



# HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**February 2017**

Melanie Mitchell, Principal  
Benita Grant, Assistant Principal

## Principal's Message



**Melanie Mitchell**

Happy New Year! This is our first newsletter for 2017. I want to thank everyone for a great first semester. I hope all families enjoyed the holiday break and got a chance to relax. Since returning this semester, we have been moving forward with full steam! There is much work to accomplish during the second semester.

The testing season is rapidly approaching. The district benchmark tests will be given for grades K-5 during the first three weeks of February. These tests results will determine student progress, which will give teachers an opportunity to provide instruction based on students' needs. The Georgia Milestones State Assessment will be given in April, immediately following spring break. This test is for all 3rd – 5th grade students.

We have quite a few upcoming events on our calendar. I extend a warm welcome to all. The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Competition is scheduled for January 28, 2017. The team has worked hard to prepare for this academic competition and your support for the team is greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer to work at the competition, please contact Ms. Campbell, our school media specialist.

The Honor's Day program is scheduled for February 6, 2017, at 9:00 am. Students being honored will receive an invitation. All families are asked to attend our Literacy Night on February 7, 2017 at 5:30pm. All students will be singing and should wear a school uniform. The agenda for Literacy Night will include parents learning reading strategies to help students at home.

We are excited to report that on February 15, the 3rd – 5th grade students will take a field trip to see the movie *Hidden Figures*. Students will be charged \$5.00 for their ticket



## February 2017

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|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1            | National Freedom Day             |
| 2            | Groundhog Day/Candlemas          |
| 6            | Roadrunner Rally                 |
| 6            | Honor's Day (invitation only)    |
| 6-10         | National School Counselor Week   |
| <b>7</b>     | <b>Literacy Night</b>            |
| 11           | Tu Bishvat                       |
| 14           | Valentines Day                   |
| <b>17</b>    | <b>Professional Learning Day</b> |
|              | <b>Students do not report</b>    |
| <b>20-21</b> | <b>Winter Break—No School</b>    |
| 20           | Presidents' Day celebrated       |
| 23           | Parent Day                       |
| 28           | Black History Program, 9:00 am   |
| 28           | Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday        |

and snack pack. We want our students to view this historic movie that relates to STEM. Our school is currently working to become a STEM certified school.

Students will be out of school for winter break on Friday, February 17, as well as Monday and Tuesday February 20 -21. Students will return to school on Wednesday, February 22. This will be the last break until the spring break. During the students time away from school, please make sure they read each day.

## Kindergarten News

Happy New Year!!!!

The Kindergarten Team is excited about the second semester. We have a lot of fun activities planned as well as preparing for First Grade. Benchmark tested was conducted after we returned from the break. If you would like to know how your child preformed, please call and schedule a conference with the teacher.

Also, as the weather changes, we are asking that you monitor your child for fevers. If your child is ill the night before, please do a fever check. If they come to school feverish or ill (throwing up), we will have to send them home. Finally, Lysol and Kleenex are always welcomed and needed in the classroom.

## First Grade News

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We can't believe that it is February 2017!! This means we only have 4 months until the end of the school year. This is such an exciting time for students because they can actually see how much they have learned from August until January. In class we will continue to discuss Dr. King's dream and hope for everyone and the importance of being generous and kind.

- Reading~ Students will focus on retelling the text, pointing out the key details, comparing and contrasting the text and stating the main topic of the text. Also, we will focus on prefixes, suffixes, root words and base words
- Phonics~ Initial Blends (sl, pl, cl, cr, gr, gl, dr, br, pr tr) and Vowel Patterns (ea, ee, ai, ay, oa, ie)
- Writing~ Informational Writing
- Math~ Telling Time to hour and half-hour
- Science~ Magnets
- Social Studies ~ Historical Figures

Students are also encouraged to sound out unfamiliar words while they are reading and use picture clues when they can. Students should also be able to retell fiction stories from beginning to end and recall facts from non-fiction books and point out key details and the main topic.

Reminder!!! Please remember that as the weather begins to get cooler, please make sure that you wear appropriate clothing as well as wear a jacket or coat.

## Grade Two News

This month in Reading, we are diligently working with your students on citing evidence from the text when asked questions, making connections, and determining the meaning of unknown words. In Math, we are working with using various strategies to solve multi-digit addition and subtraction equations. Please check with your scholar's teacher to discuss which strategies to use at home so that they will remain consistent in the classroom!

Lastly, please schedule a conference with your scholar's teacher to discuss academic and behavior progress for the year.

## MOID K-2

The MOID K-2 Unit at Humphries' is off to a great start to the New Year 2017! After a wonderful "warm" and "sunny" Winter Break, we are back to our scholarly ways! In Math, we will be in Measurement Mayhem!. We are studying length and width of objects in both inches and centimeters. We can also differentiate between tall, short, long, wide, and we can order objects from the shortest to the tallest and the tallest to the shortest. In Social Studies, we are continuing a unit on National Holidays and people and events celebrated. The highlights this week are Dr. Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, and Frederick Douglass. We will study many more.

In Science, we will be both observing and communicating via classroom presentations the effect that gravity has on some of our classroom objects. Finally, in reading, we are using illustrations to describe the relationship between the text and how the pictures support the key ideas. Lastly, we will be exploring cultures and diverse foods ranging from Mexican to Chinese to Indian. Be prepared for your child to come home and talk excitedly about the different tastes and delicacies that they have explored! They will have developed enriched and discerning palates that they will want to share! See you in February!

## Grade Three News

We are working on the following skills:

- Math: Geometry / Review
- Reading: Context Clues / Review
- Writing: Writing Paragraphs/ Constructed Response
- Keyboarding Skills: Typing Skills

Please be sure that the students are reading daily! Continue to practice your Division & Multiplication Facts. (Continue to study multiplication facts 0-7 for mastery). The GA Milestones test is approaching fast! Please allow our students to practice their keyboarding skills at home (see the website below). Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if there is any way we can help assist your child!

## Grade Four News

Hello everyone! The Fourth-Grade Team would like to say Happy New Year to our entire Humphries Family. 2017 has gotten off to a tremendous start and our excitement is building as we prepare to keep accelerating the learning and growth of our incredible 4th grade students. There are several proficiency and growth measures that we complete over the next 3 months. We are certainly willing knowing that our students are able. As a team, we will continue to excel in all areas of academic stud-

ies. The following are the skills we are or soon will be covering:

- Reading Skill: informational texts and research
- Language Arts: writing, vocabulary acquisition and use
- Social Studies: American Revolution and expansion of the USA
- Science: sound, light/energy, simple machines
- Math: equivalent fractions, adding, subtracting, and comparing fractions

Our students work hard each day to live up to the Humphries Pledge ...to "become independent thinkers, responsible learners and law-abiding citizens." We celebrate their outstanding accomplishments. Our students recognize that there are still areas where we can grow and embrace the challenge. Good decision making, respecting ourselves and others, and being attentive to one another are the skills we continue to emphasize. Please continue helping us build a strong school-to-home connection by discussing these important concepts and helping your child with homework at home. Don't forget to ensure each student reads for at least 20 minutes daily and studies their multiplication and division facts. Let us also work on improving our vocabulary by striving to learn new words daily. We are the best elementary school in the city of Atlanta because of our students and families. Let us all strive to be even better in 2017. Thank you very much.

## Grade Five News

Parents, It is very important that our students attend school every day prepared to learn. Early dismissals are detrimental to meeting academic requirements. Please ensure your child is completing all assignments and has the necessary tools to reach their full potential. Also, please stress the importance of mastering the content because that is what is required by the State of Georgia to be promoted to sixth grade. Our current topics include fractions, World War I, the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Depression. We are also writing argumentative (opinion) pieces and analyzing an author's point of view. The material is rigorous and requires additional study time. Contact your child's teacher regarding deficiencies noted on the last report card and/or to determine if your child is meeting promotion requirements.

## Enrichment News

The Enrichment Team is eagerly preparing for the annual Black History program which will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, in the multi-purpose building at 9:00 am. The theme for this year's program is "Together In Unity". Students will be singing various songs, performing skits, and dance in representation of the African American culture. Also Humphries' Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and cheerleaders will do a special presentation as well. Students are expected to wear black, green, and red colors. Hope to see you there!

## From the Media Center

### Books for Black History Month

Black History Month was founded by Carter G. Woodson to commemorate the history and contributions of people of African descent. Here are a few good books to share:

- Blumberg, Rhoda. York's Adventures with Lewis and Clark : an African-American's Part in the Great Expedition
- Bolden, Tonya. George Washington Carver.
- Brenner, Barbara. Wagon Wheels
- Brewster, Hugh. The Other Mozart: The Life of the Famous Chevalier de Saint-George.
- Cline-Ransom, Lesa. Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist.
- Douglass, Frederick. My Bondage and my Freedom.
- Flanagan, Alice. The Buffalo Soldiers.
- Freedman, Russell. The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights
- Haskin, James. Delivering Justice : W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights
- Hoose, Philip. Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
- Hughes, Langston. The Negro Speaks of Rivers.
- Johnson, James Weldon The Creation
- Krull, Kathleen. Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Randolph Became the World's Fastest Woman.
- Lasky, Kathryn. A Voice of my Own: the Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Slave Poet.
- McKissack, Patricia. Goin' Someplace Special.
- Myers, Walter Dean. The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage
- Nelson, Kadir. We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball
- Nelson, Scott Reynolds. Ain't Nothing but a Man: my Quest to Find the Real John Henry
- Pearsall, Shelley. Trouble Don't Last.
- Roberts, Brenda Jazzy Miz Mozetta
- Rockwell, Anne. Open the Door to Liberty: a Biography of Toussaint L'Ouverture.
- Stanley, Diane. Shaka: King of the Zulus.
- Taylor, Mildred The Well
- Walter, Mildred Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World.
- Weatherford, Carole Moses: When Harriett Tubman Led her People to Freedom.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. Show Way.



# From the Parent Center



Humphries Family,

It's 2017!!! What's your vision for the year? Have you already turned your back on your New Year Resolution? No worries, there's always today! Small goals, large goals, short term goals or long term goals it doesn't matter just start planning for your future. Speaking of future, what are your plans for our future generations? Are you fully equipped to take your family your community to the next level? Have no fear the Humphries parent center and staff are ready assist and direct you in the direction to make the right steps towards your goals.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning, transitions, improving, parental involvement and engagement. We welcome the parents of Humphries Elementary School and the community to the Parent Center everyday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The center is located in room 206 on the second floor. I, Ms. Howard, am here to assist you with a valuable two-way communication between the school and home. The parent center is available to provide resourceful information, some materials to help with stu-

dent projects, homework assistance, and job search assistance, resume assistance, GED classes, academic workshops, etc.

GED classes are held every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Drop in any day to apply and make sure you have your state issued ID and you will be able to join class that day. Let me also state that we have an awesome instructor Ms. Tabitha Jones. Classes are very engaging and filled with excitement!

We are committed to seeing that all parents have the opportunity to become fully engaged with the learning process of their child. One of our goals this year is to show and give opportunity for parental involvement. Parent Day which is held every last Thursday of the month is an opportunity for parents to become fully engaged with other parents in the process of learning and volunteer time. To find out more information about this please contact Ms. Howard in the Parent Center. We look forward to meeting and building a partnership with all of our Humphries Parents. We are building a healthy community family!

*Ms. Howard  
Parent Liaison*