

FEBRUARY 2022



MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal

Mrs. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

We would like to welcome back to school to all of our virtual students! Parents, we need your assistance in making sure students are completing and submitting all assignments on time. Several students are submitting blank assignments, which results in negative grades. Please check in with your students each night to see what assignments are due. This will enable you to support your students with improving their grades. All students need to complete their homework assignments nightly along with completing their Reading and Math logs.

Finally, we urge all parents to check their child's grades in the School Max Family Portal once per week. If you do not have a family portal account, you can visit the county website to register. This will enable you to track their weekly grades. Lastly, please ensure that your contact information (phone number, address, email address, emergency contact information) is updated and shared with your child's teacher and the main office.

Lastly, please ensure that your contact information (phone number, address, email address, emergency contact information) is updated and shared with your child's teacher and the main office. Our school newsletter will be available monthly on our school's website along with all information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (301) 817-0488 and/or at Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org and Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org.

Student Attendance

Concord's student attendance percentage for the month of January 2022 was 83.01%. It is imperative that you child attend school daily and arrives on time. We are hosting an attendance meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

COVID-19 Rapid Test Reminders

Parents, please be advised that COVID-19 rapid testing kits will be sent home with students biweekly. We are asking all parents to administer the rapid test to their child on the following Sundays in February between 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM:

February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Only administer the rapid test on Sundays to your child. In order to upload the results on Sundays, you must use your child's PGCPs email account.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, January 31- Friday, February 18

Benchmark/Fast Testing Window (K-6)

Wednesday, February 2

Virtual Parent and Family Reading Night
5-7:30pm

Thursday, February 3

2 hour Early Dismissal (12:25pm)

Monday, February 21

Presidents' Day - Schools Closed

Tuesday, February 22

Parent and Teacher Conferences
8:15-11:25am



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

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PRE-K

This month of February, the children learn about museums and collections – what they are, what they have inside, who works there and how they work. They have the opportunities to hear and discuss fairy tales as they begin to compare and contrast real and imaginary stories and information. They will continue to create their letter projects, signs and exhibits which will serve as our class museum.

Reading – Fairy Tales Comparison and Contrast, 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, Syllabication (Word syllables), Reading and Exploring Simple CVC words

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, Describing and Comparing 2-D and 3-D Shapes, Comparing Sets or Groups to Find out Which Has More, Equal or Less Objects

Other Important Information

- ClassDojo is 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

KINDERGARTEN

In kindergarten, we have been practicing sentence writing. We have learned sentences begin with a capital letter, have spaces between the words and ends with a period, exclamation mark or a question mark. We also have been reviewing sight words. Sight words should be read within 3 seconds. If your child cannot read the word within 3 seconds, it is a word that should be practiced.

Parents, please make sure your child log into their computer independently. Also, make sure they can zip, button and snap their clothing.

1ST GRADE

We are working so hard in First Grade! In reading, we are beginning Unit 4. We will be focusing on characters, setting, and events. In particular for writing in February we will focus on opinion writing.

In science we will be looking at sound in vibrations. In social studies we will be talking about geography and where people live. In health we are discussing medicine. In math, we are continuing to work on our fact fluency. We are focusing on adding and subtraction within 20 using different strategies and have introduced adding strategies such as counting on and changing number order in adding problems.

Parents, please motivate your child to read for 20 to 30 minutes every day. This can always be done using personal books or MyOn or Scholastic app through Clever. The reading log is a great place to keep track of good student reading. Also, encourage your child to have a conversation with you about the story. This will challenge the child to retell and recall details from the story (characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end).

2ND GRADE

Second grade is a blast so far! We are learning about exploring the world around us. In reading, reading both informational texts and fiction stories to learn about exploring the world around us. 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 their syllables! In Math, we will continue to add and subtract within 100. 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. Between January 18 AND February 4, students will be administered the MAP-R Fluency assessment, iReady Winter Diagnostic Assessment, Reading Inventory, and the Math Benchmark assessment. Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!

3RD GRADE

In Social Studies, our third grade students will explore the theme Geography – As the World Turns. We will learn how to identify land and water on maps and globes. In Reading and Language Arts, students will begin reading in Module 2. Students will learn how people use words to express themselves.

In Math, our third graders will continue to spend a lot of time with multiplication and division strategies within 100. In Science students will also learn about force and its interactions. In Health students will learn about how to address attitudes, values, and goals, personal choices and responsibilities, and refusal skills for risky situations..

4TH GRADE

In Reading, we will be reading text with the purpose of understanding. Additionally, we will begin a new Module. Students will learn about the history of communication and the different forms we communicate. Also, students will have the opportunity to practice comprehension skills by reading informational text. In writing, students will learn about expository writing. In Social Studies, students will read text and answer questions about Maryland and how it has changed over time. In the next unit for Social Studies, students will learn "all things Geography" and how it affects the way we live.

This quarter in Math, our 4th graders will continue with decimals and fractions. We will move to factors and multiples. It is important for students to continue to study their multiplication facts. In Science, we will be moving into Physical Science. In Health, for the month of February, we will study how to be responsible with our bodies.



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

5TH GRADE

I hope everyone is well and healthy as we enter the second month of the New Year and the start of the Third Quarter of the school year. Here are some important information for this month. Math starts Unit 6. This unit focuses on the understanding of multiplication of fractions by thinking of multiplication as scaling and area. Students will continue to read , analyze and solve word problems like finding the area of the rectangle with fractional side lengths. Please continue to practice your multiplication and division facts. Physical Science, specifically Matters and properties of materials are the focus in Science. Students will continue to conduct investigations and observations. Health covers human emotions and the effects on the body.

In Reading, Fifth grade scholars have started to discuss poetry. Students will learn the Elements of Poetry, how it is organized, how it uses the sounds, and rhythms of words. Students will write a poem about something from their daily life. The students will follow the poem they have already read: The Poem That Will Never End as a model for their poem. They will include specific, descriptive words, and phrases to express their feelings and ideas. In Social Studies, Students will learn about Life in the Middle and Southern Colonies such as the Daily life, Slavery in the Colonies, and the French and Indian War.

6TH GRADE

In Math this month, we will continue our second unit, Expressions and Equations. We will begin the month by solving and graphing inequalities. We will also begin our third unit, Reasoning with Ratios and Rates. In this unit students will understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems. Please be sure to continue practicing math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) each night with your student.

In Reading and Language Arts, our students will move into an exciting part of the school year. Every part of our daily lives is influenced by modern technology. This Quarter, we will explore how technology can be helpful or helpful to society. The writing assignment will be an argumentative essay. In Social Studies we will take a look at geography and its influence on economics. Our area of study will be the Triangular Trade routes and the Middle Passage.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

From Nurse Jackson

I would like to remind students before entering the school building, get your hands sanitized at the door and make sure you have your mask on and it's covering your nose and mouth securely. The wire metal piece is to go over your nose. Pinch the wire piece after putting on your mask to make a tight fit, this forms a tight seal preventing the Covid-19 virus from entering your nose and or mouth. It also protects others from the virus if they are infected and don't know it. If you do not have a wire piece on your mask please make sure to get a mask with one or use the KN95 mask that were distributed to each student. If we all wear our KN95 masks appropriately it will protect all of us from the virus but especially the students that are unable at this time to get vaccinated or are not fully vaccinated yet. Cloth masks and the disposable blue surgical masks do not provide the protection needed to prevent you from getting the variant viruses. [For More Information check the CDC Website. This video](#) will guide you to properly fitting your mask.

I am encouraging and strongly advising that all students, staff and parents get vaccinated so we can get back to a somewhat normal way of life. The variant viruses from Covid-19 developed because there were not enough people vaccinated and the virus was allowed to multiply into a different type of virus that is easier to catch. The virus did this because it is trying to survive and we are its food or "host".

Parents please remember to take your child's rapid Covid-19 test every Sunday between the hours of 7am-7pm and upload the results using your child's PGCPs email address login. If you have any difficulties please call the school. If your child is positive please call the school, email the teacher and keep your child home. If your child was identified as a close contact to someone that tested positive and the Sunday night test was negative, please do not send your child to school and call the school and email their teacher. If your child is sick- headache, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, feverish or feels warm, stomach ache, sore throat, red eyes, please do not send them to school and notify their teacher.



We are taking every precaution necessary to keep your child safe at school but we also need parents' help. Together we can make this school year a safe and healthy one with everyone attending in person learning. Remember your child will have an assigned seat, need to continue socially distancing and wearing a mask at the bus stop, on the bus, upon entering the school building and while in the school building. I thank you for your cooperation in assisting us in keeping everyone safe this school year. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school or me at 240-455-5744 or annette.jackson@pgcps.org

TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH MATH PROBLEMS

From Sonia Bobis

Here are a few math strategies parents may use to help their children who are experiencing problems with mathematics.

- Make math a game. Practicing math skills doesn't have to feel like homework. Doing it in a less pressured way may improve your child's understanding of numbers and reduce math anxiety. Ask your child to help you sort the laundry and pair up the socks. You may ask, "How many pairs of socks are there? Who has the most pairs of socks used? Who has the least pairs of socks used?" You may also let the child count by twos the pairs of socks. If you are baking cookies, let your child measure up the flour, sugar, vanilla, and other ingredients needed in baking them. If you are grocery shopping, ask the help of your child plan how many packs of hot dogs are needed for breakfast if each pack has six and each member of the family of four eats two hot dogs.
- Check out free apps - games and technology. Children who have trouble with math facts and concepts can benefit from apps that boost math skills. For younger kids, you may subscribe to Splash Learn, a free interactive game, to practice addition and subtraction to 20 or higher. For older children, you may sign up for free math lessons and practice activities at Khan Academy.



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

ART

This month, Kindergarten and first grade are learning about the color wheel and primary and secondary colors, second grade is exploring reflection symmetry through blot painting, and third grade is storytelling through paper weaving. Fourth grade is wrapping up their name design projects and will begin a radial symmetry project with cut paper, and fifth and sixth grade are both working on a logo design for this year's Google Doodle competition prompt "I care for myself by..." (entry optional).


PE

During the first two weeks of February, students in all grades will participate in the Winter Olympics where they will practice skills learned thus far in PE. During the last two weeks of February, students will learn the basics of dance and participate in cultural dances from various cultures.

MEDIA



CHECK OUT THE
PGCPs VIRTUAL
LIBRARY
BROCHURE

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

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

This month in guidance, our focus will be on the character trait courage. Through classroom guidance lessons, students will learn:

- the definition of courage
- different ways to show courage
- about African Americans who showed courage throughout history

