



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 2017



Principal's Message

Greetings Parents,

Can you believe we have been in school for almost one month! We are so happy to have our students back in school. Student attendance is very important at Humphries Elementary School. When students are not in school, it is difficult to learn the skills taught at each grade level. We expect students to attend school every day, unless they have a fever or a runny stomach. Our attendance goal this year is to ensure that at least 97% of students attend school regularly, with fewer than five absences per student.

We have a very aggressive attendance plan for students in grades kindergarten through 5th to support student learning. When students are absent, they must return to school with a doctor's note. Every absence is documented, even when students have a note. A student is not allowed to miss more than five days for the entire school year (excused or unexcused).

Student absences, tardies and early dismissals will be monitored very carefully. Students should be on time and stay until dismissal. If a student has an appointment, a doctor's excuse should always be provided. The administrators will work closely with the counselor and the social worker to support your student. Please read the attendance plan of action that will be followed at the school:

Absences

After 2, monthly letter sent home
After 3, social worker contact
After 4, counselor monitors student

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Connie Todd-Johnson, Assistant Principal

Tardies

After 2, monthly letter sent home
After 3, social worker contact
After 4, counselor monitors student

Early Dismissal

After 2, monthly letter sent home
After 3, social worker contact
After 4, counselor monitors student

Student attendance is celebrated each week with a hallway dance. If your student has been at school every day, he/she gets to participate in a five-minute hallway dance on Fridays. Monthly pizza parties will be held, based on the highest attendance rates. If students have been absent three days or less for the first semester, they will earn a field trip (behavior matters) and an incentive valued at \$25 or more. In January, student attendance tracking will continue.

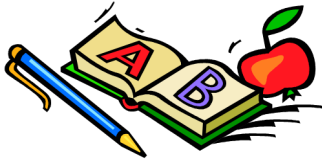
We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 5 or more days over the course of an entire school year. We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session (make afternoon appointments).
- Set an alarm clock to wake up in the morning.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.



Kindergarten News

Welcome to a new school year! We want your child to have a wonderful kindergarten experience. We believe that all children can and want to learn. Our goal is to help your child be an independent, lifelong learner. We want to develop and maintain an "I can" and "I will try" attitude. This positive attitude promotes success and happiness. Many important and exciting events will be happening this year that I will be relaying to you through notes and monthly newsletters. We are looking forward to a great year working with your children.



First Grade News

Welcome to First Grade! We are excited about the 2017 - 2018 school year. We have a lot of fun team building activities that will accompany our daily learning. We want to form strong relationships between our students, parents, and teachers. It is important for us to work together to grow our students. We would like to thank you for sending your child to school in their uniforms everyday (Monday through Friday). We have started working on Reading and Writing across the curriculum, focusing on sight word fluency and developing meaningful sentences. In mathematics, we are working on counting and writing numbers from 1 to 120. We are studying weather in science.

Grade Two News

The Second Grade Team welcomes you and your child to the exciting world of second grade at HES. The adventure you and your child are about to begin will be stimulating, demanding, and fulfilling. Our responsibilities are many and the Team will help your child discover his/her possibilities. Your child will be encouraged to learn and flourish in a safe and dynamic educational environment. Your child will have the freedom to experiment, explore, seek, and question without fear of failure. Our classrooms are structured so that each child can achieve his or her highest potential.

It is your responsibility to have your child arrive to school on time, ready, and able to learn. A happy, well-rested child will meet the exciting challenges of school each day. Please let your child know that their learning is

exciting and wonderful. As educators, we make every effort to provide a stimulating, educational experience and we will do our best to make sure that each student develops academically, socially, and emotionally. In closing, we are looking forward to an excellent school year. Please know that we are here to help you and your child in any way. Let the journey begin!

MOID K-2

The MOID K-2 Unit at Humphries' Elementary School is off to the best start! We are Super Readers, Super Engineers, Super Scientists, and Super Learners. We will be showcasing our skills from August to May so stay tuned and follow us throughout our Super Year. Thus far, we are off to a great start! On Monday, we had a Super Celebration for the Solar Eclipse Event. First we made Sun Sandwiches, which are basically egg salad sandwiches on both bread and bagels to satisfy all taste buds. We also had deviled eggs for the more elite connoisseurs in our class. Finally, we wish you could feast your eyes on our Solar Eclipse Cosmic Cake. Yes it was delicious. However, we also learned a lot. We learned that a Solar Eclipse occurs when the new moon passes directly between the Earth and the Sun which casts a shadow on the Earth and blocks our view of the Sun. We also drew pictures of the Eclipse and you are all welcome to visit Humphries to see our high quality work on display.

Grade Three News

Welcome Back!! We are off to a great start!

For September, we are working on the following skills:

- Math: Rounding & Multiplication Facts (Continue to study facts 0-5 for mastery)
- Reading: Text dependent questions
- Science: Ga Habitats
- Social Studies: Native Americans/ Map Skills
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Our daily homework is used to reinforce skills we learn or will learn in class each day. It is very important to turn in homework on THURSDAYS. Homework should be completed and their names should be visible. Our students should be reading daily. Please check with your child's teacher to get your student's lexile level range, so that they are reading the appropriate level text. Also, continue practicing multiplication facts 0-5, our Math Ninja contest is underway. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if there is any way we can help assist your child!

Grade Four News

Welcome back to Humphries! We have completed one month of teaching and learning at our Fine, Fine School! Please make sure you sign up for the Class Dojo to receive updates about your child and keep track of your child's behavior. We are having a major concerns with studying and reviewing notes from previous lessons. Students receive extensive and very helpful notes each week. These notes help them to prepare and be successful on weekly assessments. Please remind them to study their notes. Students are given homework daily so please check for that every night. For the upcoming month, we will be focusing on Theme, Narrative Writing , Relative Pronouns, Place Value, Stars and Constellations (Compare & Contrast – Attributes of stars versus Attributes of planets, and European Explorers coming to America (Conflicts that began after initial meeting with Native Americans)

Also, please make sure your child is reading DAILY AT HOME. Students should have AR books checked out from the media center to read at home. Please ensure that they read independently or to you daily.

Grade Five News

We are off and running! Fifth graders are building electrical circuits and exploring the magic of the powers of ten. They are also striving to meet their individual Accelerated Reader goals. Other topics of study include the Civil War, narrative writing, reading complex texts, and answering thought provoking questions. We have also concluded our STAR Reading and Math testing. Please schedule a conference early to find out about your child's strengths and weaknesses. Together in partnership we can achieve academic greatness! We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Enrichment News

During PE, students will be focusing on Physical Education Standards 1 & 2. Students will demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns. Students will also develop an understanding of movement concepts. We will also be discussing the importance of self-management and participating in locomotor/non-locomotor movements.

In ART, 5th graders will be creating cave art using images of animals from magazines; 4th graders will drawing landscapes; 3rd grade will be creating cray-on etchings ; 2nd grade will be drawing trees using a variety of lines; 1st grade will be drawing an outdoor scene from a window; and K/ Pre K will be going outside to draw lines that they see in the environment.

During MUSIC, students will learn to respond to music through listening, moving, singing, and playing instruments. Also they will learn to identify and name contrasts in music: long-short, beat-no beat, loud -soft, fast-slow, high-low, upward-downward, and accompaniment. Students will perform simple melodies on xylophones and conga drums in order to reiterate rhythm, steady beat, and tempo. They will learn their voice in music in order to sing and perform single melodies, songs and varied repertoire. Also, the students will classify melody, rhythm, tempo, and the contour of a melody in order to understand the lyrics of a song.

In SPANISH, students use sequential information such as cardinal numbers. They will be able to say and spell numbers starting from zero. Learning numbers is a prerequisite to learning additional skills such as telling time, doing mathematical computations, talking about the days of the week, discussing months and dates of events, etc.



Breakfast in the Cafeteria

Breakfast in the cafeteria is served until 7:55 AM. Any student arriving between 7:55 – 8:15 will be served grab and go style to eat in the classroom. Any morning arrivals after 8:15 AM should eat before arriving at school.

News From the Counselor

This year, our students are working on building character and embodying the ideas of what it means to be kind, cooperative, and respectful. Over the month of August, all students received classroom lessons on what it means to be kind. This included kind words to use and kind actions to practice at home, in the classroom, on the bus, in the hallways, at recess, in the cafeteria, etc. The focus for the counseling classroom lessons for September will be cooperation. Students will not only learn about why working with others is important, but will also have hands on opportunities in these lessons to practice and refine these skills. Conflict resolution techniques will also be addressed during September and students will practice working out conflicts on their own. Be sure to ask your little one about what they are learning in these counseling lessons so they can share their new knowledge with you! I look forward to a fabulous year with your students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me, Ms. Gowan, at (404) 802-8761.

September 2017

2	Eid Al-Adha
4	Labor Day—School is closed
8	Grandparents' Luncheon
9	Progress Reports due
11	Patriot Day Roadrunner Rally
12	PTA Meeting 5:00 pm
15	National Hispanic Heritage Month begins
17	Constitution Day
21	Rosh Hashana
22	Autumnal Equinox Muharram
24	National Punctuation Day
25	School Picture Day
29	STEM Activity Day
30	Yom Kippur

GO Team Meeting

The next GO Team meeting will be held on October 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm. All stakeholders are invited to observe.

From the Media Center

September is a good month to read books about school and reading. Here are a few books to share with your children and students.

- Allard, Harry. [Miss Nelson is Missing](#).
- Bridges, Shirin [Ruby's Wish](#)
- Bunting, Eve. [The Wednesday Surprise](#).
- Clements, Andrew. [No Talking](#).
- Ernst, Lisa. [Stella Louella's Runaway Book](#)
- Evento, Susan. [Mary McLeod Bethune](#)
- Grabenstein, Chris [Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#)
- Henkes, Kevin. [Lily's Purple Plastic Purse](#)
- Henson, Heather [That Book Woman](#)
- Kline, Suzy. [Horrible Harry](#)
- Knudsen, Michelle. [Library Lion](#)
- Lovell, Patty. [Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon](#)
- Mayer, Mercer. [First Day of School](#)
- McKissack, Patricia. [Going Someplace Special](#)
- Miller, William. [Richard Wright and the Library Card](#)
- Mills, Claudia. [Fractions = Trouble](#)
- Mora, Pat [Tomas and the Library Lady](#)
- Murray, Laura. [The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School](#)
- Polacco, Patricia. [Thank You, Mr. Falker](#)
- Porter, Connie. [Addy Learns a Lesson](#)
- Rey, H. A. [Curious George Learns the Alphabet](#)
- Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie [Elizabeth's School](#)
- Weatherford, Carole. [Dear Mr. Rosenwald](#)
- Williams, Suzanne [Library Lil](#)
- Yolen, Jane. [How do Dinosaurs Go to School?](#)

LIBRARY CARDS FOR ALL!

Do you have a library card? Does your child?

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. All students who attend an Atlanta Public School are eligible for a library card to the Atlanta-Fulton Public Libraries. Let us put a library card into every student's hand so they will have access to learning and fun resources and books – all available for free in our libraries!

Visit your closest branch or online at www.afpls.org to sign up for your library card today!