



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Connie Todd-Johnson, Assistant Principal



Principal's Message

Greetings Parents,

We are in the final weeks of first semester and have a busy calendar for December. The following events will be happening:

Mock Georgia Milestones assessments will be administered for 3rd – 5th on December 5 – December 8, 2017. These assessments will allow the teachers to determine growth since the beginning of the semester. STAR growth assessments for K-2nd grade students will be given December 12 – December 13, 2017. These assessments will inform us how much students have learned since the first day.

On December 20, our students will perform holiday musical selections. All children will perform and are asked to wear red and green. They may also wear Santa hats or holiday headbands. The performance will begin at 8:45 AM. All parents are invited to the performance.

On December 22, we will recognize students for attendance. Students who were enrolled by 9/15/17 and have 3 or less days of absence will be invited to a winter incentive program. Students had to be enrolled at Humphries by 9/15/2017. Students must also continue to display good behavior to attend the event. Due to space limitations, this event will be for students only.

Progress reports will be sent home on November 30. If you are concerned about your student's academic performance, please schedule a conference with the teacher. If you would like access to our Infinite Campus online grade book, call Ms. Todd-Johnson, the assistant principal. Many teachers also use Class Dojo for documenting behavior. We welcome you to stay in contact with the teacher to receive updates. If you are the parent of a kindergarten, first or second grade students, your help is needed practicing letters, sounds and sight words with your student, as well as counting numbers and adding and subtracting. Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students need assistance with learning their multiplication facts. All students should be reading and taking Accelerated Reader comprehension tests to grow their reading

December 2017

- 1 Eid Milad ul-Nabi
- 4 Roadrunner Rally
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 12 GO team meeting 4:00 pm**
- 13 First Day of Hanukkah
- 15 STEM Day
- 19 Word Part Challenge
- 20 PTA Holiday Program 8:45 am**
- 20 Last Day of Hanukkah
- 21 Parent Day**
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 22 End of first Semester
- 25 Christmas
- 25– Jan 5 Winter break-No School for Students**
- 26 Kwanzaa begins

January 2018

- 1 New Years Day
- 1 Kwanzaa ends
- 5 Planning Day for teachers—no students
- 6 Epiphany
- 8 Students return from break**
- 11 Report Cards
- 15 ML King Day—no school**
- 23 Honors Day for semester one
- 23 GO team meeting 4:00 pm**
- 25 Parent Day
- 27 Helen Ruffin Reading Competition

levels. Any parent needing assistance with how to help your student at home, please contact Ms. Howard in the parent center.

Parents, please remind students of the expectation to be kind, cooperative and respectful. We are teaching our students that true character shows when the right thing is done and no one is watching. We thank you for your involvement and look forward to continuously working together.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten We cannot believe that we are now in the month of December! We are growing and learning each and every day in kindergarten! Please continue to work with your child each and every night on sight words, identifying letters, numbers and blending letters to make simple words.

- Reading/ELA~In reading, we have been learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction text, author, illustrator and the design of a book.
- Phonics~We have been working on identifying beginning and ending sounds in words. We are continuing to learn sight words in order to become fluent readers.
- Math~In math, we have been working on counting 1 to 100 by 10's and 1's, place value, decomposing and composing numbers 11 to 19.
- Science~In science, we are learning about the patterns of night and day and what objects we see in a day and night time sky.
- Social Studies~In social studies, we are learning about special holidays and how we celebrate them and how others celebrated special holidays long ago.

Grade One News

December is a very quick month. We will be reviewing and testing. Students will need to be sure to get a good night of sleep. Please continue to make sure that your child completes his/her homework and reads for 15 minutes nightly. This is a very important part of understanding daily classwork.

Holiday parties will be celebrated on the last day of school, December 22, 2017 at 1pm. You are welcome to discuss with your child what he/she would like to bring. Please continue to send in healthy snacks. Thank you to those parents who constantly provide treats for the class. You are appreciated.

Grade Two News

Parents it has been a pleasure seeing your child grow during this first semester. As we wrap up the this semester, we urge you to continue working diligently with your child reading at least 20 minutes each night, as well as practice their addition facts. This will assist in improving their reading comprehension and fluency in reading and math. If you are interested in coming in for a parent conference please send a note to your child's homeroom teacher, indicating which subject you have a concern about.

Also, flu season is upon us, which means that we will need the following items in order to reduce germs in the classroom. Please send hand sanitizer, Kleenex tissue, and disinfectant wipes to ensure that our students stay healthy! Healthy students means great attendance, and great attendance means that great learning can take place. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if there is any way we can help assist your child!

MOID K-2

Gobble Gobble! The MOID K-2 Unit sincerely hopes that all students, teaches, administrators, staff and families had a warm, relaxing, rejuvenating and "filling" Thanksgiving Holiday Break"! The MOID K-2 Unit is excited to update you on our comings and goings.

We participated in One Fair this year; and we are truly excited and grateful to have had that opportunity. We surveyed which color of Plain and Peanut M&M's were the most popular and we had a "sweet" time taste testing as well. We will focus more on the experimental portion of our project next year now that we have clarification. We are life long learners and we strive to do better and go higher. Additionally, we brought home 5 Blue Ribbons from the Special Olympics Motor Activities and yes we celebrated big with Pizza and 100% Apple Juice.

We will be learning to compare numbers for the next few weeks and this will prove to be exciting; as we have determined as a class that Math is our favorite subject. Well.....maybe 2nd to Reading. We can't get enough of literacy this year. One of our favorites was the book, *Jumanji*. We did pretty good on Accelerator Reader as well. So, if you haven't done so already, check this book out! It is a WINNER!

Grade Three News

Greetings Parents! This semester has flown by! Over the break, encourage your students to...

- Read for at least 20 minutes daily!
- Practice multiplication facts for mastery. The goal is to have the students master their 2s, 3s, 4s and 6s and 7s. Please study with them and make or purchase multiplication flashcards.
- Practice typing on typing.com

We will begin focusing more on typing. Our students are expected to type their responses on the Milestone assessment. We want them to be familiar with the keyboard and prepared to type their responses in the platform.

In Reading/ELA, we will continue to focus on main idea and supporting details. Have the students re-view these skills throughout their reading each night. In Math, will continue to focus on division and multiplication, but will move on to Geometry in the upcoming weeks!! In Science, we are finishing up Pollution. In Social Studies, we are learning about European Explorers and Native American Indians. The first semester ends on December 22nd. We will be sending out information about parent- teacher conferences. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact the teachers to schedule a conference time. Happy Holidays!!

Grade Four News

The fourth grade Mathematicians are getting to move into learning about Fractions. Also, students should be studying multiplication facts to prepare for the Math Ninja contest. For Science, we are starting to learn about force and motion. We are learning about simple machines and how they work.

The fourth grade Fantastic readers are learning about different points of view a story can be told in. In Social Studies, students are learning about the major events of the Revolution and to explain the factors leading to American victory and British defeat.



Grade Five News

It's hard to believe that almost one half of this school year has passed. Students are continuing to challenge themselves and set goals to meet and exceed grade level expectations. We are studying different perspectives in reading, argumentative writing, text structure, decimal operations, and constructive and deconstructive processes.

Please encourage your child to read and study previously taught content over the winter break. Also, please review your child's progress report and address weak areas. Everyone should return refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to master this years remaining standards. Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2018!

Enrichment News

In MUSIC, students will sing traditional secular holiday songs in preparation for the Holiday Program. Students will apply reading skills and discuss cultural origins of the songs.

In December, following activities will be occurring in ART:

5th Grade: *SWBAT: Recognize the characteristics of photorealistic paintings. Compare and contrast color schemes in artworks. IOT: Design and create a photo-montage.

4th Grade: SWBAT: Identify primary, secondary, and complementary colors in artworks. Recognize the use of color schemes in artworks. IOT: Design and create an outdoor scene painting.

3rd Grade: SWBAT: Identify shapes in artworks. IOT: Produce shape designs.

2nd Grade: SWBAT: Identify art elements such as geometric shapes. IOT: Make a food collage using geometric shapes.

1st Grade: SWBAT: Identify lines and shapes in art and the human made environment. IOT: Use shapes in a collage.

K: SWBAT: Identify primary and secondary colors in artworks. IOT: Create a painting using your favorite color.

During PE, we will continue to focus 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. Our focus will be on dribbling. Students will learn basic dribbling fundamentals such as proper hand-placement, correct stance, and dribbling on the move. The purpose of this unit is to help students develop the necessary skills to play the game of basketball.

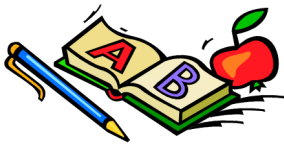
In SPANISH, the students will begin to study a series of topic such as days of the week, months of the year, the seasons and weather. The students will be able to talk about various seasonal activities, holidays, weather forecast, birthdays, important events, etc.

**(Student Will Be Able To (SWBAT); In Order To (IOT))*

News From the Counselor

Humphries Elementary students have had a busy and exciting fall. During October, students participated in Red Ribbon Week. This was a week long anti-drug campaign focused on making healthy and responsible choices for our futures. Students got to dress up and show off their school spirit each day that week and pledged to keep their futures drug free.

In November students in grades 1-5 learned about Georgia's career clusters and the jobs within these categories. Career exposure and exploration is a great concept to start discussing with your child. While they may not know what career they want when they get older, there are important skills they can start building today that will help them in their futures. Organization, relationship building, study skills, empathy, conflict resolution and goal setting are just a few that are valuable and will help them succeed in school and in the world. You can help reinforce these at home, just as we are teaching and reinforcing these at school. Stay tuned for more information about careers as we



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

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
- Kline, Suzy Horrible Harry and the Holidaze
- 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
- Seuss, Dr. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- 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