



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2018



Principal's Message

Greetings Parents,

The most important part of my job is to always make sure your child is safe. In light of increasing situations involving threats in our district, weapons in several schools, and violent acts in school, I have been limiting visitor access to our school. For future safety measures, all classroom visits will have to be requested 24 hours in advance. If the office is not familiar with you, ID will also have to be shown. Please don't get offended, but rather value the fact that we are placing your child's safety as our priority.

Our academic focus is on writing at our school in grades K - 5. The teachers have received on-going writing training during the professional learning days. We are focused on developing the details in our students' writing. Much of the state writing score includes the students' ability to write and include details in their writing. Students in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 will take a mock writing test on March 7, 2017. We will also have mock Georgia Milestones testing on March 8 and March 9.

This month we have evening events planned for parents to attend. It is our goal to make sure all parents have the materials and learn strategies to help students at home. I challenge all parents and want to see you at the activities below. We have planned them especially for all of our families. Please save the date for the events listed below:

- Georgia Milestones Parent Meeting – testing parent meeting and spaghetti dinner for all parents of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Enter the drawing for a chance to win a \$100 AMC Movie gift card. Plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday, March 6, at 5:00 PM.
- Family Read and Camp-In - Family reading night for parents to read at a "camp in" on Wednesday, March 28 at 3:30PM or 5:30PM. Bring blankets/sleeping bags and read by the fireside. Take a free family picture at the photo booth. Learn about the spring break reading challenge. Pick up spring break reading materials. Receive free ebooks/online resources for reading at home. A free book will be given to all

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Connie Todd-Johnson, Assistant Principal

March 2018

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| 1 | Purim |
| 2 | RAA Volunteers Read to students |
| 5 | Roadrunner Rally |
| 6 | GO team meeting 3:30 pm |
| 6 | GMAS parent night 5:00 |
| 9 | Word Part Challenge |
| 11 | Daylight Savings Time Starts |
| 14 | Pi Day |
| 16 | Career Day |
| 16-30 | Book Fair |
| 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| 19 | Professional Learning Day,
Students do not report |
| 20 | March Equinox |
| 25 | Palm Sunday |
| 28 | Family Reading Night |
| 29 | Report Cards |
| 29 | Market Day |
| 29 | Class group picture day |
| 29 | Maundy Thursday |
| 30 | Good Friday |
| 31 | First Day of Passover |

students. The book fair will also be open for book purchases, as well as concession stand to buy food.

- Market Day - Come to The Eagle's Nest Church (across the street from the school) and take home 30 lbs. of groceries. Bring your own grocery bags. The food pantry is open on March 29, at 11:30 AM until the food runs out. Arrive early to avoid limited amounts.

The extended day will end on March 30. After the return from spring break, we will return to a 2:30 PM dismissal on Monday, April 9. Spring break is rapidly approaching. Let's make sure students are at school every day.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your child's school leader.

Kindergarten News

We have been having a happy and healthy second semester. Please don't forget that the school day has been extended an additional 30 minutes until March 30, 2018. Cold weather is still here, so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Label all jackets, hats, mittens, etc. with your child's name. In the event of inclement weather please tune in to the local media or the Atlanta Public Schools website.

Please make sure the school has your correct phone number if not please send it by your child as quickly as possible. If we are dismissing early, your child will go home according to the emergency dismissal form that you completed earlier on this year. If you did not turn one in please do so as soon as possible.

'Tis the season for illness! If your child has been running a fever, vomiting or had diarrhea, they must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child is absent from school, please turn in a note upon their return stating the reason for absence.

Grade One News

In the month of March, first grade will be preparing for the upcoming spring months by planting in the garden. We will be spending more time outside when the weather permits. If you do not want your child to mess up his/her shoes, please send an old pair in their backpacks. They can change before we go out.

On another note, 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 and helps them pass their Accelerated Reader (A/R) quizzes. Remember, they are trying to earn a trip to the game room or a sweet treat. Please continue to send in healthy snacks such as popcorn, sun chips, and gold fish. Thank you to those parents who constantly provide treats for the class. You are Awesome!

Grade Two News

Parents, 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 still 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

The MOID K-2 Unit has officially thawed out and we have returned to school ready for learning. First, we are excited because we competed in Special Olympics Bowling. Next, we conducted an interesting experiment for STEM Friday to study the various household and kitchen items and the effects that they had on ice. Finally, a grant was written by our illustrious APS Technology Specialist, Krynicka Drake! We are going to be directly coding and we will be utilizing Robotics to make it happen! We have two brand new School Robots and their names are Dash and Dot! As usual, there are many great things happening in the MOID K-2 Unit at Humphries. Our goal is to make you proud!

Grade Three News

Greetings Parents! This semester has flown by! Please remember to 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.

Grade Four News

The 4th grade Mathematicians are getting to move into learning about Fraction Operations. Also, students should be studying multiplication facts to prepare for the Math Ninja contest. For Science, we are starting to learn about the weather and water cycle. This will lead to a class discussing about kinetic energy and how matter changes into different states.

The 4th grade Fantastic Readers are learning how to integrate information from the two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. In Social Studies, students will examine the main ideas of the abolitionist and suffrage movements. We will discuss biographies of Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.

Grade Five News

We are hitting the home stretch. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to review your child's progress report that was issued in mid-February and developed a plan of action to address both his/her strengths and weaknesses. Our focus in Language Arts is developing solid written responses to extended reading passages. Please encourage your child to read at least 30 minutes quietly everyday to build reading stamina for Georgia Milestones. Students are also getting reading to study fractions which is a power standard. In Life Science students will be classifying animals and in Social Studies your child will travel through the decades of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Please support homework completion and good study habits to help our students to meet and exceed grade level standards. Thanks for your continued support!

Enrichment News

We had a great month in February, working on Standard #5 in which the students exhibited responsible, personal, and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings. Also, the month of February is known as "Heart Month!" and we participated in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser! The purpose of this fundraiser was to help other kids with heart-related issues as well as empowering our students to improve their own health!

Last month in Spanish, the students continued to study topics such as the days of the week, months of the year, the seasons, and the weather. The students were able to talk about various seasonal activities, holidays, weather forecast, birthdays, and important events.

In MUSIC, we had a wonderful Black History Program. The students learned the importance of anthems... The Nat'l Anthem: Star-Spangled Banner and The Black Negro Anthem: Lift Ev'ry Voice. Students learned the historical background of each song along with the meaning of certain terms within the lyrics. The students also learned the roots and social dynamics of such genres in music: Ragtime, Blues, Rock, Jazz, R&B, and Hip Hop. Throughout the month, they performed on on percussion instruments, did African and Liturgical dancing, along with dramatization of words with creative movement.

In Art, students in grades K-2, studied standard VA1MC.2 Formulate personal responses. a. Makes connections between visual images and personal experiences. And b. Expresses individual ideas, thoughts, and feelings through drawing.

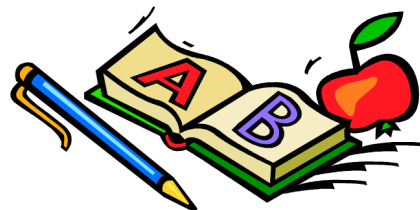
In grades 3—5, they studied VA3MC.3 *Selects and uses subject matter*, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning. a. Generates different viewpoints for making and

interpreting a visual image. And b. Develops open-ended themes/topics in unique and innovative ways (e.g., modifying or combining visual images)



Transportation Changes

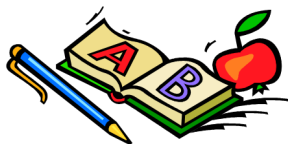
Parents, if your child's end of the day transportation home changes, please let us know by 2:00 pm.



News From the Counselor

We are quickly approaching the end of this school year, and it's hard to believe that we are already in March!

In February we celebrated National School Counseling Week, the 5th-9th, and Random Acts of Kindness Week the 12th-16th. Students were challenged to perform random acts of kindness for others without expecting anything in return. February and March's classroom lessons for all students were focused on bullying prevention and intervention. All students are learning how to recognize, report and respond appropriately to bullying when it occurs. These are great skills that students can take with them moving forward to draw from as needed. Humphries will also be holding its Career Day in March! If you are interested in being a guest speaker for our Career Day, please reach out to me at (404) 802-8761. Thanks for all of your continued support!



BookFair March 16—30, 2018

Come join us for a great bookfair. The Book Fair will take place in the school Media Center. Proceeds support our Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Team. Come, pick out books to read over Spring Break!



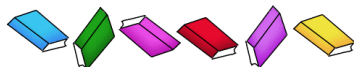
@APSHumphries

Parents please follow us on Twitter: @APSHumphries.



GO Team Meeting

The next GO Team meeting will be held on March 6, 2018 at 3:30 pm, right before the Parent GMAS meeting. All stakeholders are invited to observe.



Kindergarten Roundup And Student Registration

Kindergarten Round Up will be from March 14th—March 16, 2018. Early Registration for Rising 6th graders and 9th grade students only is March 19—March 30, 2018.

The office will be open from 8:30- 12 noon only on these days.

From the Media Center Books for Women's History Month

March is Women's History month. This month highlights women's contribution to history and life. Here are some books about strong girls and women (both fiction and non-fiction) to share.

- Beard, Darleen. *Operation Clean Sweep*
- Beatty, Patricia. *Bonanza Girl*
- Borden, Louise. *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*
- Bruchac, Joseph. *Skeleton Man*
- Brown, Monica. *My name is Celia: the life of Celia Cruz*
- Chinn-Lee, Cynthia. *Amelia to Zora: Twenty Six Women who changed the World.*
- Christensen, Bonnie. *The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter*
- Corey, Shana. *Mermaid Queen: The Spectacular True Story of Annette Kellerman, who Swam her way to Fame, Fortune & Swimsuit History!*
- Dickinson, Emily. *Poetry for Young People.*
- Freedman, Russell. *The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the struggle for equal Rights.*
- Fritz, Jan *Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Beecher Preachers*
- George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves.*
- Henkes, Kevin. *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*
- Hensen, Heather. *That Book Woman*
- Hoose, Phillip *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*
- Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt.*
- Kelly, Jaqueline. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*
- Lasky, Kathryn. *A Voice of Her Own: the Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet.*
- McCully, Emily *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became and Inventor*
- Phelps, Ethel. *Tatterhood and Other Tales*
- Pinkney, Andrea. *Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*
- Polacco, Patricia. *The Keeping Quilt*
- Rappaport, Doreen. *Eleanor, Quiet No More*
- Schroeder, Alan. *Minty: A Story of Young Harriett Tubman*
- Silverman, Erica. *Liberty's Voice: The Story of Emma Lazarus*
- Weatherford, Carole. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer*