

FEBRUARY 2022



MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal

Mrs. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

Spring has arrived and our students are ready for Spring Break.

School will be closed for students on Monday, April 11, 2022 through Monday, April 18, 2022 due to Spring Break. School will resume for students on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. Each student received a COVID-19 rapid test to be administered on Monday, April 18, 2022, which is the day prior to students returning to school. Parents, you will be able to upload your child's test results on the link located in their google classroom. The window to upload the test result will open on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Your child is assigned homework each night. He/She also receives their Reading and Math logs at the beginning of each week, and they must be completed every night as well. If your child is receiving homework that they need to submit via google classroom, please check his/her google classroom to ensure that completed assignments are being submitted in a timely manner.

All students and staff of Concord Elementary School will continue to follow the mask mandate. Ensure that your child has a mask to wear daily while in school. This includes our students who ride the bus to and from school. In addition, all students must wear their complete school uniform.

Lastly, as a reminder, please avoid parking in front of the school between 7:45 - 8:15 AM and 2:05 - 2:45 PM. This area is designated for our school buses to drop off and pick up students.

Feel free to contact us at (301) 817-0488 and/or by email, Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org and Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org. Thank you.

Student Attendance

Our attendance data for the month of March 2022 was 89.42%. Parents, it is imperative that your child reports to school daily and arrives on time. When students are absent from school and/or arrive to school late, they are missing important information from their classes. Many of our students are arriving extremely late to school. As a reminder, our school doors open at 7:45 AM and breakfast is served between 7:45 - 8:15 AM. Classes begin at 8:15 AM.

MCAP Testing

All 3rd -6th grade students will be administered the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in Reading and Mathematics beginning on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 through Friday, May 27, 2022. Students will not be tested on Mondays. Please avoid appointments that may take your child out of school during this time period. Also, it will help your child perform if they come to school with a positive attitude and get a good night's rest.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, April 8

2 hour Early Dismissal (12:25pm)

Monday, April 11 - April 18

Spring Break

Tuesday, April 19

Classes Resume



**One Team, One Goal
Rising to New Heights!**

PRE-K

In April, the children explore growth over time by investigating gardens and the living things within them. They learn about what plants need to grow, what creatures live in and benefit gardens, and how people grow gardens for food.

Reading – Build on Concepts of Letters and Sounds; Medial and Ending Sounds for Recognition of Rhyming Words, Initial Sound of Letters (focus letters) and Concepts of Print and Parts of the Book, Letter Formation and Creating the Letters of the Alphabet Using Different Materials; Sequencing of Events in a Story/Book

Math – Solving Simple Addition and Subtraction, Counting Forward and Backward, Subitizing, Counting Using the One-to-One Correspondence, Identifying Patterns, Duplicating and Extending Patterns and Grouping/Sorting Different Manipulatives, Pictures or Real Objects at Home, 2-D and 3-D Shapes Around Us

Other Important Information

- ClassDojo and Google Voice are used as the pre-k class platform for updates, reminders, announcements, and daily rewards/points for students' performance during large/small group times and daily routine activities
- Friday is Show and Tell Day for the focus letters and unit-based family projects

All students complete their Hatch activities every day with at least 30 minutes of play time per week.

KINDERGARTEN

We are welcoming Spring Break! Please use this time to relax and take a break from your daily routine. At this point in the school year, children should be able to identify over half of the letters in the alphabet (upper and lower case). Remember to review the kindergarten sight words and have your child read for 20 minutes everyday. Make sure your child can spell and write the sight words. We are also learning about teen numbers. We have learned teen numbers all start with the number one and they are made up of a set of ten and some ones. When practicing counting at home, please make sure your child slows down and says each number clearly (specifically 14, 15, 16). Be sure to log into iReady and Dreambox at home over the break. Have a great spring break!

1ST GRADE

We are focused on our goal! Our first graders are segmenting, blending and decoding words as they read the decodable books every day. We're starting with Unit 6 focusing on long vowels i, u and vowel teams. We continue to write as we focus on opinion writing. We have started with Unit 1.8 Challenging Problems in Math. Addition and subtraction fluency up to 20 is intensified. Science will cover the topics Look and Listen lessons as well as part of the 4th quarter Life Science lessons. Social Studies topic is about Economics with an essential question: How do people get what they need?

Keep motivating your child to read 20 to 30 minutes every day and to drill them on addition and subtraction facts up to 20. Reading and Math logs are graded so keep track of these weekly homework assignments. Let's end the 3rd quarter with a roar and begin the 4th quarter with a bang

2ND GRADE

Second grade is going great! We are learning about how everyone has a "story" and learning about the story of other people's lives. In reading, we are reading informational texts, fiction stories, and biographies to learn about everyone's story. We are learning the different features of biographies! We will continue to learn digraphs, blends, long vowel spelling patterns, and different spelling patterns in our spelling words. In class, we are reading the "Blend it" books in the curriculum to practice reading blends and words in small group instruction and in centers. We will continue to work on blending, decoding, and working with prefixes/suffixes and inflectional endings. The students are doing a great job with segmenting words and breaking words into syllables! We are learning about prefixes and that we can add a word part to a base word to change its meaning. In Math, we will continue to add and subtract within 100 with regrouping. We will learn different vocabulary to help us solve word problems and equations. In Science, students will learn about matter. Please make sure your child is reading for at least 20 minutes each and every night. Homework is due the Friday of each week. Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!

3RD GRADE

For reading, our focus will be reviewing MCAP Practice Assessment. Students will recognize the characteristics of tales in Modules 6 and Module 10. In writing, the teacher will review opinionated, narrative, and expository forms of writing with evidence of students typing a clear beginning, middle, and conclusion independently. In social studies, students will learn about how to create a business as a producer as well as meet the needs of consumers. Students will explore goods and services as well.

In Math Students will learn about data and how it can be collected and represented through picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots for the purpose of analyzing information in the world. In Science students will analyze and interpret images to determine if they are fossils. Students will also analyze fossils to get an understanding of what the environment was like when the organism was alive. In Health students will learn about body challenges, their causes and effects, physical impairments, learning disabilities, and special needs in the community.

4TH GRADE

As we are gearing up for our statewide MCAP test, we will be reviewing tested skills. It is important for students to continue studying their multiplication facts nightly. For quarter 4, we will study polygons and shape patterns. In Science, we will continue with energy in waves. Please make sure students charge their chromebooks nightly in order to be prepared each day.



Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!

5TH GRADE

It's the 4th Quarter! Mustangs , are you achieving your goals this school year? Our 5th graders will be exploring and learning Conversions of Units and Volume this month of April. The major emphasis for measurement in Grade 5 is volume. At this period , our scholars are expected to be able to write clear and organized brief constructed responses. Also, Math homework is given every night. In Science, we will start with Life Science focusing on the movement of matter in the Ecosystem. The first part of this unit is about Plants. Health focuses on Blood and Blood Disorders.

Reading: Essential Question: How can learning about natural disasters make us safer?

Extra Extra Read All About It: Fifth Grade students have read several informational text/informational videos(experts were interviewed to give key points), volcanoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Students also learned about several text features such as: photos with captions, charts, sidebars, diagrams, and maps.

Writing: Students had to pretend they were meteorologist for a local tv station and tell the viewers a category 2 hurricane , and tornado has hit their area.They will use evidence from the text to write a weather report telling viewers what kind of effects they can expect from a category 2 hurricane, and a tornado can cause.(damages) They will also explain how to keep safe during this natural disaster. Students will also learn how to write an editorial for their school newspaper stating what they think needs to be done to ensure the community stays safe by preparing for a natural disaster. They will give their opinion and state three reasons that support their evidence.

6TH GRADE

In the month of April, we will begin by finding the percent of a number using double number lines and tape diagrams. We will begin our fourth unit, Space and Spread. In this unit, students will solve real world problems by finding area, surface area and volume.

Please be sure to continue practicing math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) each night with your student and check your student's grades weekly using SchoolMax.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

From Nurse Jackson



Spring is around the corner and students will be going outside more. Please make sure they come to school wearing appropriate shoes and jackets and review with them how to safely play outdoors. There has been an increase in the number of students coming to the health office after injuring themselves at recess. Students need recess but let's all make sure we know how to safely play. It is the responsibility of all adults to make sure students are safe at home and in school. If students are going to play a game, basketball, tag, make sure they are playing in a safe manner and they are aware before going outside how to play safely. If students are not playing safely, stop the activity before an injury occurs and redirect in a safe way.

All students and staff are to continue to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth while in school all day unless eating or drinking. Students must arrive at school with a mask. We are running low on masks to hand out at school so please make sure your child has a mask to wear and a spare mask in their bookbag. The masks that the school handed out should be the masks the students wear everyday with a spare one in their bookbag. The masks that were handed out are the KN95 masks that will protect students and staff better than the surgical or cloth masks. As students wear masks less and less in the community we must remind them the masks are still mandatory in the school building. We will continue to have students sanitizer their hands upon entering the school building. Water bottles continue to be handed out daily as the water fountains are still not in use.

There are many Covid-19 vaccine clinics in the community that are available to everyone. I am encouraging all staff, parents and students to get vaccinated so we can continue to remain safe at school and in the community. Also, if your child still needs a vaccine for school they are available at the clinics where the Covid-19 vaccines are being given.
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3730/COVID-19-Vaccine>

Lastly, the school department has a app called "mealviewer". You can download it from the PGCPs website. It allows students to rate the foods served in the cafeteria. You enter your school's name, make sure you get the right school! The schools that come up are all over the country. It will ask you if you are a student and to create a profile. You can then see what is going to be served, how many calories, carbs, sugars, fats and sodium in the serving as well as the ingredients. You rate the food using the emoji and can add it as a favorite. It will help the school know what the students like to eat and don't so they can make sure the food served is what the students like eating.

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/district/PrinceGeorgeSCounty>

Try it!

TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH MATH PROBLEMS

From Sonia Bobis

Parents will be able to ease the burden of preparing for high stake tests for their children with disabilities. At this time of the year, your child might have developed a system of organizing the information s/he has learned to assist her/him in remembering and retrieving them as needed. Make sure s/he is doing her/his reading assignments nightly. Encourage her/him to use a system to improve recall or remembering. The system may include highlighting key ideas, taking down notes on sticky notes, studying pictures, illustrations, diagrams, and captions or labels; answering questions at the end of a story or passage, and writing equations and steps on how to solve math problems. Your child may draw pictures or cartoons of a concept or idea or a procedure to improve recall. Using flash cards, parents may drill their children with basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts as well as vocabulary words. Making sometime to do these simple strategies nightly will surely help the children with disabilities

- reduce test anxiety.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SEE NURSE JACKSON'S
VIRTUAL HEALTH ROOM

ART

The Countywide Art Show is coming up again! Official dates for the online exhibition will be posted soon, but I am allowed to select 5 artworks to represent Concord Elementary. If your student's artwork has been chosen for submission, you will receive a call and a permission slip from me sometime this month. I have been reviewing all of the amazing work students have completed this year and I am so proud of all of the hard work everyone has put into each and every piece of art. Keep an eye out for more artwork coming home after the selection process is complete!

PE

For the month of April, students will learn a variety of dances from different cultures, including line dancing, African dance steps, and a few dances from Latin cultures. Students will also create their own dances at the end of the month.

MEDIA



CHECK OUT THE
PGCPS VIRTUAL
LIBRARY
BROCHURE

MUSIC

This month in music our Pre-K and Kindergarten scholars will be learning about families of the orchestra and explore our classroom percussion instruments. 1st and 2nd grade scholars will be learning about melodies and pitch. We will be talking about high and low pitches and how a series of pitches make up a melody. Students will learn about the staff and the treble clef and how to read the pitches on the staff. We will also discuss melodic contour and determine if the pitches are ascending or descending.

Our Intermediate students will be heading into our unit on triple meter rhythms. We will also be composing with the rhythms we have learned. We are also reviewing and practicing with our melodic pitches do, re, mi, so and la. We will also learn be celebrating Black History Month by learning about different musicians that have made an impact on music history.

GUIDANCE

April's character trait is trustworthiness.

Trustworthiness is the ability to keep promises, to be honest, and reliable. When you are trustworthy, you never betray a friend or anyone's confidence.

Students will display their comprehension of trustworthiness through classroom guidance lessons through-out the month of April.



A+

Remember to check SchoolMax weekly to get an updated account of your student's grades.