



# HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**September 2015**

Melanie Mitchell, Principal  
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

## Principal's Message



**Melanie Mitchell**

Welcome back to a new school year! We are delighted to return to teaching our students and hope that everyone had a wonderful summer.

You may have noticed we have made a few changes this year. We are very excited to have added playground equipment to our backyard. The students are enjoying playtime during recess. This year, our status is identified as a Focus school. This means our pattern in test scores from the previous three years shows that our lowest scoring 25% of students are scoring lower than the state. In addition, the school's science and social studies scores need to improve. You will receive a Title I Designation Parent Notification letter on August 25th. We will also send the Title I required Parent Right to Know letter too. We will be receiving additional funding from the state to help us help our students learn!

Also, we are replacing our elderly heating and air conditioning units with a brand-new, state-of-the-art system that will not only generate a more comfortable environment for our students, but provide better air quality and energy savings. It will take most of the school year to accomplish this. Since it is not safe for students to be in the classrooms where the workers are scheduled to work, we have moved classrooms around and some of the students are now housed outdoors in portable classrooms. This has meant some changes to the Parent Pickup dismissal procedures. We ask your cooperation as we proceed through this school year, and remember to keep your eyes on the goal – cleaner and more comfortable air for our students!

In addition, please remember that we are a uniform school. Our students should wear navy or khaki bottoms and navy, powder blue, yellow or white tops. Please, for your children's safety, make sure that they wear closed toe shoes.

Last but not least, during 2014-2015 school year, we received the Attendance trophy in the South Atlanta cluster for most improved attendance each month. We also earned the highest growth in the district in daily student attendance. We intend to keep this up this year! Please, please remember to bring your children to school every day and on time! I am looking forward to another great school year.



## Important Dates

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Labor Day Holiday— no school</b>                                      |
| 7         | Grandparents' Day  |
| 10        | Progress Reports   |
| 14        | Roadrunner Rally   |
| <b>15</b> | <b>PTA Meeting and Open House</b>  |
| 11        | Patriot Day  |
| 14        | Rosh Hashanah  |
| 15        | National Hispanic Heritage Month begins                                  |
| 17        | Constitution Day   |
| 18        | Dollar Dance   |
| 23        | Autumnal Equinox<br>Yom Kippur   |
| 24        | All Star Parent Volunteer Day<br>National Punctuation Day<br>Eid al-Adha |
| 25        | Activity and STEM Day  |
| 28        | Fifth grade field trip<br>First Day of Sukkot                            |
| 30        | Picture Day  |



Home of the  
Roadrunners

### **Kindergarten News**

Parents, we are so excited to see your children's eager faces every day and ready to learn. Thank you for all the supplies. We are always in need of hand sanitizer, tissue, and Lysol wipes or spray to keep away all the germs. Please remember breakfast closes at 7:50 SHARP. We need our students to have a good breakfast so get them here on time. When students come in late, they have missed vital review that gets them ready for the rest of the day. Also, make sure our little ones are getting enough sleep. They should be in bed by 8:00 p.m. We do not take naps in kindergarten, so they need all the sleep they can get in order to last the whole day.

Remember to go over the sight words every night so our students will be able to soar to new heights! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the front office and set an appointment. We will be glad to meet with you.

### **First Grade News**

Welcome to First Grade! We are excited about the 2015 - 2016 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. Our science lessons have extended beyond the classroom as we took a nature walk and explored different types of trees and other plants. John Henry and Paul Bunyan are the American folk heroes that we have focused on in Social Studies.

### **Second Grade News**

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. The year has started out wonderfully. The students and teachers are so excited about all the upcoming activities at the school this year. Second grade started immediately with instruction, assessing our children, and assigning homework. We are very busy in the classroom, the students are studying place value in math, life cycles of living things in science, sentence structure in language arts and many other exciting things. This year promises to be very challenging for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your child's teacher at (404) 802-8750.

### **Grade Three News**

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. The Third Grade Team is very excited and enthusiastic about teaching your child this year in third grade. It is in your child's best interest that we all work together in regard to his/her education. We believe so much growth can come from a strong classroom community wherein all students feel valued and accepted and learn to value and accept others. Therefore, to promote a caring classroom community, we have been focusing on responsibility, respect, kindness, fairness, acceptance, empathy and helpfulness. Please help us build a strong school-to-home connection by discussing these important concepts and character traits with your child this month at home. In addition, we want to extend a huge thank you to all of you for sending in your child's supplies so quickly. We were incredibly overwhelmed by the amount of supplies the students have! Please continue to replenish school supplies throughout the year and donate and send in healthy snacks for the students to eat! Thanks so much! We are off to a wonderful start. We look forward to having a successful year with you and your child. WATCH US GROW!

### **Grade Four News**

Welcome to fourth grade! Please help us teach your students. Homework will be sent home daily. Please assist your child with completing all assignments and sign and return the next day. Students should read at least twenty minutes a night. In social studies we are studying Native Americans and in science ecosystems. Our students are writing opinion pieces and in math we are working on place value, whole numbers, expanded, standard and word form notation,.

### **Grade Five News**

Welcome back! Our fifth graders are hard at work studying cells and microorganisms, evaluating algebraic expressions, writing persuasive essays and much, much more! Parents, we need you to monitor homework completion, review weekly content area vocabulary, perform multiplication and spelling drills, listen to your child read every day, and most importantly, stay informed and in contact with us. Partner with us as we prepare your child for their next milestone, middle school. We look forward to a very productive and academically challenging year! Contact us, Ms. St. Cyr at [cstcyr@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:cstcyr@atlanta.k12.ga.us) and Mr. Hundley at [jdhundley@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:jdhundley@atlanta.k12.ga.us).

## Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team wishes to welcome all Humphries Roadrunners back to a fantastic 2015-16 school year! The Enrichment Team, which consists of Art, Music, Spanish, and Physical Education, is looking forward to continue to make gains towards our academic goals. Our Spanish classes, grades second through fifth grade have been engaged in learning the Pledge of Allegiance, colors, and verbalizing commands in Spanish. Our students in Music have been exploring the possibilities of singing melodies and will be introduced to music notation. State standards are the focus in our Art classes while students have been active in a structured golf curriculum that promotes character development in our Physical Education classes. The Enrichment Team is looking forward to working with your child!!

## Project P.E.A.C.E. Makers Peers Engaged in Attacking Conflicts Effectively

Conflict occurs every day in the lives of students. When conflict arises, it lets the students involved know that something may be wrong. As a result of not knowing how to positively solve conflict, our students conflicts can be unproductive, ruin friendships, take away from learning, or lead to violence. Students tend to have conflicts with sharing, working together, being friends with more than one person, teasing.

The peer mediation program [Project PEACE] is one way our school assists students on how to deal with difficult situations at school. Peer mediation is voluntary and can also be offered as an alternative to “going to the Assistant Principal’s.” Students in the 3rd-5th grade are trained as “PEACEmakers” to help students in conflict share their concerns, get a better understanding of one another, and come to an agreement on how peacefully handle their issues. It is important to understand that peer mediation is not always appropriate for conflicts that involve violence, weapons, harassment, or bullying until after administrative intervention. Helping students learn how to solve conflicts help them think critically, build decision-making skills, develop healthy relationships, feel safe at school and build a respectful learning environment. Starting in September, the PEACEmakers will be available to help students with conflicts. So if your child comes home and tells you he/she had a conflict with a student ask him/her did she seek the help of a PEACEmaker.

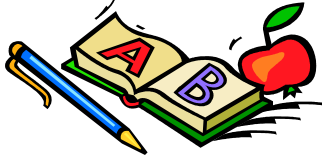
*Dr. Biggins-Horton*



## A Message from the Parent Center

Welcome Humphries Parents to another amazing year here at Humphries Elementary School, I am Ms. Howard your Parent Liaison. It is with great pleasure that I serve as your Parent Liaison again, and I am so excited about all the educational milestones we will accomplish together again this year. My goal and duties as your Parent Liaison is to provide you with an enormous amount of support and knowledge from the inside. In order for me to keep you well-informed I am constantly gathering and compiling information, which the district and I consider important and vital to parents. Through the many avenues of communication (School web page, flyers, emails, Marquee, Robo-calls and social media posting). I am able to do so and will often ask for updated contact information to assure that you receive all information properly and in a timely manner. Parents, you can also receive information by attending workshops and visiting the Parent Resource Center. The Parent Resource Center, is located in room 206, you will find an endless amount of resources, attend monthly parent days every last Thursday of the month, educational workshops, enjoy full internet access and more. Parent participation is very important to us and we are looking for as many parent volunteers as possible. Become an All-Star Parent! Let's work together and make this another amazing year of Parental Involvement and Parental Engagement! For any questions, comments, and/or concerns please feel free to contact me at (404)802-8773 or via email at [gahoward@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:gahoward@atlanta.k12.ga.us). If you believe that:

**Family Involvement  
Encourages Students  
to Achieve then help  
create a wonderful  
F.I.E.S.T.A year for  
Humphries!**



## 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.
- Cleary, Beverly. Muggie Maggie
- 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
- 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
- Rosciolnial, Bruce Johann Gutenberg and the Amazing Printing Press
- Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie Elizabeti's School
- Weatherford, Carole. Dear Mr. Rosenwald
- Williams, Suzanne Library Lil
- Yolen, Jane. How do Dinosaurs Go to School?

## LIBRARY CARD FOR ALL!

Do you have a library card? Does your child?

Did you know that having a library card is super-important?

It can open up the world for kids and adults alike!

As a part of President Obama's ConnectED Library Challenge, Library Systems around the country, including Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, are vowing to make sure every child has his or her own library card! We vow to 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!

Get yours today! Don't wait!

Visit your closest branch or online at [www.afpls.org](http://www.afpls.org) to sign up for your library card today!

## Cultural Arts Committee

The Cultural Arts Committee has been creating a wonderful and exciting 2015-6 school year of programs, performances, and skits for all of our students. The Cultural Arts Committee will begin by celebrating the Hispanic culture with a "Heritage Celebration" which includes dialogue, games, songs, and dance in Spanish. This wonderful production will be occurring in October. "Crazy Sounds of Music" will be the non-traditional winter celebration of songs and dance in December. The annual "Black History Celebration" will be in February. This is when our students will recognize the past and celebrate the future of the African-American race. Dates and times will be announced in the near future. Hope to see you all there!!