



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2015

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

November is rapidly getting away from us! We only have a few more weeks before the semester comes to an end. All parents are needed to respond to the school climate survey in order to help our school gain points on the school report card. Please visit the link for the Georgia Parent Survey: <http://apps.gadoe.org/schoolclimate/parents.nsf/Survey.xsp>. The link is also on our school website under "Parent News." Let's see how many parents we can get to respond to the survey.

Parents, you are very important to our school. We want to see and hear more from you. During our math night last month, we only had a hand full of parents to come out and participate in the math activities. The teachers worked hard to share games and activities with you. We have 360 students enrolled in our school and I would love to see our parents fill the gym when we have a night planned for the family. We were disappointed that we did not see you. I would like to know how we can get you to come out and participate in activities to help your students? The new Common Core Standards of Excellence are rigorous and we must all work together to support the students. Please let me know how we can better accommodate parents and provide information for you.

School attendance remains a focus for Atlanta Public Schools. It is important that students are in school each day in order to learn. For the month of October, Humphries' attendance rate was 98%. This was the highest rate for the cluster. Humphries Elementary School won the Attendance trophy again for the South Atlanta Cluster. Thank you parents for making sure your students come to school each day. We have several students who still have perfect attendance. These students will receive a special reward in December.

The testing results have arrived. If you had a student who took the Georgia Milestones Assessment in April, the scores are here. The scores are much lower than we are used to seeing. However, the scores were predicted to take a dip, due to the new content. We will be sending the score reports home on Thursday, November 12, with the progress reports. Please look for both reports in your student's Thursday folder. We will have a parent meeting very soon to help you explain the results.



Important Dates

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| 1 | Dia de los Muertos Daylight Savings Time changes |
| 2 | All Souls' Day Roadrunner Rally |
| 11 | Veterans' Day—school is open |
| 12 | Progress Reports sent home |
| 19 | Parent Volunteer Day and Family Luncheon |
| 20 | Career Day Activity Day |
| 26 | Thanksgiving Day |
| 23-27 | Thanksgiving Break—No School |

I would like to remind all parents that that students are required to wear uniforms every day. We do not dress in regular clothing on Fridays, unless you receive a notice. Please send your students in a uniform on Monday through Friday. Also, we could really use donations of gently worn uniform tops and bottoms in our clothes closet. When students have bathroom accidents, we normally try to give students a dry set of clothing. However, our extra clothes have all been given out. If you have any uniforms to replenish our clothes closet, we would greatly appreciate them. This is a great need for the school at this time.

I hope that we can continue to unite our forces and work closer together. Please remember that schools and families must work together as partners. Our goal is to support student learning and develop college and career ready students. On behalf of the entire Humphries' staff, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten parents, we have had an exciting and active first 9 weeks. We have covered several standards in each subject area and are going full force into our next 9 weeks which is a very busy time of the year.

For the first few weeks in ELA, we are focusing in on Fantasy/Fairy Tales and discussing what is real and what is make believe, the characters, setting, the problem and the solution. Please read with your children the old classics like Cinderella, Snow White, Three Little Pigs, and Little Red Riding Hood just to name a few. This gives them a foundation for our unit.

In Math, we are continuing to count through 100 by ones and tens, recognize numbers through 50, compare two numbers and determine which number is greater or less than the other.

Science is always exciting! We are still looking at living things but now we are into animals! We are grouping animals according to their observable features such as appearance, size, motion, and where it lives. Then we will compare and explain the similarities and differences in the groups. We will also recognize the similarities and differences between a parent and a baby and be able to match the parents with their offspring.

Our Earth is the focus in Social Studies. We will differentiate land/water features, understanding maps / globes, and identify the continent where student lives.

We are writing across the curriculum. That means in every subject we are striving to write a sentence in about what we are working on in class.

Don't forget to go over the sight words every day!!!!!! Our kids are making great progress, but we need your help. Be looking out for some incentives for those who master each sight word list. We should be moving on to yellow but many are still stuck on the red list. Practice! Practice! Practice!

As you can see, we are busy! Please work very hard on getting your students here every day and on time. They miss out on vital review when they are late. Please also make sure your child is getting adequate sleep. They can't drink coffee to get them started, but they do need 9-10 hours of sleep and a good breakfast to get them going.

First Grade News

First grade is on the move. We are improving our reading comprehension skills through the use of accelerated reader. We are learning about key American figures like, Thomas Jefferson, Harriet Tubman and George Washington. In science we are exploring all things magnet!!! We would like to think our first grade families for their wonderful donations of snacks and classroom supplies.

Grade Two News

Can you believe it? We have completed a quarter of school and you should have received your child's report card by now. The students have gotten their feet wet and now understand the rigor of the second grade curriculum.

When the quarter changed, so did the focus for a few of our subjects. In math, we are now working on telling time and writing has changed from narrative to persuasive writing. In addition to working on our new skills, please have your child read to you daily, this will strengthen his/her reading skills. As always, you are encouraged to visit your child's classroom. Don't forget to check your child's book bag for his/her daily homework assignment and please make sure they have their daily supplies for school.

Grade Three News

The third graders are increasing their stamina for independent learning in all content areas. In reading, the students are recounting traditional stories such as fables, folktales, legends and myths. They are examining how the author uses elements of characterization, personification, and plot to teach a lesson or moral. In math, the students are using representations to model mathematical thinking. In social studies and science, students are reflecting on concepts with Thinking Maps and using QAR to ask and answer question about the content. To get a clear picture of your child's academic progress, we welcome you to schedule a conference to discuss performance and conduct. To keep the home-school connection strong, please continue to:

- Read, Review and Sign the Daily Progress and Homework sheet
- Encourage learning and positive behavior
- Send your child to school with a healthy snack
- Replenish school supplies as needed

Grade Four News

My, my, my, how time flies. We have ended the first semester and are well on our way in the second. The focus areas are:

- Reading Skill: context clues, nonfiction text features
- Language Arts: antonyms, synonyms, persuasive writing, and suffix/prefix
- Social Studies: Explorers and the 13 colonies
- Science: sound, light/energy
- Math: prime and composite numbers, equivalent/ simplifying fractions; adding, subtracting, and comparing fractions.

Grade Five News

The fifth grade has been working hard to improve their reading (Lexile) levels. Ms. Grant challenged the students to raise their Lexile level by 100 points. Many of our students met and exceeded this challenge and were treated to a pizza party. Not only that, they were able to dunk the administrative staff and other faculty members in a dunk tank! Do you know what your child's Lexile level is? It should be at least 850. Please encourage reading and writing daily. Also, first quarter report cards have been issued. Please call and schedule a conference to address any issues or concerns. Together we can make a difference in the lives of OUR children.

Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team is continuously developing critical thinkers and active learners in the areas of Art, Music, Spanish, and Physical Education.

Humphries has been going through changes because of the construction and the Art Room is now in its ninth week in the auditorium. Steady progress is being made to make sure this space is workable. Mr. Summers, the Art teacher and the students are enjoying this temporary space.

In Music, students in grades 1, 2, 4, and 5 are completing assessments while the other grade levels have begun working on mastering their music strands including singing songs in a foreign language and showing how music is a part of our daily lives.

Spanish classes are learning various commands, counting, and colors in the Spanish-language. I

n Physical Education, grades pre-K, K, and first grade are demonstrating locomotive and non-locomotive movements while second and third grade are enjoying games that include chasing, dodging, and fleeing. Fourth and fifth grades are demonstrating various ways to enhance their physical fitness level.



Notes From the Office

Staff members, please remember to empty your mailboxes each day. Also, issues with the copier in the auditorium should be reported to the office once the situation has been troubleshooted by the person using the copier. At this point the office staff will assess the issue and call a technician if needed. Thank you.

Career Fair November 20, 2015

The Counseling Department has been introducing the 17 Career Clusters to Grades 1 – 5 since August. Each November we provide another opportunity for students to learn about careers by inviting school partners, community members, parents, friends and family to share what they do all day on their job. The Career Fair is Thursday November 20, 2015 from 9:00-12:00 pm.

Will you join us?

For more information please contact:

Dr. Lenice Horton

404-802-8761 W/Th/F

Or lbiggins@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Dr. Biggins-Horton

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](#)
- Barth, Edna . [Turkeys, Pilgrims, and Indian corn: the Story of the Thanksgiving Symbols](#)
- Bruchac, Joseph [Squanto's Journey](#)
- Bunting, Eve. [How many days to America?](#)
- Cohen, Barbara [Molly's Pilgrim](#)
- Crane, Carol [P is for Pilgrim](#)
- Falwell, Cathryn. [Feast for 10](#)
- Gibbons, Gail. [Thanksgiving Is.](#)
- 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](#)
- 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](#)
