



HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Melanie Mitchell, Principal
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message



Melanie Mitchell

Spring is in the air. The pollen is out and the flowers are blooming! As we welcome the warm weather, students should still wear their uniforms each day. Many parents have asked why some students are not wearing a uniform. The dress code is in effect for the entire school year. I ask that students wear uniforms each day. Uniforms allow all students to look the same and limit distractions that occur from fashion statements. Parents I need your help in this area. All students should remain in uniform until the end of the school year. At no time should students wear open toe shoes. Toes out at school are dangerous. We want all students to learn in a safe environment. We will call you to bring closed toe shoes, if your student has his/her toes exposed.

Georgia Milestones testing is around the corner for all students in grades 3, 4 and 5. Testing will start on April 13 and last until April 25. We will begin each day at 8:30 AM. Normally testing lasts until about noon. Please plan for students to arrive by 7:30 to eat breakfast. Also, please do not plan to pick students up early on these days. This test will determine if students have mastered taught throughout the school year. In addition, students must pass this year for promotion.

There are important upcoming dates. Our first school Go Team meeting will occur on March 31, 2016, at 4:00 PM. The meetings are open to the public. School will close for spring break on April 4 – 8, 2016. Field day is scheduled for May 2, 2016. Field day t-shirts will be on sale soon. Teachers will be contacting parents to attend conferences if there are concerns with your student. Report cards were sent home on March 24. Parent day will be on March 31.

For parents of bus riders, I have been expressing the bus concerns to the transportation department. I know there have been several days that buses have not picked up on time in the mornings or dropped off on time in the evening. The transportation department is working diligently to get non-working buses serviced.

Thank you parents for continuing to send your students to school. Currently our attendance rate is 97.4%. We are still ranked number one in the South Atlanta Cluster and number three in the district. The two schools ahead of us are winning by less than one percent.

April is National School Library Month and National Poetry Month



Important Dates

April

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| 1 | April Fool's Day |
| 4-8 | Spring Break (No school) |
| 10-16 | National Volunteer Week |
| 12 | National Library Workers Day |
| 13-26 | Georgia Milestones Testing |
| 15 | Tax Day |
| 21 | Poem in Your Pocket Day |
| 23 | First day of Passover |
| 27 | Administrative Professionals Day |
| 30 | Last day of Passover |

During the break, please make sure your students read. We are still working to increase all students reading levels. Thank you for your willingness to work together.

Kindergarten News

Our students are building sentences using their sight words. Studies show that 75% of what we read on a daily basis includes sight words. Please help students study and learn their sight words every night.

In Math, we are continuing with addition and subtraction. We would like our students to be fluent in their addition facts up to 10. Please go by a dollar store and pick up addition flash cards or make your own.

We have some dates (these dates are subject to change) to keep in mind:

- Sight Word Celebration bowls - 4/15 and 4/29
- Final Sight Word Sentence Bowl -5/12
- Math Facts Bowl-4/28

Students will win ice cream parties and other tokens in these competitions. We will have our culminating activity on May 20th with special prizes awarded by the administration team. You will be updated prior to the events.

First Grade News

First grade is on the move, like March we are roaring towards 2nd grade. We have some exciting incentives planned for our last 9 weeks of school. We are having all sorts of sight word festivities as we finish up learning how to spell and read the 220 Dolch sight words. To show what we know we will have a final sight word spelling bee.

We are also excited about math and science! We will be working on our first Stem Math project to show our expertise in math and science. We would like to give a special kudos to Ms. Jones' little learners who were able to meet and greet our district Superintendent. They did an awesome job discussing what they are learning.

We are very proud of all the students' hard work and look forward to a great final nine weeks of the school year!

Grade Two News

The year is quickly winding down and your child's daily attendance is very important. After Spring Break, the state mandated tests will begin for grades 3-5. Second grade will be working on arrays and repeated addition in math, comparing and contrasting important facts in a text for reading, elected officials such as the president and governor in social studies, and moon phases and the sun in science. So as you see, this is not the time to miss school. Please continue to make sure your child has all the necessary supplies for school and completes his/her daily homework assignments.

Grade Three News

We are so busy this time of year! We have been learning about famous Americans, soil and fossils, fractions, elapsed time, poetry and point of view. Your child will be taking the Milestone test the Wednesday (4/13/16) we return from Spring Break. Please encourage your child to do his/her best every day of the test. We would really appreciate if you made sure your child was very well rested during the week of the Georgia Milestones test. It is expected that your 3rd grader will be nervous during the week of test. Please reassure your child that s/he is prepared for the assessment. We are confident that your child will do his/her best on the test!!!

Your child will continue to have homework throughout the remainder school year. Enjoy your Spring Break!

Grade Four News

As we approach spring break, the fourth grade teachers would like to thank you for all of your support throughout the school year. Please be mindful that the Georgia Milestones will begin the week after spring break. Here are some websites that provide great support:

- studyisland.com
- sheppardsoftware.com
- i-Ready.com

Thanks again for partnering with us to help ensure your child's success. Have a safe and happy break!

Grade Five News

April is testing month. It is time to show off the content and skills your child has mastered this year. As a reminder, 5th grade students must meet grade level standards as criteria for promotion. Please make sure that your child has a good breakfast, adequate rest, and plenty of encouragement to give them the best opportunity for success. Additionally, please make sure any medical needs, i.e. glasses, have been addressed prior to testing. We look forward to a successful testing period, the year-end celebrations that will follow, and the smooth transition to middle school. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Enrichment News

The Enrichment team has been consistently preparing your child for their Student Learning Objectives in the areas of Art, Music, Spanish, and Physical Education. In Music, students are learning to identify lines and spaces placement on a staff while creating contour patterns utilizing skipping, and leaping. In Spanish, students are demonstrating awareness of where they can encounter the target language and exchanging simple spoken and written information in Spanish. In Physical Education, students are applying knowledge, concepts, and principles in order to perform tossing and catching skills. In Art, students are explaining how selected elements of design are used to convey meaning and personal responses. The Student Learning Objective is a tool to determine if your child has mastered selected standards in each subject-area. Grades, kindergarten through 5th grade are involved. We wish your child the very best of luck!

From Our Counselor

Get your student ready for GA Milestones. Here are some helpful tips to remember:



Save the Date!

Humphries STEM Field Day shirts will go on sale on Friday, April 15, 2016. Your child's shirt is only \$4.00. The Deadline to receive orders and money is Friday, April 22, 2016. This is a final deadline cannot be extended, so plan accordingly. Thank you very much.

Media Center News National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month. Poetry is not only wonderful to read but great for improving reading skills. Here are a few great books of poetry to explore with your children and students during Poetry Month:

- Bruchac, Joseph Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons
- Bryan, Ashley. Ashley Bryan's ABC of African-American Poetry
- Dickinson, Emily. Poetry for Young People
- Fleischman, Paul. I am Phoenix: Poems for Two Voices
- Frost, Robert. Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States.
- Hughes, Langston. Dream Keeper and Other Poems
- Janeczko, Paul. A Kick in the Head: an Everyday Guide of Poetic Forms
- Johnson, James Weldon. The Creation.
- Lindbergh, Reeve. Johnny Appleseed.
- London, Jonathan. I See the Moon and the Moon Sees Me
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.
- Mora, Pat. Confetti: Poems for Children
- Silverstein, Shel. Where the Sidewalk Ends.
- O'Neill, Mary Hailstones and Halibut Bones
- Soto, Gary A Fire in my Hands
- Stevenson, Robert Louis A Child's Garden of Verses.
- Tadj, Veronique. Talking Drums: A Collection of Poems from Africa South of the Sahara
- Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth The Sun, the Moon and the Stars
- Woodson, Jacqueline Locomotion



