



DECEMBER 2021

MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal
Mrs. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

Season's Greetings! This is a special time of the year as we are in the Holiday Season and embarking on the New Year 2022! The last day of school before the Winter break is Thursday, December 23, 2021. There will be a 3-hour early dismissal on this day and students will be dismissed at 11:25 AM. School will be closed for students from Friday, December 24, 2021 through Friday, December 31, 2021. School will resume for students on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Please be advised that homework is a reinforcement as to what is being taught in your child's classroom. Students tend to receive Ds and Es on their progress reports/report cards because they are not completing their homework assignments. Ensure that your child is completing their homework assignments on a nightly basis. Students also need to take care of and charge their chromebooks on a nightly basis as well.

Beginning on Monday, December 6, 2021, all students will receive Reading and Math logs. Students should be reading at least 20-30 minutes per night and recording their information on the Reading logs. All 1st – 6th grade students will need to complete their Math logs on a nightly basis as well. The Reading and Math logs are mandatory homework assignments that need to be completed on a nightly basis.

One Team, One Goal Rising to New Heights!

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.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

There will be a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Concord Elementary School on **Wednesday, December 29, 2021 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM** for students ages 5-11 to receive their first dose. The second dose for students ages 5-11 will occur on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at Concord Elementary School from 3:00 – 7:00 PM. .

Student Attendance

Our attendance rate for the month of November 2021 was 88.60%. Our school's overall attendance rate is 91.10%. Concord Elementary School needs to maintain a 94%+ attendance rate for the entire school year. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Parents, ensure to send your child to school every day and they are on time. All students need to be seated in their homeroom classes by 8:15 AM.



IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, December 23

3 hour early dismissal at 11:25 AM

Friday, December 24-31

Winter Break

Wednesday, December 29

Vaccination Clinic at Concord

Monday, January 3

Classes Resume

PRE-K

Unit 3 – How Structures Are Built

This month, we will start focusing on how structures and tools work and how to make or do things. Children explore the form and function of objects through observations, simple experiments, games, and activities. In particular, we explore how objects move and investigate their shapes and uses. They imagine, design and create. And, they explore delightful books to inspire their creativity and to help them understand the concept of sequence.

- Reading – Letter Formation and Creating the Letters of the Alphabet Using Different Materials, Initial Sound of Letters (focus letters) and Medial and Ending Sounds for Recognition of Rhyming Words, Concepts of Print and Parts of the Book
- Math – Counting and Plus-One Pattern, Subitizing, Identifying Patterns, Duplicating and Extending Patterns, Drawing and Making 2-D and 3-D Shapes, Using Simple addition and Subtraction while building things

Other Important Information

- All students write in their Language and Math Journals everyday (in the classroom and at home)
- 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

Hello Kindergarten families, this month we are working on the following: Unit 2 Characters how are they alike and different, capitalization, adding (s) to nouns(plurals), making inferences. We are learning to compose and decompose numbers from 1-10(adding and subtraction).We are learning ways to make a number.We are talking about family traditions and ways families like to celebrate. We must continue to wear our mask, every day, and wash our hands.

1ST GRADE

We are working so hard in First Grade! In reading, we are beginning Unit 2. We will be focusing on finding key details and evidence in a story, and in particular for writing in December we will focus on narrative writing. In science we will be looking at light and shadow. In social studies we will be talking about celebrations, tradition, and culture. In health we are discussing our bodies. 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 exploring the world around us. In reading, we are reading both informational texts and fiction stories to learn about exploring the world around us. We will continue to learn digraphs, blends, 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. We will continue to work on blending, decoding, and working with prefixes/suffixes. In Math, we will learn telling time by the hour, half hour, and quarter hour. We will learn different vocabulary to use when measuring time. In Science, students will learn about changes to land and water 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, beginning Monday December 6, 2021. All Homework packets 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:

Week of December 6th- Cogart testing for 2nd graders
December 8- Spelling test; /ck/ word list
December 20-December 23- Spirit Week
December 20-December 23- Holidays around the world

3RD GRADE

In Reading students will learn about and identify the Author's Point of View and describe character actions, motivations, and feelings . In Social Studies, students will explore the theme Celebrating Diversity and Traditions as it relates to how technology impacted people's lives long ago.

In Math students will continue to explore multiplication. Students will be expected to master their multiplication facts up to the number 12. In Science students will learn to apply their understanding of weather-related hazards in addition to making a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of such hazards. In Health students will describe community, helpful behaviors that impact your community, and identify how environmental problems can hurt a community.
habits

4TH GRADE

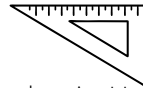
In math, students will be working on Division. Students will learn different strategies to solve division problems. Students will also move into decimals and solving operations with decimals. Please ensure your child continues to study their multiplication facts. In science, we are working on The Rock Cycle and Fossils, which is in our Changing Earth unit. Students should also continue to work on their STEM Fair projects. For the month of December, we are learning about the effects of smoking on the body in health class. In reading, we will be reading text with the purpose of understanding. Additionally, we will learn about characters in traditional tales. Also, students will compare and contrast the text and video of the Ten Sons. In Social Studies, students will read text and answer questions about the culture of Native Americans in Maryland.

5TH GRADE

Let 's start the 2nd quarter stronger than the 1st! Our interesting topics in Math are: adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators and multiplying and dividing decimals by whole numbers. Please continue to memorize your multiplication facts. In Science , we will continue to explore gravity and will start with Earth's major systems : geosphere(solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments, hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans). Please avail of the FREE Online Math Tutoring, PGCPs CL Flyer was sent to parents .

In reading, students will be working on a new Genre Study Fantasies(Which are imaginative stories that contain characters and events that are not real) We will learn how to make Inferences, and find out the author's purpose for writing the text. In writing, students will learn how to write a Blog Post The students will write an account of it for a website blog called "Strange Things I've Seen" in which you tell about what you saw that day using details from the text to tell about the experiment you witnessed. In social studies, students will learn: Why do people explore? The students will learn how Technology Shapes Exploration.(Viking Explorers, Portuguese Explorers and how they use the timelines.

6TH GRADE



In December, we will then begin Unit 2: Algebraic Expressions and Equations in Math. Students will write and solve numerical expressions using exponents. Students will also solve expressions using variables. Please be sure to continue practicing math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) each night with your student.

In Science, Students have begun their STEM fair projects. As a reminder, please refer to the STEM fair due dates. There will be an assignment due every week. STEM fair projects will be completely virtually and at home. This will be a very important part of second and third quarter grades.

A+

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



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

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

From Nurse Jackson



We are going to continue to take the necessary precautions to keep all students and staff safe at school. We continue to require that all students and staff wear masks while on school grounds. Masks are to be worn while at the bus stop, on the bus, when they arrive at school walking and when they get out of their car at school. Students will be monitored before they enter the school building making sure masks are on properly- covering their nose and chin. We are running low on masks so please make sure your child arrives at school wearing a mask and has an extra one in their bookbag. Students will still be required to sanitize their hands before entering the building. Make sure gloves are off as they approach the front doors.

I will continue to distribute bottled water to students every morning. The water fountains are still shut off and covered. If students need more water during the day, they can come to the office to get another bottle. Teachers have been informed that students can come to the front office for water throughout the day. Since students have been drinking bottled water at school there has been a decrease in students with headaches and stomach aches.

If your child has been identified as a close contact after a Covid-19 case at school please follow the instructions on the letters sent home by the principal and visit the PGCPs website "Quarantine and Testing Details."

<https://www.pgcp.org/coronavirus/resources/quarantine-and-testing/quarantine-and-testing-details#confirmed>

Anyone identified as a close contact needs to be quarantined for at least 10 days or up to the discretion of the Principal and must get a PCR Covid test 5 days after the exposure if you are not fully vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated, you must monitor for symptoms for 14 days, you do not need to be quarantined. If you test positive, you must isolate yourself and start the isolation time all over again starting the date you tested positive. Anyone testing positive cannot return to

school until they receive a letter from the PG Dept of Health clearing them to return and the school receives the letter prior to the student's return.

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Quarantine: separates and restricts the movement of anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 to see if they become sick.

Isolation: strict separation of anyone who has tested positive or presumed positive for a contagious disease from individuals who are not sick to slow transmission of virus to others.

Please consider getting you and your child vaccinated as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.



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

BOOK REPORTS IN A BAG



From Sonia Bobis

The Reading Book Log has started this week. Parents may encourage their child with disability read a book and create something that s/he can share with her/his class. The Book Report-in-a-Bag is an interesting, fun, and easy way for any child with disability to recall what has been read and share with friends. After reading a book, let your child retell the story. If sequencing of events is quite challenging, let child narrate the part s/he likes best. Have the child write the title of the story, author and illustrator on the bag. Encourage her/him to draw the best or favorite part, character, or scene. Then put an item or two in the bag that is related to the character and/or scene. Have the child take the book report in a bag to class and share. This will ignite the enthusiasm of the other students in the class to do a book report in a bag or in any other form to share with the class.

ART

Happy December! In these last few weeks before winter break, PreK students will be reading *Little Cloud* by Eric Carle and creating an artwork based on the story, Kindergarteners will learn about primary and secondary colors, and first graders will be creating an ocean landscape out of cut shapes. Second and third graders will be learning about reflection symmetry in nature, and fourth graders are continuing their work with color schemes and geometric shapes. Fifth graders are finishing their projects studying movement and emotion while sixth graders are wrapping up their still life triptychs.

PE

For the first two weeks of December, students in all grades will practice their catching skills to finish up our unit in underhand/overhand throwing and catching. During the second two weeks of December, students will practice and improve their balancing skills through holding various balance poses requiring different bases of support.

GUIDANCE

Our character trait for December is gratitude; intermediate and primary classes will focus on defining gratitude and learning the characteristics of a thankful and appreciative person. Third through sixth grade students will continue with learning how to use strategies to resolve conflicts.

First and fourth grade students will also begin working on their (PEPs) Personal Educational Plan

MEDIA



CHECK OUT THE
PGCPs VIRTUAL
LIBRARY
BROCHURE

MUSIC

Primary – This month in music our primary students will be learning about the lines and spaces of the treble clef. We will spend time learning how to label notes on the staff and how they sound in relationship to each other. Our focus will be on learning about pitch, intervals and their melodic direction throughout songs. We will be identifying high and low pitches and how they move by step, skip or repeated note. We will also explore the *Nutcracker Ballet*.

Intermediate – Our Intermediate students will be heading into our unit on rhythm. This unit will focus on sixteenth notes, and ties. We will also be experimenting and improvising with the rhythms we have learned. We are also reviewing and practicing with our melodic pitches do, mi, so and la.

Mustangs are Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn

Concord Elementary School has implemented a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) framework. All students should follow the 3Rs (being **R**espectful, **R**esponsible, and **R**eady to Learn) on a daily basis. Students will be rewarded a Mustang money ticket if they can follow the 3Rs. Each month, there is a certain amount of tickets that students must earn in order to participate in the incentive activity.

Happy Holidays