



NOVEMBER 2021

MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

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

Our students are getting ready to complete the 1st quarter! We need your assistance in ensuring that your child completes their homework assignments on a nightly basis. 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. Students should be reading at least 20-30 minutes per night and recording the information on their Reading log/journals. All 2nd – 6th grade students need to complete their Math logs on a nightly basis as well.

Our attendance rate from September to present is 92.67%. Our goal is to have our attendance rate over 95%. Parents, ensure to send your child to school every day and he/she needs to be on time. All students need to be seated in their homeroom classes by 8:15 AM. All virtual students should begin logging into their classes at 8:10 AM.

If your child attends school virtually, please do not interrupt instruction. It can cause a distraction amongst students and the teacher. If you need to ask your child's teacher(s) a question, please send them an email.

One Team, One Goal Rising to New Heights!

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.

PTO Mask Fundraiser



Please support our PTO mask fundraiser from Monday, October 25, 2021 - Sunday, November 14, 2021. Please visit our online web store at <https://abc.launchfundraising.com/orderinfo/F6EXB9>



IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, November 17

2 hour early dismissal - Professional Development for Teachers

Wednesday, November 24-26

Thanksgiving Holiday

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 2 is all about our environment. In this unit, the children will explore the different natural environment including how animals, plants and earth features are connected. Unit 1 is also connected to Unit 2 because using the five senses, students perform various observing, comparing, contrasting and recording activities. Our students will make predictions about items in their environment and perform those exploration activities through reading, watching videos, experimenting, drawing and emergent writing activities.

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

The kindergarten students have been busy testing. We have taken assessments iReady, Benchmark and the Map Fluency test. Fortunately, all students did complete assessments by the due date given. Kudos to the friends for completing all of the assessments. Also, please remember to submit homework by the due date given. Please remember homework assignments are graded. If your child is absent from school, remember to submit a letter of absence. Most importantly, if your child is absent for an illness, you must have a negative COVID test result in order for your child to return to school.



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

1ST GRADE

First Grade Rocks! We continue to work hard so as to achieve our goal this school year. We focus on isolating phonemes and blending sounds to become better at decoding words as well as learning the high-frequency words. We will continue to read informational text and ask or answer questions to identify important details. We are learning to write personal responses from the story read. The Reading Log will be sent out in November. Hence, we encourage everyone to read for 20 minutes every day. In Math, we've started to study the attributes of 2-dimensional shapes. We will also learn different addition strategies such as counting on, thinking about doubles or making a ten in solving math situations.

In Science, we are learning the phases of the moon and we'll be observing the amount of daylight to the time of year. In Social Studies, our students will be able to explain and identify the American symbols and documents as it relates to the role of government. In Health, we will study the vital organs of our body and its functions and learn how to take care of our body. We have administered the I-Ready Reading and Math. Please encourage your child to use I-Ready at home for 30 minutes.

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 final blends and digraphs. We will continue to work on blending, decoding, and working with 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.

Important Dates in 2nd Grade:

October 25- October 29- Reading Inventory

3RD GRADE

Reading and Language Arts and Social Studies
Students are currently working on W3.3 writing narratives or biographies. In social studies, students are learning about What Makes a Community? Students are readily exploring the three forms of government that guide decision-making in our community.

In Math this unit, students develop an understanding of the meaning of multiplication by solving problems involving equal groups of objects. They interpret and represent these problems using visual representations and connect what they know about repeated addition and skip/double counting to multiplication. In Lesson Series 1 students focus on multiples of 5 and 2. In Science students who demonstrate understanding can develop a model of Earth's surface to describe patterns of where water gathers on Earth. In Health students will categorize nutrients and digestion, creating diverse meal plans, the importance of food labels, and personal eating habits

4TH GRADE

Math-For the remainder of Quarter 1, we will work on multiplying whole numbers. We will continue to review place value of whole numbers as well. Science-We are continuing our unit on Slow Changes to Earth's surface.

Health-For November, we will study our Digestive System.

Please ensure all students charge their chromebooks overnight. I encourage all students to make multiplication flash cards to practice while at home.

In reading, we will be reading text with the purpose of understanding. Additionally, we will learn about literary elements and how it helps to understand the text. In social studies, students will read text and answer questions about government and how our government works.



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

5TH GRADE

Kudos to our 5th graders for working hard on multiplication and division of whole numbers. Please continue polishing up these skills. The Decimal Number System will be introduced during the last week of October and will continue up to addition and subtraction of decimals for the whole month of November.

In Science will continue to focus on the Earth's Place in the Universe. Lessons about the stars, sun, the Earth's movement, and the Earth gravitational force will be discussed. Our scholars are expected to identify and support claims, evaluate evidence, and interpret data. Math Fluency will be given at least twice a week and will be graded as independent work. Continue practicing your basic multiplication and division Facts.

In Reading, Students are learning how to make Inferences while reading. Students use Anchor Charts as a reference tool. Students will learn the Author's Purpose for reading a story. Think of the letters P.I.E. P is for Persuade, I is for Inform, and E is for Entertain. They will use an anchor chart to use as a reference tool. Students are also learning how to use the Collaborative Discussion Routine using the questions in the text to drive discussions with their table partners. Students are also working on Critical Vocabulary Skills using strategy(Context Clues) to determine the meaning of the word.

In social studies, students are learning about Ancient American Civilizations, How they are Adapting to Different Places, and Native American Cultures

6TH GRADE

In Reading, we will begin our first of two writing assignments. First, students will rewrite Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog. Our final writing assignment will have students create a feature article that highlights alliances between humans and animals. In Social Studies, our study of early civilizations continues. Also, students will complete a Document Based Question that describes early civilizations' influence on modern civilization.

In Math we will be ending our first unit and moving onto our second unit, Algebraic Expressions and Equations. We will begin the unit by creating and evaluating expressions and end the month by identifying common multiples and factors. Reminders For math, students receive a homework packet at the beginning of the week which is due on Friday. Please check in with your student to ensure they are completing it. Students should be using iReady at home for additional practice in reading and math and practicing their math facts.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

From Nurse Jackson

As the weather starts to get colder students need to prepare by getting out their winter clothes. Students need to be wearing hats, gloves, jackets along with their masks before they leave for school in the morning. Make sure your reusable mask is cleaned with soap and water everyday afterschool so it will be clean and dry in the morning. Masks are to be worn on the bus at all times and when students get out of their cars in the morning at school. Remember to always bring two masks to school everyday, one you are wearing and one in your bookbag. When you are waiting for your bus at the bus stop please wear your mask. We do not want any of our friends or teachers getting sick. We wear masks to protect ourselves and our classmates. Please remember to wear shoes appropriate for outdoor play. There have been several students injured from running and slipping wearing crocs, boots, and slippery soled shoes.

Breakfast is served everyday at school for every student from 7:45am until 8:15am. At 8:15am instruction begins. If your child will be late please make sure they eat breakfast before they arrive at school and are finished before they get out of the car at school. It is distracting to have students eating breakfast during the time all other students are working in the classroom.

I am so excited that students will soon be able to get a Covid vaccine. I will be sharing updated information as soon as I get it in the Concord newsletter and in my virtual healthoffice. If you have any concerns or questions on your child getting the Covid vaccine please don't hesitate to call me at 240-455-5744 or email me at annette.jackson@pgcps.org

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



CREATING A NEW "NORMAL" FOR KIDS DURING COVID-19



From Sonia Bobis

Children with disabilities need more help in dealing with the uncertainties of COVID-19. Parents and caregivers are the most able persons to create a 'new normal' for those kids. Here are some good practices that parents and caregivers may use.

1

Make schedules. Routines and schedules provide children with a sense of stability, security, and structure that can help keep boredom and frustration to minimum. Keep sleep schedules relatively consistent. Make a daily schedule to include meal times, some quiet time activities for reading, time to complete school assignments, and time for creative play – arts and crafts, and time for outdoor and active play.

2

Maintain regular health habits. Parents teach kids what steps they can take to remain healthy. Example: Washing hands well with soap and water. Use tissue to catch their coughs and sneezes. Avoid sitting too close to other people who are not their immediate family.

3

Keep children busy. Give them tasks to keep them busy and active. This is a good way to ease fear and anxiety.

4

Don't forget relaxation. Continue the activities that typically help relax and soothe the children. Example: Watching a children's movie together, Baking cookies together, Gardening and taking care of pets. Try any of these activities to make your kids more relaxed and enjoy the activities with family members.

 **HELP**
others **STAY**
HEALTHY

ART

Happy November! As the first quarter comes to a close this month, please make sure all virtual students are putting pictures of their work in their digital sketchbooks to be graded! Due dates will be posted in google classroom.

Pre-K students will be moving on to printmaking and collaging soon, Kindergarteners are finishing up Yayoi Kusama inspired patterned pumpkins, first graders are working on patterned animal alebrijes, and second graders are continuing to use texture to design mash-up monsters. Third grade is still developing their pop art self portrait, fourth graders are beginning to learn about color schemes and the color wheel, fifth graders are exploring capturing movement in art, and sixth graders are developing their observation drawing skills.

PE

During the month of November, students in all grades will be working on underhand and/or overhand throwing and catching skills. Students will also learn about the components of fitness and participate in activities that address each component-cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

MEDIA



CHECK OUT THE
PGCPS VIRTUAL
LIBRARY
BROCHURE

GUIDANCE

We will observe Native American Month in Guidance. We will also begin resolving conflicts through role-play in the intermediate classes. Primary classes will focus on defining a conflict while learning how to resolve a conflict through videos and teacher generated handouts. Since the character trait for November is citizenship, we will also discuss ways to be a good citizen in our school community and our home community.



MUSIC

Primary – This month in music our primary students will be learning about how our voices are instruments. We will spend time learning proper breathing techniques for singing. Our focus will be on learning about pitch, and melody and how they are important for making music. We will be identifying high and low pitches and learning which instruments produce high pitches versus low pitches.

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.

