

MARCH 2022



MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal

Mrs. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

March is Women's History Month! Every morning during this month, we will highlight important women in World History over our PA system for our students to hear and learn about famous women.

As a reminder, parking is not permitted in front of the school between 7:45 - 8:15 AM and 2:05 - 2:45 PM. This area is for our school buses for dropping off and picking up our students.

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.



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

Student Attendance

Our attendance data for the month of February 2022 was 90.26%. Parents, it is extremely important that your child reports to school daily and arrives on time. Many of our students are not reporting to school and/or are arriving late. This has a negative impact on your child's grades when they are absent and/or if they are missing a portion of their Reading and Math instructional time. Our school doors open at 7:45 AM for students. Breakfast is available for students daily from 7:45 - 8:15 AM and classes begin at 8:15 AM.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, March 4

3 hour Early Dismissal
(11:25am)

Wednesday, March 23

MCAP Virtual Family Night 5-
7:30pm

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.

PRE-K

This month, Students will continue exploring the different museums and collections – what they are, what they have inside, who works there and how they work. They continue to make exhibits in the dramatic play, art center, science and technology, blocks, painting, and even during outdoor activities when they find items for their collections. They have the opportunities to hear and discuss fairy tales as they begin to compare and contrast real and imaginary stories and information.

Reading – Initial, Medial and Ending Sounds for Recognition of Rhyming Words, Beginning Sound of Letters (focus letters) and Concepts of Print and Parts of the Book, Letter Formation and, Syllabication (Word syllables), Reading and Exploring Simple CVC words for chosen word families, Fairy Tales Comparison and Contrast, Retelling the Story

Math – 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 Fewer Objects Solving Simple Addition and Subtraction, Counting Forward and Backward and Using Different Mathematical Strategies to Solve Problems

Other Important Information

- ClassDojo and Google Voice are used as the pre-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 are learning sentences begin with a capital letter, have spaces between the words and end 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. Remember to pack extra masks and snacks daily. We do not provide snacks. Also, please be sure to submit weekly assignments when they are due. Assignment due dates can be located in the Google Classroom. Lastly, please make sure your scholar is using iRead and Dreambox weekly.

1ST GRADE

We are working so hard in First Grade! In reading, we are beginning Unit 4. We will be focusing on long vowel sounds with silent e and nonfiction texts. In particular for writing in March we will focus on explanatory writing.

In science we will be looking at sound and communication. In social studies we will be talking about geography and where people live. In health we are discussing medicine. In math, we are moving into working with and naming 2D and 3D shapes.

Parents, please motivate your child to read for 20 to 30 minutes every day. This can always be done using personal books or the 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 flying by! 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 that we can add a word part to a base word to change it's 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

We are currently reading Module 2 Expression with Words. The Reading and Language Arts focus is reviewing stories, dramas, and poetry. In writing, the focus staying on topic by writing facts and transition words in Black History Month Projects. In social studies, we are exploring Geography, Weather, and Climate. In Math students will learn about fractions which are numbers that describe the division of a whole into equal parts. Unit fractions are the building blocks of all fractions. In Science students will analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms. In Health students will learn the importance of saying no to smoking, drinking, and drugs, drugs and the law, understand addiction, and setting goals for drug-free living.

4TH GRADE

In reading, we will be reading text with the purpose of understanding. Additionally, we will begin a new module that focuses on making healthy food choices. Our texts for the module includes: Bug Bites, Kids Rock nutrition and Eco-friendly foods. In a nutshell, we're learning all things health and nutrition. Also, students will have the opportunity to practice comprehension skills by reading informational text. In writing, students will learn about opinion and persuasive writing utilizing the oreo strategy. In Social Studies, students will read text and answer questions about the physical geography of Maryland and in the next unit for Social Studies, students will learn about the economy and how it affects the way we live.

In math, students will continue with factors and multiples. It is important for students to study their multiplication facts. We will then move on to measurement. In science ,we are continuing our unit on Energy and the types of energy.

For the month of March, we will learn about staying drug free in health class.



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

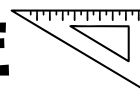
5TH GRADE

For the month of March, in Math, our scholars will be focusing on Dividing Fractions. The goals for this unit are students understand that a whole number divided by a whole number can be expressed as a fraction, and that a fraction can be interpreted as division of the numerator by the denominator and they are also expected to model and solve problems involving division of a unit fraction by a whole number and a whole number by a unit fraction.

In Science, lessons are still about matter and students will observe and identify matter based on its observable and measurable properties through investigations. Our 5th Graders will be taking the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment or MISA . This assessment covers lessons from 3rd to 5th grade.

In reading, fifth Grade scholars are working on learning about how Natural Disasters can make us safer? They are studying Informational Text through audio and print. The first text Alaska Earthquake they will determine two or more main ideas in a text and how they are supported by key details. The second and third text(Quaking Earth,and Hurricanes) will include text features such as charts, maps, sidebars, and diagrams that explain more about the topic. In writing, students will write an informative/opinion piece on the text they are reading. The students will also have to Compare and Contrast events from two texts. In social studies, students are learning about several women in honor of Women's History Month by researching their facts and their accomplishments. The students will learn how to use the internet by researching these famous women and completing a research report.

6TH GRADE



In Math this month, we will continue our unit on rates and ratios. Students will begin March by using ratio tables, diagrams and double number lines. They will also find the unit rate of a given rate. We will also convert measurements. Be sure that your student is completing their work by checking schoolmax and google classroom. Remember, they have a homework packet each week!

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.

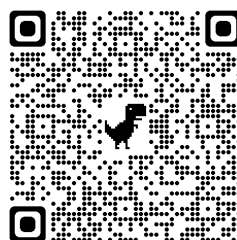
There are many Covid-19 vaccine clinics in the community that are available to everyone. I am encouraging all staff, parents and students to get vaccinated so we can continue to remain safe at school and in the community. Also, if your child still needs a vaccine for school they are available at the clinics where the Covid-19 vaccines are being given. [Click here to find a vaccine clinic.](#)

Lastly, the school department has an 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. [Click here to try it.](#)

MAKING MATH ENJOYABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

From Sonia Bobis

Children learn differently. Most students with disabilities seem to dislike math. Parents can make a difference in making their children with disabilities enjoy and love math. Here are two strategies. (1) Play math games. If the child is getting frustrated completing homework, take a break and play a math game. Play domino or dice game (adding or subtracting combination of numbers). Or if the child needs snack, you may do some estimation game. You make ask how many cookies she/he can eat in one minute. This doesn't mean you will let your child eat tons of cookies for one minute. Always emphasize fun in doing math tasks. (2) Read and highlight. Read all math directions aloud and have your child use a highlighter to mark any important words or directions. This will help her/him focus on what the question is asking and not get overwhelmed with multi-step problems. Learning disabled children tend to struggle when there are several different directions, so highlighting important keywords will help tremendously.



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

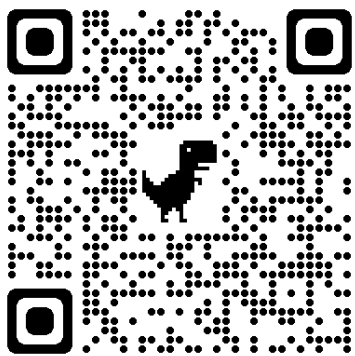
ART

Happy March! Kindergarten has been learning about landscapes by creating a landscape collage out of repurposed paintings. First grade is exploring abstract work by overlapping tissue paper shapes and examining the new shapes created by the transparent colors. Second graders just completed a symmetry project involving inventing a new insect. Third grade is continuing work on their paper weaving, using colors to tell a story in their artwork. Fourth grade is developing a notan design that demonstrates knowledge of reflection symmetry and positive and negative space. Fifth and sixth graders have been completing a short research project focused on seeking out new artists and artworks they are drawn to and will share their findings with their classmates.

PE

During the first two weeks of March, students in all grades will focus on dribbling/ball control with hands using basketballs and playground balls. During the last two weeks of the month, students in all grades will focus on dribbling/ball control with their feet using soccer balls. Students in the intermediate grades will also be adding additional components like defensive players and dribbling with their non-dominant hand.

MEDIA



CHECK OUT THE
PGCPS VIRTUAL
LIBRARY
BROCHURE

MUSIC

This month in music our primary students will be finishing up learning about dynamics and instruments of the orchestra. We will discover that silence in music is called a rest. Students will listen to songs and have to identify when they hear a rest in music..

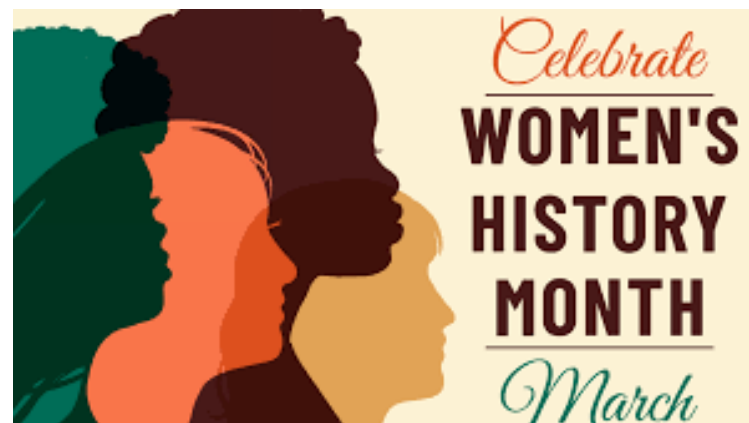
Intermediate students will be learning about pentatonic melodies and learning advanced rhythm concepts. Students will practice composing their own rhythms and adding body percussion to their work.

We will also learn be celebrating Music in Our Schools by completing a music bracket and picking a favorite song by the end of the month. Students will work on discussing what they like and dislike about musical works.

GUIDANCE

During the month of March, students will learn the characteristics of perseverance. One of the characteristics of perseverance is to do your best towards reaching a goal even when you feel the goal is too difficult to reach.

March is also Women in History Month, we will also discuss important female figures in our history.



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