



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2015

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

Fall is in the air! The Fall break will be October 8th-12th. The students will return to school on October 13th. Presently our school has the highest attendance rate in the district. For the month of August, our students attended school 98.8% of the month. Humphries won the traveling trophy from the superintendent.

It was great to see the families who attended our recent PTA/Open house. I hope the parent participation numbers will continue to grow at our future events. Students get so excited to see their parents at the school.

I have lots of great news to share. On September 17, we celebrated the National Blessings in a Backpack Day. Each student was given a backpack sponsored by Cigna. Freddie the Falcon visited our school and spoke to students about living healthy. He led the students in exercise. Each Friday, students will receive a backpack with light perishable food items for the weekend.

We also celebrated school spirit at Humphries during our 30 Days of School celebration. The entire Humphries family wore spirit t-shirts, danced to celebrate attendance and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony in recognition of the new playground.

The South Atlanta Cluster will continue to have monthly meetings to discuss becoming a STEM cluster. The next meeting will occur on September 28, 2015, at 5:00 pm. Please join us at South Atlanta High School, in the courtroom.

Math is one of our focus subjects this year. Please practice math facts with your students. Students in grades 3-5 must become quicker when answering multiplication facts. The younger students should practice solving addition and subtraction facts. We are also charting students' lexile levels (reading levels) this year. Many of our students have room to grow in the area of reading on grade level. You can help by insisting students read at home each day for at least 30 minutes. When they read independently, they should read books in range of their lexile levels. Let's work together to get all of our students reading on grade level.



Important Dates

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| 4-10 | Fire Safety Week |
| 5 | Roadrunner Rally |
| 6 | Hispanic Heritage Program |
| 8-12 Fall Break (no school for students) | |
| 8 | Professional Learning Day
Teachers report |
| 12 | Columbus Day |
| 15 | Report Cards |
| 15 | Muharrim |
| 16 | Boss's Day
Dictionary Day |
| 21 | Grade 1 Field Trip |
| 26-30 | Red Ribbon Week |
| 27 | PTA Meeting |
| 29 | All Star Parent Volunteer Day |
| 30 | Activity and STEM Day |
| 31 | Halloween |



Home of the
Roadrunners

Kindergarten News

Kindergarteners have been busy testing. The SLOs are a system wide testing component that is taken three times a year to measure the growth in our students. Our students are tested in reading and in math.

Please continue to get students here on time in order to get a healthy breakfast and participate in the class warm up activities. This sets the tone for the whole day. Please also send a sweater, sweatshirt, or light jacket that students can keep in their backpack. Classrooms get chilly at times and we need to make sure students stay healthy.

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

We have made it through the first 30+ days of school with great success. Kudos to you for sending your child/children to school every day with their uniforms on and ready to learn.

We have been working very hard with the Dolch Sight Word list. We are on our way to reading and writing those words in context. We are asking you to go over the assigned word list every day with your child. This will ensure that your child will build a strong foundation as we get ready for reading various leveled-texts.

In math, we are working on counting and writing numbers from 1 to 120. It is important for first graders to understand the sequence and patterns of numbers. Please monitor home assignments daily.

Please call the office @404-802-8750 to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss their academic progress.

Second Grade News

We have already completed two months of school and your child should have received a progress report by now. As you can see, much work needs to be done. The second grade has been working on place value in math, the five regions of Georgia in social studies, and life cycles in science. In the upcoming weeks, your child will be assessed on this information and many of the themes will change. Please help your child to be successful by discussing/reviewing his/her science, math, and social studies information daily. As always, continue to check your child's bag for important notices from the school and his/her homework assignments.

Grade Three News

The Third Grade Team is excited to inform you that our students are growing in knowledge! In math, the unit Number and Operations in Base Ten will culminate with a performance assessment. The students will create and publish a book to demonstrate what they have learned in the unit. In ELA, the students are detectives! They are participating in close readings of a variety of texts to describe characters and explain how their actions impact the plot. In social studies, the students are discussing the lives of Americans who expanded people's rights and freedoms. Lastly, in science the students are examining how traits help plants and animals adapt and survive in their environment. Please help us build a strong school-to-home connection by discussing these important concepts and helping your child with homework at home. In addition, please continue to replenish school supplies throughout the year and donate and send in healthy snacks for the students to eat. Thanks so much!

Grade Four News

The fourth grade team is rapidly approaching the end of the first nine weeks. Wow, how time does fly! Our current focus areas are:

- Reading Skill: character analysis, story elements
- Language Arts: prefixes and suffixes, plural nouns
- Social Studies: Explorers
- Science: physical and behavioral adaptations
- Math: addition/subtraction and multiplication

Please, be sure that each student reads for at least 20 minutes daily and study multiplication facts.

Grade Five News

We are off and running. Our focus this year is MASTERY of the content standards. What does this mean? It means that students must learn, retain, and demonstrate their knowledge on both multiple choice and constructed response (written-essay) test items. This eliminates guessing and requires our students to think critically and communicate their understanding of concepts with explanations and examples. As a result, you may notice a decline in your child's grades. However, this is a necessary step as we march towards meeting and exceeding the new state requirements and middle school. Clearly, more study time is needed and additional opportunities for students to express themselves in writing is a must. Also, please make sure your child has the proper tools (pencil, paper, books, eyeglasses, etc.) and the proper amount of rest in order to be successful. In closing, the fifth grade staff and students would like to say kudos to our students of the month- Jimmia Flanders and Tenia Dunn! These two young ladies exemplify being kind, cooperative and respectful.

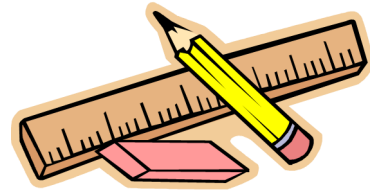
Enrichment News

Humphries Elementary School will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as the Enrichment Team plan, coordinate, and create a program, acknowledging the Hispanic culture. The program will include songs, recitations, and dances as your child will be engaged in this wonderful event. The celebration will begin at 1:00pm on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, in the multi-purpose building. Hope to see you there!



Red Ribbon Week October 26-29, 2015

October is the month when we focus on student safety through Bully and Drug Free Awareness. Humphries is continually building school culture and climate by expecting all students to kind, respectful and responsible. The counseling program emphasizes these character traits by providing students with skills and tools to keep themselves and others safe. Throughout the month of October the Counselor, along with student PEACEmakers will be sharing how to be Bully and Drug Free. As a school, we will take a pledge to "Stamp Out" bullying and drugs. In addition, from October 26-29 students will participate in our annual Red Ribbon Week. There will be a different themes each day that relate to being drug and bully free, as well as daily messages on being Bully & Drug Free. Stay tuned for further details!!!



From the Media Center

October is a great month to read mysteries and spooky books. Here are a few books to share with your children and students.

- Arnosky, Jim Monster Hunt
- Bruchac, Joseph Skeleton Man
- Bunting, Eve The Bones of Freddy McGee
- Cooper, Susan Over Sea, Under Stone
- Dahl, Michael Zombies in the Library
- Doyle, Arthur Conan Hound of the Baskervilles (graphic novel)
- George, Jean Craighead The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo
- Gibbons, Gail. Halloween Is
- Gidwitz, Adam A Tale Dark and Grimm
- Gilpin, Daniel Scary Creatures: Bats
- Hahn, Mary. Wait 'Til Helen Comes
- Hirsh, Marilyn The Rabbi and the 29 Witches
- Howe, Deborah Bunnicula
- Irving, Washington Legend of Sleepy Hallow
- MacDonald, Bailey Secret of the Sealed Room
- McKissack, Patricia. The Dark Thirty
- Miller, Connie Crime Scene Investigators
- Owen, Ruth Vampires and other Bloodsuckers
- San Souci, Robert. Double-Dare to be Scared
- Sendak, Maurice Where the Wild Things Are
- Sobol, Donald Encyclopedia Brown
- Stevenson, Robert Louis The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (graphic novel)
- Stine, R. L. Dear Diary, I'm Dead
- Weatherford, Carole The Library Ghost
- Yee, Wong H. Mouse and Mole: A Perfect Halloween
