



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2017

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Connie Todd-Johnson, Assistant Principal



Principal's Message

Fall is in the air! The time will fall back one hour in two weeks. Lately the mornings have been very dark, while our students are traveling to school. Please make sure students are being walked to school or watched at the bus stop.

Our Accelerated Reader Program (AR) is off to a great start. This year our students have been challenged to read books per week (picture and/or chapter) according to their reading level. We ask that all parents require their students to read at home. Reading for at least 15 per night increases student comprehension, which increases their Lexile levels. Our students are very intelligent scholars. They simply need to be pushed to reach excellence. If you would like to have the AR test results emailed to you, please call the front office and leave your email address.

The quarter one report cards were recently sent home. If you did not receive one for students in grades 2-5 you may call the school office. There were several complications with the new standards-based report cards for students in grades kindergarten and one. The standards-based report card gives students a progress rating for mastery on the standards learned. During the younger years, students are introduced to skills. The progress score gives parents an understanding of how students are doing. There are opportunities for teachers to look at data and decide what skills students need more time learning. This form of grading is new for APS. We ask that you remain patient as the district corrects challenges with the electronic grade book.

Parent conferences are welcome. If parents have questions about how to help students learn skills being



November 2017

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| 1 | Make-up Picture Day |
| 1 | Dia de los Muertos begins |
| 2 | All Souls' Day |
| 5 | Daylight Savings Time |
| 6 | Roadrunner Rally |
| 7 | Election Day—students do not report. PL day for staff. |
| 9 | APS Progress Reports |
| 10 | Veterans Day Observed-school is open |
| 11 | Veterans Day |
| 16 | Parent Day 10-1 |
| 20-24 | Thanksgiving Break |
| 27 | ITBS testing begins |

taught in any grade level, a conference is a great way to have communication with the teacher. During a parent conference, questions may be asked, data can be reviewed and goals may be set for students. A conference may be scheduled by calling the front office or emailing the teacher to request one. The email addresses are listed on the website.

This Friday, we will celebrate being drug free for Red Ribbon week by wearing a super hero costume. We will also have a trunk or treat and hallway parade for Halloween. Candy is needed for all grade levels. This is a reminder to send candy to school for the occasion.

Thank you for continuing to work collaboratively with our teachers and staff.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has been off to a wonderful start. The children have settled quickly into classroom routines and are learning to become more independent. They show positive attitudes towards learning and they are learning to be supportive, kind, and respectful. Parents please continue to work with your child daily on sight word recognition, this will assist your child with reading fluency.

- Language Arts—Kindergarten will be continuing to review their letters and letter sounds as well as practice their printing every day.
- Reading—Students are learning the difference between a nonfiction and fiction book. We are learning about the author, illustrator, and the parts of a book.
- Math—In math we will continue to count and write our numbers 0-20, count by 10's to 100 and match the number to the object it represents (one to one correspondence). Our focus skill is place value with numbers 11-19.
- Science—Students will learn about Earth's materials and resources.
- Social Studies—Students studied and learned about Christopher Columbus, cardinal directions and the globe. We will learn about where we live on the map, our state, city and address.

First Grade News

As we enter our second quarter of school, your first grader will continue to build their reading comprehension strategies skills which include recognizing the main idea, key details, retelling and sequencing in a text. Please continue to help your child practice reading sight words with speed and accuracy. Recognizing sight words will help your child become a more fluent reader. When reading with your child at home, remember to use these strategies.

In addition to daily reading with your child, you may practice oral sentence dictation as well. This is an important exercise to help your child repeat your sentence and then write it. Also, have them repeat aloud that a sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with an ending punctuation mark before they write.

Here are the skills and concepts that will be covered in our phonics program:

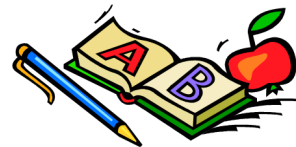
- letter-keyword-sound for consonants and short vowels
- letter formation
- alphabetical order
- sound recognition for consonants and short vowels.

Grade Two News

It was great to see a lot of families at our Literacy Night! Thanks for taking your time to visit and learn how you can support your child at home with reading fluency and reading comprehension. Our students have engaged in many challenging and rewarding learning experiences and there's more to come.

In the month of November, 2nd graders will continue to look at characters in literature and how they respond to major events in the plot. We will also focus on describing and making connections in informational texts. In math, the students will continue to build on concepts learned last year in 1st grade and become more fluent in addition and subtraction. In science, we are learning about stars and in social studies we are learning about Georgia's first people the Native Americans.

Please be involved in your child's education by checking their homework, attendance and academic progress often. Make attending school meetings, events, and parent-teacher conferences a priority. Ask teachers if you can help them find educational materials and resources that they need and if you have time, help the teacher in the classroom.



MOID K-2

Fall is here and we are harvesting great knowledge! The MOID K-2 Unit kicked off our Special Olympics this month and our game of the week was ES - Bocce. Additionally, the doctor on site provided us with our yearly examinations. That was fun! We were allowed to listen to the stethoscope. Next, we are excited to announce that we are beginning our One Fair Science Project. We are conducting research with one of our favorite candies; M&M's. Parents will have to stay tuned as our project progresses to find out more. Finally, in SEL (Social Emotional Learning), Mortimer, our class puppet comes to visit us each day to help us to perfect our social skills. Our topics this month are: Conversation and Compliments and Disagreeing Respectfully. We are diligently learning to perfect our climate and culture and we are excited about implementing what we have learned at home. See you in November!

Grade Three News

This semester is flying by! With the November break approaching, take some time to read with your child. At the end of third grade, students are expected to be reading books at a 820 Lexile level independently. Visit your local library to check out a few books on this level and read them with your child. The better prepared they are, they more successful they will be!

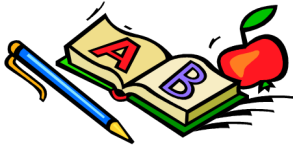
Continue to practice multiplication facts for mastery 0-5. The goal is to have the students master their facts by January. We are making strides, but we still need to keep it going.

Also, Be on the lookout for donation lists for upcoming STEM projects, we will be asking for household recyclable items we can repurpose for STEM activities.

Below are the skills we will be working on in class:

- Reading ELA: Informational Text & Writing
- Social Studies: Explorer
- Math: Multiplication & Division
- Science: Pollution

As always, let us know how we can help you assist your child. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to schedule a conference before the end of the semester. Let's end this semester with a bang!



Grade Four News

The 4th grade Mathematicians are working hard on multiply whole numbers with one digit up to four digits and two two-digit whole numbers. We are getting ready to move into division. Students will be able to divide whole numbers with one divisor up to four digit dividends. For Science, we are starting to learn about force and motion. Also, start brainstorming about Science fair ideas.

In ELA(Reading) and Social Studies, the 4th grade Fantastic readers are learning about drawing specific details like character's thoughts, words and actions in order to describe in depth a character, setting, or even in a story or drama. In Social Studies, students are learning about the major events of the Revolution and explain the factors leading to American victory and British defeat.

Grade Five News

It is hard to believe, but one fourth of the school year is over. Report cards have been issued along with 4th grade Georgia Milestones scores. Please take this time to review your child's proficiencies and deficiencies and stress the importance of studying.

We are experiencing some challenges in reading comprehension, basic math computation and completion of in class and homework assignments. Please schedule a conference to discuss your child's individual progress towards meeting grade level standards and promotional requirements.

Our upcoming units of study include decimals, Earth Science, opinion writing, historical events at the turn of the century and text features. We look forward to collaborating with you to help your child reach their full potential.

Enrichment News

During PE, our focus will be on Standard #2 in which the students will demonstrate an understanding of movement concepts, principles, and strategies as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities. Students will be participating in a variety of activities that involve different Object-Control Skills. The purpose of this unit is to help students develop the skills necessary to play different games.

The students will be engaged in the following activities during ART:

- 5th graders will be painting a still life.
- 4th graders will be finishing their drawing (a close up view of an object from nature).
- 3rd grade will be finishing their landscape drawings.
- 2nd grade will be finishing their drawing (a picture of themselves dancing).
- 1st grade will be finishing their stormy weather drawings.
- K/ Pre K will be creating shape animals.

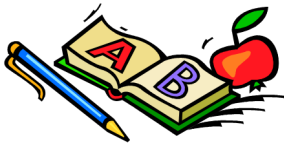
During MUSIC in November, the students will listen to music and learning appropriate songs used to celebrate Thanksgiving.

In addition to reviewing the cardinal numbers, the students of SPANISH will learn to pronounce and spell frequently used colors. Students will be able to make sentences and participate in dialogues using the names of various colors. Also, they will be learning the Pledge of Allegiance in the target language.

News From the Counselor

We are quickly approaching the holiday season. During this time, it is easy to get caught up in the material aspect of the holidays and forget about the real meaning behind these celebrations. At Humphries this fall/winter, students will participate in classroom lessons that focus on gratitude, giving thanks and appreciating all of the things they already have in their lives. I encourage you to continue this discussion at home and to reinforce the lessons they are learning here at Humphries.

Small groups will also be starting up this fall/winter at Humphries. Small group counseling provides an opportunity for students to work with the counselor and other students who have similar interests or concerns. These groups are usually formed based on common themes that have emerged so far this school year (some common examples are social skill building, anger management, academic skill building and changing families situations). Parents/guardians and teachers typically refer students who might benefit from participating in a small group, so if you are interested in learning more about the possible small group options at Humphries Elementary or feel your child would



GO Team Meeting

The next GO Team meeting will be held on December 12, 2017 at 4:00 pm. All stakeholders are invited to observe.



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.



From the Media Center

November is a good month to read about Autumn, harvest and Thanksgiving. Here are a few books to share with your children and students.

- Anderson, Laurie [Thank You, Sarah: the Woman who Saved Thanksgiving](#)
- Barth, Edna . [Turkeys, Pilgrims, and Indian Corn: the Story of the Thanksgiving Symbols](#)
- Brown, Marcia [Stone Soup](#)
- Bruchac, Joseph [Squanto's Journey](#)
- Bunting, Eve. [How many days to America?](#)
- Cherneski, Felicia [From Apple Trees to Cider, Please](#)
- Cohen, Barbara [Molly's Pilgrim](#)
- Crane, Carol [P is for Pilgrim](#)
- Falwell, Cathryn. [Feast for 10](#)
- Galdone, Paul [Little Red Hen](#)
- Gibbons, Gail. [Thanksgiving Is.](#)
- Gershator, David. [Bread is for Eating](#)
- Grace, Catherine. [1621: a New Look at Thanksgiving](#)
- Jackson, Ellen. [The Autumn Equinox: Celebrating the Harvest](#)
- McKenzie, Precious [Lost in the Corn Maze](#)
- McMullan, Kate [Fluffy's Thanksgiving](#)
- Micucci, Charles [The life and Times of Corn](#)
- Miller, Reagan [Sukkot](#)
- Osborne, Mary Pope [Thanksgiving on Thursday](#)
- Pettiford, Rebecca [Harvesting](#)
- Roberts, Bethany [Thanksgiving Mice](#)
- Rockwell, Anne [Apples and Pumpkins](#)
- Schuh, Mari [What Happens in Fall](#)
- Schnur, Steven. [Autumn: an Alphabet Acrostic](#)
- Siegelson, Kim. [Dancing the Ring Shout.](#)
- Uk-Bae, Lee. [Sori's Harvest Moon](#)
- Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth. [Pumpkin Day](#)
- Waters, Kate. [Giving Thanks](#)
- Yolen, Jane. [Harvest Home](#)
- Ziefert, Harriett [By the Light of the Harvest Moon](#)