also reading at a natural rate. Students are also making sure to pay attention to and use punctuation when reading too. These are great skills to practice at home!

**Math:** In math we are beginning a unit centered on two-digit addition and solving based on place value. Students will review how to represent two digit numbers using tens (ten stick) and ones (a circle). This will help students create a proof drawing by representing the numbers and then determining if there are enough ones to make a new group of ten. Using their proof drawing students can count the groups of tens and ones to determine the total.

**Science :** In science we will continue to identify basic types of sound, the characteristic of sound and that variation cause sound.

**Social Studies:** In social studies will continue to read and describe the contributions of Theodore Roosevelt and other American Historical figures.

## Grade Two News

As we begin to near the end of the semester, we are focusing on reviewing and reteaching concepts and skills not mastered throughout the year. Please schedule a conference with your child's teacher to discuss their progress, assessments, and behavior. Report cards were sent home at the

end of March; if you have not received one please contact the school. We are continuously working on addition and subtraction of one, two, and three digit numbers, dividing shapes into fractions, and reading comprehension. Homework is still passed out each week, so please check for it and sign it daily!

## MOID K-2

"April Showers Bring Learning Powers!" That phrase perfectly describes the superheroes in the MOID K-2 Unit at Humphries Elementary. We are busy as ever and learning is .....oh so fun!

This month there is a great deal going on. We are study still studying sound and the varying vibrations that create sound. We also linked sound to different genres of music. We listened to Rap/Hip-Hop, Country, Classical, Jazz, Rock, Gospel, and more. We then took a field study trip around the Humphries community to poll our administrators, teachers, staff, and peers to find out their favorite types of music. We had a lot of Hip Hop fans; however, people liked jazz, gospel, rock and country as well. We also are beginning to delve into poetry. We are loving how the stanzas in poetry is like the lyrics in rap with rhyme and alliteration. Finally, we are just learning the concept of "adding together" and "taking away". We are so excited to learn about the subject of addition and subtraction. Tune in for our May updates. See you soon!

## Grade Three News

April is here!! Please be reminded that Spring Break will be April 3rd -7th. Students will return to school on April 10th. Please be sure that throughout the break students are reading daily!

The GA Milestones test will be held the second week of April after Spring Break. We want our students to give their best on the test!! So, Parents we need your help!! Please make sure our students are in bed by 9pm each night. Please make sure that they arrive to school early so that they are able to have breakfast before the test.

Throughout the break please allow our students to practice their keyboarding skills at home (see the website 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

The Team would like to remind you of how critical fourth grade is in your child's elementary career. 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 fourth graders are losing focus and are not actively engaged in the learning process. Learning is active and requires effort. Georgia Milestone Testing (GMAS) will begin on April 17th for fourth graders and we are working diligently to prepare the students for the rigors of the exam with quality instruction. 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 Five News

We are in the homestretch! Shortly after Spring Break, our students will begin Milestones testing (April 12th). Students should review notes and study guides, and complete computer-based tutorials over the break. They should also continue to complete all classroom and homework assignments. Students have log-on passwords for the following websites: I-Ready.com, studyisland.com, brainpop.com and studiesweekly.com. They can also reread textbooks and study the vocabulary located in the back of their textbooks.

During testing, please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and encouragement in order to do his or her personal best. You may examine examples of previous test questions, download study guides, and review cut off scores required to be promoted to the sixth grade on the Georgia Department of Education website.

Report cards were issued on March 24th. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Information regarding year-end and promotional activities will be sent home in the near future.

## Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team has been continuously enhancing the learning environment through the subject areas of Art, Music, Spanish, and Physical Education. In Art, students are applying medium techniques of 2 dimensional art processes with the use of construction paper to create a color collage. In Music, students are learning about history and culture through various music presentations. In Spanish, students are exchanging simple spoken word, Spanish, by utilizing cultural references where appropriate such as name of seasons, and 12 months in the year. In Physical Educa-

tion, students are demonstrating knowledge and skills in order to achieve a level of physical fitness by participating in the fitness gram (grades 4th & 5th), and performing animal movements and utilizing pull-up bar. Also, Enrichment Team is monitoring students, grades 3rd through 5th, typing lessons in order to improve typing skills for the Milestone. Go Humphries Roadrunners!



## Media Center News National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month. Poetry is not only wonderful to read but great for improving reading skills. Here are a few great books of poetry to explore with your children and students during Poetry Month:

- Bruchac, Joseph Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons
- Bryan, Ashley. Ashley Bryan's ABC of African-American Poetry
- Dickinson, Emily. Poetry for Young People
- Fleischman, Paul. I am Phoenix: Poems for Two Voices
- Frost, Robert. Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States.
- Hughes, Langston. Dream Keeper and Other Poems
- Janeczko, Paul. A Kick in the Head: an Everyday Guide of Poetic Forms
- Johnson, James Weldon. The Creation.
- Lindbergh, Reeve. Johnny Appleseed.
- London, Jonathan. I See the Moon and the Moon Sees Me
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.
- Mora, Pat. Confetti: Poems for Children
- Silverstein, Shel. Where the Sidewalk Ends.
- O'Neill, Mary Hailstones and Halibut Bones
- Soto, Gary A Fire in my Hands
- Stevenson, Robert Louis A Child's Garden of Verses.
- Tadj, Veronique. Talking Drums: A Collection of Poems from Africa South of the Sahara
- Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth The Sun, the Moon and the Stars
- Woodson, Jacqueline Locomotion

## Spring Break E-Reading

No matter where Spring Break takes you, APS eBooks are always there. Anywhere, anytime, forever eBooks can be downloaded to every device in the district and to the personal devices of every APS family member. APS students, teachers, and families have access to thousands of non-fiction and fiction titles on the Atlanta Public School's eBook Shelf @ <http://tinyAPS.com/?eBooks>

## Career Day Hats

Career hats for Humphries' career Field Day!!! Hats are only \$4.00. Each grade level is represent a career!! Order a career hat for your child today!! Deadline is March 31st.



# From the Parent Center



Humphries Parents and Community:

Spring is in the air!!! This is my favorite time of year. The birds are chirping, bees are buzzing, the flowers are blooming and longer days. Parents take this time to do some outside activities and maybe take on a new family hobby. This time would be perfect to start a new book series or tackle some much needed cleaning, sorting and donating. Whatever your family decides to do just make sure that you do it together, always make it a learning experience!

The Parent Center opens everyday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The center is located in room 206 on the second floor. I, Ms. Howard, am here to assist you with resourceful information, some 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 involvement. 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

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](http://www.typing.com) and you will see just how much fun it can be. Third graders, fourth graders, and fifth graders too we just want you to know that we believe in you!

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Spring Break Monday April 4- Friday, April 7
- Georgia Milestones Testing for grades 3-5 April 12- April 27 (If you have a child in grades 3-5 please make sure they are here every day and on time!)