



OCTOBER 2021

MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back Mighty Mustangs

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are off to a tremendous start of school as we welcome our students back to in-person learning. Our mission is to work collaboratively as a caring community to provide every opportunity for students to achieve at high levels.

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



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, October 1

Schools are Closed for Students

Monday, October 11

Schools are Closed for Students
/Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 15

Schools are Closed for Students/
Professional Development for
Teachers

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal

Mrs. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

Our hours are from 8:15 AM – 2:25 PM. The school doors open at 7:45 AM and breakfast is served between 7:45 – 8:15 AM. All classes begin at 8:15 AM. Virtual students should begin logging into their classes at 8:10 AM. Any student arriving to school after 8:15 AM will be marked late. It is imperative that students attend school daily and are on TIME! **Attendance is mandatory and is the law.**

All students are required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. We are encouraging parents to pack an extra mask in their child's book bag. In addition, please ensure that your child's chromebook is fully charged on a nightly basis.

The relationship between a teacher and parent is key in order for your child to be successful at Concord. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a matter with your child, please make contact his/her teacher. Your active participation with the school is encouraged and appreciated.

Parents, if you have not done so, please return all forms to the school (Emergency Contact, PGCPs Publicity Release, and COVID-19 Testing Consent).

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

Unit 1 is all about building the most important school connections; among the children and peers, teachers and the school. Children learn classroom routines, transitions, social-emotional skills, learn concepts and practice activities for Math, English Language Arts/Reading, enjoy fine motor and large-motor skills, have fun in Specials and in the playground while making new friends. The students have the opportunities to engage in different unit-based lessons and small/independent practice activities everyday.

This October, the children will explore the different natural environment including how animals, plants and earth features are connected. Using the five senses; Unit 1 is also connected to Unit 2 because of the various observing, comparing, contrasting and recording activities. Our students will explore and perform those activities through reading, experimenting, drawing and emergent writing activities.

Other Important Information

- All students write in their Language and Math Journals everyday
- ClassDojo is used as the pre-k class platform for updates, 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

Welcome to an exciting year in kindergarten! We welcome our new friends as well as our friends from the Pre-K classes. In class, we review rules and expectations daily. Frequent reminders and constant modeling assist the scholars in remembering desired behaviors. Please be sure to remind your scholar of schoolwide and classroom rules and discuss the importance of wearing a mask in school. Please pack extra masks in your child's book bag. Also, be sure to label all of your child's belongings. Be sure to label jackets, sweaters and coats. If you have any questions, please be sure to reach out to us.

Mrs. Harley's email: Indica.Harley@pgcps.org

Ms. Taylor's email: Lisa.Taylor@pgcps.org

1ST GRADE

We are working so hard in First Grade!

In reading, we are continuing Unit 1. We will be focusing on finding key details and evidence in a story, and in particular for writing in October we will focus on letter sounds and how we can share our experiences and opinions with others in our writing. In science we will be looking at patterns in the day and night sky. In social studies we will be talking about celebrating rules, laws, and government. In health we are discussing safety. In math, we are continuing to work on our fact fluency. We are focusing on adding 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 during the end of day resource time using personal books or MyOn or Scholastic app through Clever. 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 how we can be good citizens in our community. In reading, we are thinking about how being a good citizen can make a difference to others as we closely read fiction and nonfiction texts. We have been working on inflectional endings, long vowels, and suffix -er and -est. We will continue to work on blending l, r, and s and closed syllables. In Math, we will continue working on grouping objects, measuring length, and adding within 100. In Science, students will learn about lakes, rivers, oceans, ponds, and where water can be found on Earth. Please make sure your child is reading for at least 20 minutes each and every night. Reading logs will be sent home every Monday with the homework packet. All Homework packs and logs are due on the Friday of each week. Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!

Important Dates in 2nd Grade:

September 20- October 8- iReady Fall Diagnostic Assessment

September 27- October 20 MAPR Fluency Assessment

October 25- October 29- Reading Inventory

3RD GRADE

In Reading, we will be learning how to annotate, monitor our inner conversations and identify character traits. In Social Studies, we discussed the concept of what makes a successful community and the different types of communities. In addition, we will learn about our Government and how to use cardinal directions utilizing a compass rose. In Math the unit begins with a review of the base-10 place-value system to the thousands. Students are introduced to rounding and use rounding throughout the unit as an estimation strategy, to predict and validate addition and subtraction problems. Students solve addition and subtraction problems using strategies and algorithms based on place value, extending their understanding from 2nd grade to the thousands. In Science students will plan and conduct investigations to see if plants need sunlight and water to grow. Students identify and describe the phenomenon and purpose of the investigation. In Health students will explore safety rules, emergency planning, unsafe/risky situations, and refusal skills.

4TH GRADE

For the months of September and October, we will be working on place value in Math. Students will be learning the standard, expanded and word forms of numbers up to 1 million. Students will also learn to compare large numbers based on place value. In Science, students will begin with Earth and Space Science and how weather can affect surfaces on Earth. In Health, for October, students will learn about dental hygiene and the importance of taking care of their teeth.

In reading we are working on reading on-level text with purpose and understanding. In writing, we are working on narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using the big idea "What Makes Us Who We Are?" Currently we are reading the novel "Flora and Ulysses." In social studies, we are learning about government and civics, our roles and responsibilities, laws and people's beliefs, and who gets to make choices in government.

5TH GRADE

Welcome Back to School Concord Family!

In math, our fifth grade scholars will be working on multiplication and division of whole numbers using strategies like method and partial product/partial quotient. It is crucial that they know their basic multiplication facts in order to work on grade level activities. Please have them practice these basic facts. Math Fluency will be administered twice a week and will be counted as independent work. In science, students will cover earth and space focusing on stars, the sun and its motion, as well as the earth's movement. In health, the students will discuss the central nervous system. Our fifth grader readers will be learning to read informational text, and narrative nonfiction text. Students will learn several skills: retell/summarize, author's purpose, and point of view. Students will also learn several strategies: context clues, accountable talk stems, make connections, restate questions, collaborative discussion, and finding text evidence. Foundational Skills : decoding short/ and long vowels. In writing, students will learn how to write a persuasive essay. In social studies, students will be learning about our land and regions.

6TH GRADE

This month in math, we will be focusing on division. We will identify the meaning of division and interpret situations regarding division. We will use diagrams to find the number of groups and figure out how many in each group. We will end the month by using the traditional algorithm to divide fractions. Remind students to keep practicing their multiplication and division facts. In reading, we will continue to read texts that illustrate the relationship between humans and animals. Our Quarter 1 writing task will begin near the end of the month. In social studies, we will continue to think like Historians and Geographers. Later in October, our students will begin to study the Earth's Geography.



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

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

From Nurse Jackson



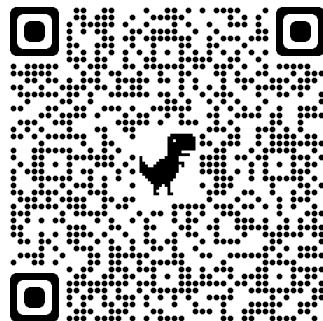
Welcome Back to School!

As we return to in person learning, we must continue to wear our masks everyday before leaving your home, making sure it covers your nose, chin and mouth. Masks must be worn at the bus stop, on the bus, when you are walking up to the school as well as during your school day, except when eating your breakfast, lunch or drinking. So when you are getting dressed in the morning, make sure you put on your mask before walking out the door. We also must continue to maintain social distance by staying 3 feet away from our friends and teachers. How far is 3 feet? 3 feet is the distance of a yardstick and the distance between the red Xs on the cafeteria seats and the distance between 1 ½ school desks.

I will continue to hand out bottled water everyday to the students. The water fountains in school are turned off to protect everyone so the only way for students to get water to drink is either bring your own and or receive a bottle from the school. Please drink your water! Water hydrates you! It keeps your body functioning well, it keeps your throat, eyes, lips and skin moist and healthy. If you need a bottle of water please ask your teacher and they will call the office.

Please stay home if you have a cough, sneezing, headache, stomach ache, don't feel well, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat or fever 100.4F or higher. We are trying to keep everyone healthy and prevent the spread of Covid-19. I will be testing students if they have any of these symptoms at school only if there is a parent permission slip on file at school and if the student allows me. I do not test any student age 4 or under. I will perform both the POC- rapid test and the PRC- 24-48 hour test.

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



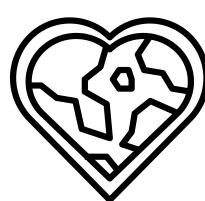
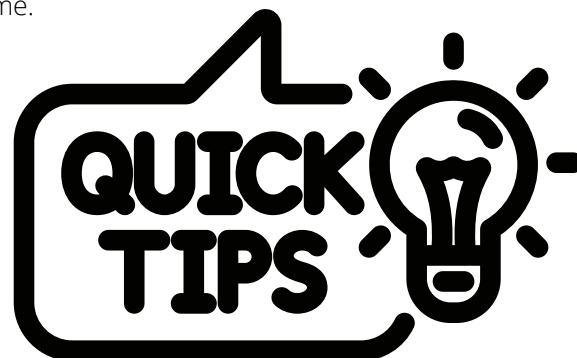
TIPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



From Sonia Bobis

With the new school year, new teachers, and new goals, I am sharing with all parents four tips on how to make the school year 2021 – 2022 a success.

- 1 Organize the communications you have received from your school/teacher. These include IEP notices, daily reports from teachers, etc. in a binder.
- 2 Review the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) of your child. If you have any questions, contact your child's special education teacher or case manager.
- 3 Set up a quiet study/work area place for your child. This will provide him/her a place to complete assignments and study.
- 4 Set up a daily routine before and after school. If there are any changes, inform the child ahead of the time.



HELP
others **STAY**
HEALTHY

ART

Happy October! All students are well into creating their first art projects of the year! Pre-K students are exploring watercolor resist and collaging, kindergarteners are creating line sculptures, first graders are working on an expressive self portrait, and second graders are using textures to design mash-up monsters. Third grade is learning about pop art, fourth graders are creating abstract art that is influenced by jazz music, fifth graders are designing a positive message graffiti, and sixth graders are exploring how to collect their thoughts and respond visually in a sketchbook.

Virtual students are submitting work online through google classroom while in-person students are leaving their work in the art room. All students have been invited to the specials google classroom for access to learning materials outside of class if they would like to explore projects further on their own!

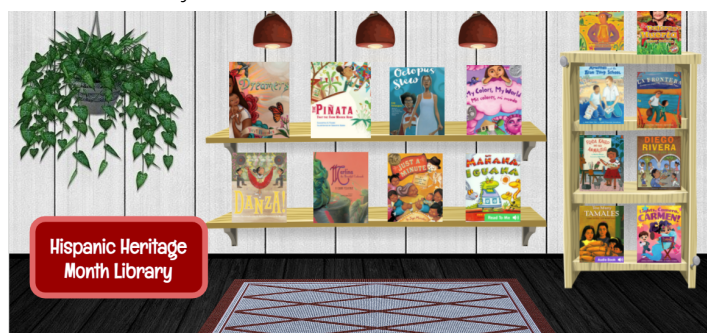
PE

During the month of October students in the primary grades will be learning about and participating in a variety of activities related to different movement concepts- locomotor and non-locomotor; pathways- straight, curvy, and zig-zag; and levels- low, medium and high.

In the intermediate grades, students will be learning and participating in a variety of activities related to the movement concepts of speed, direction, and force; and identifying strategies and tactics that they would use in a game.

MEDIA

Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 - October 15th. Click to explore the Hispanic Heritage Month Virtual Library.



GUIDANCE

During the month of October, students will learn how to be responsible citizens in their community setting. There is a lot going on in October, as October is National Bullying Prevention Month. We will also recognize school bus safety, fire prevention, breast cancer awareness and we will participate in the nation's drug awareness campaign.

Students will engage in anti-bullying and drug awareness lessons through classroom guidance.



MUSIC

Primary (Pre-k - 2nd Grade) – Students have spent the last month practicing steady beat by feeling and finding it in music. They have learned that some beats are strong and others are weak. Students will practice identifying patterns of strong and weak beats and learn how beats are organized into groups called "measures". Once they are able to identify patterns of strong and weak beats we will discuss how music is written in different meters. In class we will listen, dance and play songs in different meters.

Intermediate (3rd - 6th Grade) – Students have spent the last month reviewing basic rhythms. We have been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by learning songs and folk dance from Hispanic countries. Each week we learn about a new musician, and a new country's culture, food and folk music.

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SEE HISPANIC
HERITAGE MUSIC
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

